

SOC 300: STATISTICS ASSIGNMENT 1.

Please answer the following questions. You should type and double-space your answers. Your tables should be professionally done. Constitute them such that they look like they are meant for publication. Remember to clearly label your tables.

Use **GSS98PFP_.sav** data set found on my website to answer the following questions.

1. a) Produce a frequency table for the GSS98 variable, MARITAL, and answer the following questions. (Well constructed and labeled table 5 points).
 - b) What percentage of the sample is married? (5 points)
 - c) What percentage is divorced? (5 points)
 - d) What percentage of the sample has ever been married? (5 points)
 - e) What percentage of the sample is currently unmarried? (5 points)
 - f) How would you describe the marital status of contemporary Americans? (10 points)

2. a) Produce the frequency distribution for the following GSS98 variables and tabulate them appropriately.
 - i) FEHELP (Wife should help her husband's career) (5 points)
 - ii) FEWORK (Woman should work) (5 points)
 - iii) FECHLD (Mother working doesn't hurt the child) (5 points)
 - b) What is the level of measurement for each variable (6 points).
 - c) Write a general statement summarizing your results from the three frequency tables (7 points).
 - d) Describe the level of support for women's employment shown by the data. (7 points)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RUNNING FREQUENCIES:

With your SPSS program open, click on the open file icon on your toolbar. The open file window appears. You will see a list of data files that come with the SPSS software. Ignore them because you are going to work with a data set that is on your diskette.

To open a data file on your disk, insert the disk into the appropriate slot in the computer. Then click on the down arrow you see next to the Look in Box. A list of options will appear. These are different locations in the computer for retrieving files. Find and click on your [E:] drive. A list of files on your CD will appear. Click on Documents then double click on the appropriate GSS data file that you will be using, in this case, GSS98PFP_.sav. This should open up the data in the SPSS data editor window.

To obtain Frequency distribution, click on the **Analyze** menu item. A list of options will open in a drop-down menu. Click on **Descriptive Statistics**. A second list of options appears in another drop-down menu. Click on **Frequencies**. A frequencies window opens. This window is called a dialog box. Find the source variable you want (Scroll down to the variables given above and click). The variable will be highlighted. Put the source variable in the target list. Click the arrow pointing at the variable box. The variable will appear in the variable box. Put all the three variables into the variable box and click **OK**.

You can then print the output. In interpreting your results, use the **VALID PERCENT COLUMN**.

3. You have data that will help you examine how Americans attribute differences between whites and blacks. Are the differences due to discrimination, inborn ability, lack of education, or lack of motivation? Using the variables RACDIF1, RACDIF2, RACDIF3, and RACDIF4;
 - a) Construct bar charts for these variables (remember to remove any missing cases). (12 points)
 - b) Discuss the attitude of Americans regarding the basis for social differences between whites and blacks, using the bar charts. (18 points)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONSTRUCTING CHARTS

Click on the **Graph** menu item. A list of options appears. Click on **Bar**, then **Define**. Under **Bars Represent**, click on the button next to **% of cases**. Select the appropriate variable by highlighting it. Move it to the **Category Axis** box by clicking on the arrow pointing at **Category Axis**. The variable will appear in the **Category Axis** box.

Click on the **Options** button. Click on the box next to **Display Groups Defined by Missing Values** to make the check mark disappear. This will ensure you do not use missing cases. Click **Continue**. When you return to **Define Simple Bar: Summaries for Groups of Cases** Window click **OK**. A bar graph should appear in the SPSS Output window. You can go ahead and edit the graph. You can also cut and paste it into any word processing platform.

HAND IN BOTH THE SPSS PRINTOUTS AND THE WRITE UP FOR CREDIT.

Let me know if you have any problems.