Sociology 693  Practicum in Analysis and Research  Spring 2012

Time: Wednesday 3-5  
Room: 6112 Sewell Social Science Building (unless otherwise noted)  
Instructor: Jim Raymo  
Office: 4462 Social Science Building  
Tel: 262-2783  
Email: jraymo@ssc.wisc.edu  
Office hours: Monday 4-5, or by appointment  

The Practicum in Analysis and Research is for students participating in the Sociology Department's Concentration in Analysis and Research. The course is designed to complement the Concentration's required internship; only students who have completed or are currently engaged in internships may enroll. The seminar provides hands-on experience in quantitative data analysis and interpretation, and in research reporting (including writing, use of tables and/or graphs, and oral presentations). Students will also explore career options and strategies in social science research.

Text and Readings  
Readings will also be assigned from the following two books available at University Bookstore.


If you prefer to work with Stata, you may also wish to purchase the *Stata Users Guide* (Version 10) Stata Press.

I will also provide copies of supplementary readings as necessary.

Assignments and Grades  
The research internship is pass/fail, based on evaluations by internship supervisors; students who do not satisfactorily complete the internship will not receive credit for 693. Seminar assignments and grading are summarized below:

- 20% analysis assignment
- 20% analysis written report
- 15% internship written report
- 15% analysis oral presentation
- 15% internship oral presentation
- 15% class participation (includes peer reviews)
Analysis grades will be based on timeliness and completeness of analysis assignments, with some consideration for degree of difficulty. Written reports and oral presentations will be graded in terms of substantive content and writing/presentation quality. Class participation includes attendance, participation in discussions, peer reviews, and other contributions such as advising other class members on analytic problems. All written assignments are to be turned in on time by email to Professor Raymo (jraymo@ssc.wisc.edu). If you are having trouble with a particular assignment, please contact me so that we can work through the problem before the assignment is due. Many of the assignments are cumulative parts of the research project so if you fall behind, it is difficult to catch up.

Class schedule

(Schedule is subject to change. Please pay attention to room in which class is meeting – we have a few sessions in rooms other than the regular classroom).

Jan 25 Introductions and overview

Feb 1 Accessing electronic data and analysis projects
   Charlie Fiss and Jack Solock, Data Library Core (3:00-4:00)
   Due: Brief summary of possible research questions and data sources
         (2 or 3 possibilities for discussion)

Feb 8 Internship presentations
   Read: Cuba, Chapter 6 (Oral Presentations) pp. 152-162
   Due: (a) Powerpoint (or other presentation software) slides to jraymo@ssc.wisc.edu by 2 pm
         (b) Draft internship report (copies to instructor and peer reviewer #1)
         (c) Resume draft (copies to instructor and peer reviewer #2)

Feb 15 Preparing resumes and writing cover letters
   Nell Weatherwax - Career Counselor, L&S Career Services
   Due: (a) Copies of resume draft to share
         (b) Peer reviews of draft internship reports (copies to instructor and author)
         (c) Peer reviews of resume draft (copies to instructor and author)

Feb 22 Review of research methods and basic statistics
   Read: Chapters 1, 2, and 5 - Retherford, R.D. and M.K. Choe. 1993. Statistical Models for Causal Analysis
   Due: (a) Final internship report
         (b) Final resume
         (c) Meet with instructor to discuss analysis plans (ideas)
Feb 29 SAS Windows & Computer Lab Training: Reading data, managing data
Doug Hemken – Social Science Computing Cooperative
Due: (a) Draft analysis plan
Read: Chapters 1-3 – Little SAS book
See SAS Reading Assignments for optional online readings

Mar 7 SAS: Creating and checking variables, Univariate Analysis
Doug Hemken – Social Science Computing Cooperative
Due: (a) Draft codebook - data for analysis
Read: Chapter 4 – Little SAS book
See SAS Reading Assignments for optional online readings

Mar 14 SAS: Multivariate Analysis
Doug Hemken – Social Science Computing Cooperative
Due: (a) Descriptive statistics, analytic sample, incl. constructed variables
Read: Chapter 8 – Little SAS book
See SAS Reading Assignments for optional online readings

Mar 21 Scientific writing
Brad Hughes, UW Writing Center
Read: Cuba, Chapter 1 (The Practice of Writing)
Cuba, Chapter 8 (Revising)
Manning and Smock “‘Swapping’ Families…”
Borders et al. “Are Adopted Children…”

Mar 28 Effective presentations
Ben Jedd – Department of Communication Arts
Due: (a) Draft introduction & methods (copies to instructor and peer reviewer #3)
(b) Final analysis plan

Apr 4 Spring recess – no class

Apr 11 Introduction to Microsoft Access – part 1
Instructor TBA - Software Training for Students
(Class held in Digital Media Center, Room B203 Computer Science)
Due: (a) Peer reviews - draft introduction & methods (copies to instructor and author)
(b) Draft tables and figures (descriptive and bivariate statistics)

Apr 18 Introduction to Microsoft Access – part 2
Instructor TBA - Software Training for Students
(Class held in Digital Media Center, Room B203 Computer Science)
Due: (a) Draft tables and figures (multivariate statistics)
Apr 25  Work on papers
   Due:  (a) Draft results and conclusions, including tables and graphs (copies to instructor and peer reviewer #4)

May 2  CAR grad panel (speakers TBA)
   Due:  (a) Peer reviews - draft results and conclusions (copies to instructor and author)

May 9  Research presentations continued
   Due:  (a) Powerpoint (or other presentation software) slides to jraymo@ssc.wisc.edu by 2 pm
   (b) Final research report & data documentation
   Reread: Cuba, Chapter 6 (Oral Presentations) pp. 152-162

HANDOUTS IN ASSIGNMENT PACKET

Syllabus & Preliminary Schedule

Internship Report

Analysis Project and Analysis Plan

Data Documentation

SAS Reading Assignments

Analysis: Defining and Describing Data

Peer Reviews

Bivariate Associations

Multivariate Analyses

Report on Quantitative Analysis: Introduction, Sample & Measures

Report on Quantitative Analysis: Analysis, Results & Conclusions

Tables and Graphs

Guidelines for Research Presentation