

An Introduction to Stata – Section 3.2

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At this point, you should have downloaded the file *dataset*. As mentioned in the previous lecture, this is the raw version of *dataset1* which we had a look at in the first section of this course. Save the file *dataset* in the folder in which you want to work and navigate into this folder in Stata. In my case, the following command takes me to my folder:

```
cd "C:\Users\mozahemna.UNIVERSITY\Desktop\Introduction to Stata\Section 3"
```

Listing the content of the folder allows me to verify that the file *dataset* is actually in the current folder.

```
ls
```

Now I load the data in Stata:

```
use dataset
```

I now ask Stata to give me some information about the dataset:

```
describe
```

I can see that there are seven variables which have the ugly names *var1*, *var2*, *var3*, and so on. The first step therefore is to give the variables proper names. To rename the variables, we can open the Data Editor in edit mode and just rename each variable using the point and click interface. We had already done something similar in a previous lecture. However, as stated many times in this course, we will opt to use the command prompt. In order to rename variables, we will need to use the **rename** command. Let's ask Stata for some information about this command:

```
help rename
```

In the syntax section, we see that the command is followed by two pieces of information. The first is the old name, so that Stata knows which variable are we trying to rename, and the second is the new name that we want to assign to it. We know that the first variable is the student id, so I would like to name it *id*:

```
rename var1 id
```

Take a look at the right-hand side. You can see that the first variable is now named *id*. Let us now rename all other variables using the following sequence of commands:

```
rename var2 gender
```

```
rename var3 gpa
```

```
rename var4 course_title
```

```
rename var5 credits
```

```
rename var6 grade
```

```
rename var7 semester
```

We now see that all variables have meaningful names.