SOC 300: Introduction to Sociological Research Methods
Quantitative Final Project
Due: 03.08.13

INSTRUCTIONS: This exercise is intended to acquaint you with analyzing and interpreting quantitative data using the SDA Berkeley website. Please refer to your text on quantitative methodology, any notes you may have taken, and our in-class activities for help.

1. What is your research topic and motivating question(s) guiding this analysis? Include a discussion of the sociological significance, the concept(s) that surfaces from such a topic, and how you would operationalize such a topic through use of SDA variables. How is this operationalization a valid representation of the issue presented? Use one media source and one peer reviewed journal source to substantiate your claims.

2. Present the hypothesis for the relationship between an independent and dependent variable (2 GSS variables).

    a. Create a crosstab of these variables and discuss your findings. Be sure to include the crosstab in your final document and explain the relevant test statistic(s).

3. Introduce a control variable (1 GSS variable) and present the hypothesis for this new interaction.

    a. Create a crosstab of these variables and discuss your findings. Be sure to include the crosstab in your final document and explain the relevant test statistic(s).
    b. How does the inclusion of the control variable enhance your analysis?

4. Show the univariate statistics for your variables (all three GSS variables). Suggest at least one recode of a variable and explain why you find it necessary for your analysis.

    a. Run a new crosstab with your recoded variable and discuss your findings. Be sure to include the crosstab in your final document and explain the relevant test statistic(s).

    b. Compare the crosstab with the recoded variable to your original crosstab. Did the recode produce your expected outcome above? Did you notice any outcomes that you did not expect? What might be the reason(s) for the change(s) uncovered?

5. Summarize your findings. How do these data enhance your understanding of the issue discussed in your introduction? What information is missing from a more specified discussion of your topic and what would those questions look like? How does the work you've presented further a sociological discussion and what future research directions should be taken?