APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH — 2

SOCIOLOGY 755

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:20 pm in PH-202 & Sociology Lab

Charles F. Turner
Student E-Mail: CFTurner3@GMail.com
Website: Soc.Qc.edu/Turner

Office Hours
Wednesdays, 4-30 to 6-30
Other times by appointment

The aim of this course is to provide students with a hands-on learning experience conducting multivariate statistical analyses of large datasets. The course will emphasize the conduct and interpretation of data analyses for substantively important questions. While we do not intend to turn students into computer programmers, all students will be required to master the technical details required to use common statistical software. By the conclusion of the course, students should be sufficiently fluent in major tools of multivariate statistics to conduct independent analytic work.

Students will find this course easier if they have already obtained a good foundation in statistical theory — such as that provided by Soc 710. However, Soc 710 is not a formal prerequisite for registering for this course.

The text ***Statistics with STATA*** (by Lee Hamilton, Duxbury Press)[1] is required for this course. Three additional primers on multivariate linear and logistic regression are suggested as optional reference material for our course work (Schroeder, *Understanding Regression Analysis,* Lewis-Beck, *Applied Regression,* Menard, *Applied Logistic Regression Analysis).*[2] PDF files and/or xeroxed readings may also be made available to the class to illustrate analytic techniques and strategies for data interpretation.

DATASETS

Class exercises and student projects will use the 2000 National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NATSAL) in Great Britain.

GRADING. Two exercises will be assigned during the course to test students' mastery of the material taught in class. These exercises will be designed to be completed in 2-3 hours and students will be given one week to turn them in. Performance on these assignments will count for 40 percent of the final grade. All students will also be required to submit one larger data analysis project at the end of the term (see below). This project will count for 60 percent of the final grade.

PROJECT. All students are required to submit a data analysis project that uses the techniques taught in this class to answer a substantively important research question. The analysis must use the NATSAL dataset. Before beginning work on this project, all students must meet with the instructor to discuss and receive approval for their proposed research topic. These meetings should be completed on or before March 27th.

COMPUTER ACCOUNTS. If you do not have a CAMS/Active Directory account, you must sign up for one. See tutorial at: www.qc.cuny.edu/cams_tutorial/newcams.swf

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[1] This book is available for purchase at: www.stata.com/bookstore/sws.html

[2] These three primers are part of the Sage series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Amazon has both new and used copies of these primers; copies may also be ordered directly from Sage.

CONTACTING ME. The best way to contact me is to send E-Mail to CFTurner3@GMail.com. My office telephones are 202-657-4455 (home) and 718-997-2819 (University). Voice mail should ***only*** be left on 202-657-4455.

COURSE TOPICS

Jan. 28 Overview of course. Introduction to hardware, software, and datasets. Discussion of substantive interests of class members.

Feb. 4 Exploring large datasets: First steps, formulating strategies, efficient data processing, and good programming hygiene.

ANALYSIS OF METRIC DATA

Feb. 11 Basic Concepts and the Case of Two Metric Variables

Feb. 18 Multiple Linear Regression
Feb. 25
Mar. 4

Mar. 11 Non-Linear Regression

ANALYSIS OF CATEGORICAL DATA

Mar. 18 Understanding the Logic of Tables
Mar. 25

Apr. 1 Logistic Regression
Apr. 8-15 ***SPRING BREAK***
Apr. 22
Apr. 29

SPECIAL TOPICS

May 6
May 13 ***Last day to turn in Project Reports.***