

Sociology 710: Computer Methods in the Social Sciences  
Monday 6:30-8:20 Powdermaker 302.

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This course is the first part of two-term sequence that covers using statistics to analyze social science data.

The text for this course (both terms) is *Applied Statistics and the SAS Programming Language*, 5/e by Ron P. Cody and Jeffrey K. Smith **ISBN10:** 0131465325 **ISBN13:** 97801314653295. Extensive work will also be done using the IPUMS website [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org).

Grades will be based upon a term long project that will include all of the elements of data analysis. This will consist of several assignments that will cumulate into one set of analyses on a topic of your choosing using the so-called Public Use Microdata Samples from the United States Census. You will choose your topic, do simple descriptive statistics for your variables, recode your variables, perform simple cross-tabs on the variables, and carry out more complex analyses. Each assignment will require you to write up the results.

First Assignment: Due September 22. Using information from [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org), choose a topic and a set of variables that you will use for your first term analysis. List the variables to be used and discuss what you hope to be able to investigate. (This should include a list of variables and up to two pages of description.)

For September 15, read the first two chapters of Cody and Smith and explore the [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org) site. When you come to class on September 10, you should have some idea of what topic you want to investigate and what variables you want to use. There are examples in the bibliography in the IPUMS site of topics people have used the data for.