### INLS 691H, Fall 2014

### Sample Outline

### Methods Proposal for an Experiment

### Introduction (adapted from Research question assignment)

What is the research question? What are the research hypotheses?  
Why do we care about the answer?

**Variables of interest**

What are the variables of interest? How will those variables be measured?

Describe the measures in enough detail that they can be replicated

What are the tasks to be performed (if applicable)?

The amount of standardization of the tasks may vary, but this issue should be addressed explicitly

If the task is standardized, define it very specifically

**Research design**

When and how will observations be made (the research design)?

Be very specific about the procedures to be followed

Include a tentative schedule for data collection

**Sample**

Who/what is in the population of interest? Which sample from that population will participate in the study?

The population of users should be clearly defined

Size of sample; Sampling techniques

Recruitment techniques (if applicable)

**Data analysis**

How will the data be analyzed?

Descriptive statistics: central tendency (mean, median, mode), dispersion (range, standard deviation)

Inferential statistics: differences between means (t-test), relationships (correlation, cross-tabulation), etc.

**Implications**

What inferences can be made from the results?