

Homework 2

STAT/SOC/CSSS 221:

Statistical Concepts and Methods for the Social Sciences

Professor: Chris Adolph, Political Science and CSSS
Winter Quarter 2012

Due to your TA by the start of section, Thursday, January 19, 2012

[5 pts.] From Moore (6th ed.), complete problems 4.29, 4.37, and 4.43. On problem 4.43, also answer part c.) *Why did these predictions fail?* Complete problems 6.20 through 6.24 inclusive, and problem 6.25. Show your work.

[This portion of the assignment must be turned in by email to your TA for any credit to be received on Homework 2.] Over the next week, all students in 221 will administer and record responses to the Class Survey. By doing so carefully and professionally, you are learning to do real quantitative social science, helping your instructors make your class assignments more interesting, and making new discoveries about your fellow students' experiences and concerns. The large majority of questions on the survey are drawn from class suggestions.

Administering the survey will involve several steps:

1. Seek out students at the University of Washington as respondents to the Class Survey. Respondents may include your friends and acquaintances, fellow 221ers, or even people you do not know. There are only two requirements: respondents must be students at the University of Washington, and they must not already be respondents on a classmate's survey.
2. Be careful to read aloud to the respondent all the text on the Class Survey, omitting only the portions in square brackets, [like this]. Assure the respondent that their names will not be recorded or passed on in any way.
3. During the interview, you may record the respondent's answers directly on a fresh copy of the Survey itself, or on your own notebook paper. Do not show respondent answers given by earlier respondents. Be sure to record answers as they are given—*do not try to remember them after the interview is finished!*
4. We will consider the survey "started" once you reach question Q1. You must turn in results from 10 respondents who *started* the survey. People who answer yes to Q0, because they have already taken the survey for someone else, don't count!. This means the assignment will be easier to finish if you start early!

5. Sometimes, respondents will refuse to answer a question. If they decline to answer a specific question, give them an NA, which stands for “not available”, for that question, and move on to the next question. If a respondent decides to stop the interview, and refuses to answer any further questions, give them “NA” for all remaining questions. Such a respondent still counts as one of your 10 respondents.

6. You must turn in your assignments electronically using one of the templates available on the course website. You should send your TA an email by the start of section on Thursday, January 19, with your spreadsheet attached. Your TA will discuss the format of these templates in section. To edit your template, use either Microsoft Excel or OpenOffice. OpenOffice can be obtained for free at <http://www.openoffice.org/>, and has all the functionality of the Microsoft Office suite.

Be very careful to follow the directions below exactly, so that it is easy for your TA to combine your survey results with the rest of the class. ***Remember to:***

7. Fill in one row for each respondent, or ten rows in all.

8. Record your own name (not your respondent's!), all in lowercase, in the first two columns of the spreadsheet, in every one of the ten rows.

9. Record answers to all questions as instructed at the top of each column. Do not deviate from the requested format of answers, or you will create a great deal of work for others. If you have a note to share about a peculiarity in a response, place that note in the final column of the spreadsheet for that respondent, and indicate whether the note pertains to a specific question or questions (by number) or to the respondent generally.

10. If you need to supply text as an answer for question 1, part 7 or for question 21, part 7, do so in columns q1.7A and q21.7A, respectively, using only lowercase.

11. If a respondent refused to answer a specific question, enter the letters NA, in capitals and without spaces or punctuation, in the appropriate blank or blanks.

12. Before sending your survey spreadsheet to your TA, rename it so that we can tell who sent it. If you are saving your file as an Excel spreadsheet, you should name it **LastFirst.xls** where *Last* and *First* are replaced by your names; for example, I would turn in **AdolphChris.xls**. If you are turning in an Open Office spreadsheet, turn in **LastFirst.ods**, and if you are turning in a comma-separated variable file, turn in **LastFirst.csv**, in both cases replacing *Last* and *First* with your names. Do not include spaces or special characters in your file name, and be sure to capitalize your names as in the example.