

Quantitative Methods (SA)

Sociology and Anthropology 355

Section: D200

Term: 2008 Spring

Instructor: Chris Atchison

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Discussion Topics: Sociology and Anthropology 355 is mostly a course where students are introduced to issues and techniques in quantitative methods and data analysis in social research. The overall emphasis of the course will be less on statistics and more on developing the practical and theoretical tools necessary to become better critical consumers and producers of quantitative social science data. The goals of the course include: (a) the development of a working knowledge of a the range of quantitative methodologies used in the social sciences; (b) achieving a reasonable degree of expertise in the area of survey-based quantitative research techniques, including; sampling strategies, data collection methods, and instrument design; (c) understanding the logic and application of quantitative data analysis techniques using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) v.15.0; (d) the development of a critical understanding of quantitative data obtained from surveys, evaluations, and experiments; and (e) improving research paper writing skills. Because there is no better way to learn about quantitative methods than by actually applying the skills, students will carry out individual projects using data from their choice of Canadian General Social Survey and Canadian Internet User Survey data sets using SPSS.

This course meets the new Fall, 2006 quantitative requirements.

Grading: 30% - Project/Lab Assignments

30% - Project Proposal

40% - Final Project Report

All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).

Required Texts: Creswell, J. (2002) Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches (2nd). Sage Publications: Toronto.

George, D and Paul Mallery (2007) SPSS for Windows Step by Step: A Simple Guide and Reference 15.0 U

Recommended Texts: none

Materials/Supplies: none

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Prerequisite/Corequisite: none

Notes: All students are expected to read and understand SFU's policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>.

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