

Dublin City University

Open Education

Bachelor of Science/Diploma in Information Technology and Bachelor of Science/Diploma in Management of IT/IS

Module:	HSA
Assignment:	2

Assignment	Element	%	Submission date	Submit to:
2	Statistics exercise <u>or</u> Qualitative exercise	9%	4 th December 2017	Loop drop box

Statistics Exercises or Qualitative Exercises: Weeks 6 – 11 (23rd Oct 2017 – 27th Nov 2017)

NB: Students are allowed to choose from completing and submitting a statistics assignment (3 exercises) or a qualitative analysis assignment. You should choose an assignment which best suits the analysis that will suit your research project. Please inform your supervisor before submitting which option you are choosing.

• Statistics Exercises

If choosing to complete the statistics element of this assignment, students will carry out a series of three statistical exercises, using SPSS, on a dataset which will be posted on Loop, together with instructions and guidelines on how to complete the exercises. Students should use the appropriate Loop forums to discuss the exercises, ask questions and provide assistance to each other. A tutor will be available to offer support online.

- Exercise 1 will cover descriptive statistics, and the relevant unit to read is Block 3: Unit 2, along with the recommended readings in that unit.
- Exercise 2 will deal with inferential testing and tests of difference. Block 3 Units 3, 4, and 5 (along with their recommended readings) are to be read.
- Exercise 3 will include multivariate statistics (analysis of variance) and chi-square tests. The relevant units for this exercise are Block 3 Units 6 and 9.
- The completed assignments will be submitted as one document on **Monday 4th December 2017**

Please note that for these exercises you will be required to run analyses using SPSS. You should not include all of the output from SPSS in your exercise itself. Instead you should present the relevant statistics and findings using tables or charts, along with a written interpretation. All of the output material you produce should be saved in a separate file and uploaded along with your exercises. Please ensure that the three exercises are saved in **one word document**.

OR

- **Qualitative analysis**

If you choose to complete the qualitative part of this assignment, the task requires you to practice parts of a qualitative analysis. You will select some text, format it appropriately for coding, code it, categorise the resulting codes, and draw some tentative conclusions. You should follow the steps exemplified in the chapter on Thematic Analysis, Block 3 Unit 14.

- First open the file called TREVOR_transcript which you will find in the Assignment 2 space in Loop. That file will be the dataset for this exercise. The interview is about experience of friendship, which although not the most obvious topic for an IT research project (though you could look at experiences of friendship online) has the benefit of being something we all know about.
- Note that it would be extremely unusual to carry out a qualitative analysis involving one interview only. You would need 5-6 hours interviewing for your project for example. We are working with a single interview here for practice only.
- Read the interview a number of times to familiarize yourself with it and to get a sense of the experience of friendship described in it.
- Format the interview in a manner suitable for coding – see the two column formats in Unit 14.
- Code the interview, again paying attention to the practices described in Unit 14 – e.g. granularity of coding, coding by constant comparison, labeling, etc.
- Now group the codes into a small number of useful categories i.e. categories that help describe theoretically the experience of friendship, remember that is the point of the research.
- Keep memos as you go along to help your tutor understand the coding and categorisation decisions you made when they are marking your work.
- Write one to two pages describing what you have learned about the experience of friendship from carrying out this analysis.
- Submit the coded transcript, the categories together with the codes associated with each category, memos generated, and interpretative conclusion.

This assignment will be marked on the basis of comprehensiveness of the analysis, quality of the codes and categories (e.g. do they help us understand friendship, are they warranted by the raw data), systematic use of memos, and theoretical value and of the interpretive conclusions drawn. The completed assignment will be submitted on **Monday 4th December 2017.**

Before submitting an assignment please ensure you have read the Assignment Regulations Section of the Course Handbook

Please ensure that you have correctly cited and referenced sources used in the assignment.

**Please ensure your file is correctly named e.g. for HSA Assignment 1:
C1_A1_2017_StevenStudent.docx**

Remember to keep a backup copy of your assignment (e.g. you could use [Google Drive Offline](#) for this)