

APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH — 2

SOCIOLOGY 755

Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:20 pm in Powdermaker 347 and Computer Lab

Charles F. Turner

Student E-Mail: CFTurner3@GMail.com

Website: www.PopEpi.org

Office Hours

Thursdays, 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) is required for this course. It is available at Amazon.com and www.stata.com. I recommend that you purchase a used book; editions for STATA versions 8, 9, 10, or 11 are acceptable. Three additional primers on multivariate linear and logistic regression are suggested as reference material for our course work (Schroeder, *Understanding Regression Analysis*, Lewis-Beck, *Applied Regression*, Menard, *Applied Logistic Regression Analysis*). 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: (1) the 2000 National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles in Great Britain, and (2) public use data from research projects on sexually transmitted diseases.

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 one of the class datasets. 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 31st.

COMPUTER ACCOUNTS. If you do not have a CAMS/Active Directory account, you must sign up for one. See tutorial at: <http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Computing/Pages/CamsTutorial.aspx>

PLAGIARISM. The use of other people's work or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment is a serious breach of the standards of academic scholarship. Students who engage in such behavior may be given a grade of F, and they may be subject to other disciplinary action. The university's academic integrity policy is published in full at:

web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf

CONTACTING ME. The best way to contact me is to send E-Mail to CFTurner3@GMail.com.

Please include Soc755 in the subject line of your email. My office telephones are 202-657-4455 (home) and 718-997-2819 (University). Voicemail should only be left on 202-657-4455.

COURSE TOPICS

Feb. 3 Overview of course. Introduction to hardware, software, and datasets. Discussion of substantive interests of class members.

Feb. 10 Exploring large datasets: First steps, formulating strategies, efficient data processing, and good programming hygiene.

ANALYSIS OF METRIC DATA

Feb. 17 Basic Concepts and the Case of Two Metric Variables

Feb. 24 Multiple Linear Regression

Mar. 3

Mar. 10

Mar. 17 Non-Linear Regression

ANALYSIS OF CATEGORICAL DATA

Mar. 24 Understanding the Logic of Tables

Mar 31

April 7 Logistic Regression

SPECIAL TOPICS

April 14, 28 Special Topics and Work on Projects

NOTE. **Spring Break, April 16 - 24.**

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

May 5, 12 Students present their projects