SOCIOMETRY 593: QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS
Winter Quarter, 2012
Mondays, 2:00-4:50 PM; 439 NH

Instructor: Melissa Thompson, Ph.D.
Office: 217F Cramer Hall
E-mail: mthomp@pdx.edu
Phone: 503-725-3614
Office hours: Mondays 12:30-1:30 & Fridays 11:30-12:30

Course Description
Sociology 593 is for first-year sociology graduate students. The main goal is to learn how to statistically analyze quantitative data using SPSS. This course teaches applied statistics, so rather than focusing on mathematics we will spend the majority of our time positing hypotheses, generating statistics using SPSS, and interpreting the findings. Soc 593 is an introductory course, so if you plan on analyzing quantitative data for your thesis you will probably need to take additional, more advanced statistics courses. The School of Community Health, offers a good 2-part course: USP 534 in the spring term and USP 554 in the fall term. We offer SOC 695 (Advanced Methods in Sociology) in the spring term.

Course Objectives
• Learn basic techniques for analyzing quantitative data.
• Learn the statistical package SPSS.
• Gain experience writing a quantitative research paper.
• Understand other researchers’ published quantitative research.
• Develop a literature review that will help you write your Master’s thesis.
• Sharpen your critical thinking skills.

Course Materials

Required: A data set (in SPSS) that is of theoretical interest to you.

Optional: If you do not find a data set of interest, the default will be the GSS (General Social Survey; years 1972-2010 are available) or the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Optional: Discovering Statistics using SPSS for Windows, by Andy Field (2000). [I recommend this book if you are planning on analyzing quantitative data for your thesis or if you would like to learn more advanced statistics/SPSS functions on your own.]
Grading

Weekly Homework Assignments (30%)
Each week you will be given an assignment that will be based on the weekly readings and the lab lecture. This assignment will be posted on D2L (d2l.pdx.edu). Send completed assignments to mthomp@pdx.edu in two files: the homework in MS Word and relevant SPSS output (the output can also be copied and pasted into Word) by Fridays at noon. In the email subject line please write “YOUR NAME, week # homework” (e.g., “Melissa’s Week 1 homework”).

Research paper (60%)
The majority of your grade is based on your research paper. This paper will be 15-30 pages in length, and will be based on analysis of the data set that you have acquired. Chapter 9 of Data Analysis with SPSS discusses the main parts of the paper. This paper is due by Tuesday, March 20, at noon.

Each week you should work on to your research paper, however you will not be turning it in to the instructor (unless notified by the instructor). (For more information on the research paper, see the notes at the end of each week’s homework assignment and the document “Timetable for Writing a Research Paper.”) After the lecture part of the weekly class (approximately 1-1.5 hours), students and the instructor will stay in the computer lab until approximately 4:50 p.m. during which time students can work on their homework assignment or seek guidance from the instructor regarding their research paper. You may leave early only if your homework for that week is finished, and even if this is the case, you are strongly encouraged to stick around and work on your paper.

Students are encouraged to seek the help of the Social Sciences Librarian, Kimberly Pendell: kpendell@pdx.edu, (503.725.4501). She can help you develop a research strategy for the literature review (in which you will be developing your hypotheses) for your research paper. The Writing Center is also a valuable resource to help you develop your technical writing skills (188 CH, 503.725.3570).

Oral presentation (10%)
During Week 10 students will present their main research findings. The feedback you receive from the instructor and fellow students will help you revise your findings for the final draft. Note that we will be meeting two times during the final week so that all students can present their work (this extra meeting will be making up for the missed class on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).

Course Schedule
(subject to change with reasonable notice)

Week 1: Introduction, Univariate Analysis, Levels of Measurement
Reading: Chapter 1-3
Assignment: Problems from Chapters 1 and 3.
Week 2:  No class due to observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Reading:  Chapter 9: Writing a Research Report
Assignment:  No statistics homework. You should spend your time writing your title, introduction, and literature review. I strongly encourage you to visit the Social Science librarian, Kimberly Pendell, this week.

Week 3:  Indexes
Reading:  Chapter 4
Assignment:  Problems from Chapter 4.

Week 4:  Crosstabs
Reading:  Chapter 5, pages 95-105 (up through the end of the “Bar Charts” section)
Assignment:  Problems from Chapter 5.

Week 5:  Correlation and ANOVA
Reading:  Rest of Chapter 5, starting on page 105 (starting with “Analyzing Bivariate Relationships…”); All of Chapter 6
Assignment:  Problems from Chapters 5 and 6.

Week 6:  Simple Regressions
Reading:  Chapter 7, pages 147-155
Assignment:  Problems from Chapter 7.

Week 7:  Linear Regressions
Reading:  Chapter 7, pages 156-167
Assignment:  Problems from Chapter 7.
Due: First draft of introduction, literature review, data and methodology, and references.

Week 8:  Logistic Regressions
Reading:  Chapter 8
Assignment:  Problems from Chapter 8.
Due: Feedback on another student’s first draft (and meet with them face-to-face).

Week 9:  Final Thoughts on Regressions
No reading
No homework assignment.
Work on your oral presentation and research paper.

Week 10:  Oral Presentations*
[*We will meet twice this week to accommodate all of the oral presentations.]

Research papers are due by Tuesday, March 20 at noon.