SOC 5050: Lab 01

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Directions

Please complete all steps below. Your final do-file, log-file,[1] and the answers to the questions in Part 4 should be uploaded to your GitHub assignment repository by 4:20pm on Wednesday, August 29th, 2016.

[1] Log-files are text files that are automatically created by the do-file template we will use this semester. These provide you with a record both of the commands and their out.

Part 1: Get Started with GitHub.com and GitHub Desktop

1. If you have not already done so, please register for a GitHub.com account. Once you are registered, please join the SOC 5050 organization. Once you have joined, I will be able to give you access to your assignment repository.

2. Practice navigating the website by opening files in the `Core-Documents` and the `Week-01` repository.

3. Look at the "issue" I have opened in your assignment repository.[2] Practice using the "issues" system by responding quickly to my comment and then "closing" the issue.

[2] This is a great way to communicate with me about questions you have or issues you want help with. As long as you tag me in your comment (@chrisprener), I will get an alert.

4. Open up GitHub Desktop and log into your GitHub.com account.

5. Using the GitHub Desktop application, clone your assignment repository, the `Core-Documents` repository, and the `Week-01` repository. Save these repositories to a dedicated space on your computer for coursework.[3]

[3] We'll talk more about managing files for statistical work in the coming weeks. For now, a folder in the `Documents` folder should suffice.

Part 2: Get Started with Atom

6. In Atom, add the folder you have dedicated for class as a "project folder" (File ▷ Add Project Folder...).

7. Open the file `stata-snippets.cson` in a new tab.

8. Open the snippets preferences for Atom (Atom ▷ Snippets) and copy and paste the entire contents of `stata-snippets.cson` into the snippets preferences below the directions.

9. Close both files.

10. Open Atom's preferences (Atom ▷ Preferences) and choose Install from the menu on the lefthand side.

11. Search for the package `language-stata` and install it.

12. Once it is installed, close Atom and restart the application.

13. Open a new text file and change its language to Stata.[4]

14. Type "head" into the first line of your new document, and choose `headFull` from the dropdown menu that appears.[5]

[4] The Atom Quick Reference sheet in `Week-01` has detailed directions on how to do this.

[5] If no menu appears, double check to make sure the document language is set to Stata. If it still does not appear, look in the preferences under Packages and see if `language-stata` is listed under Community Packages. If it is not, your installation was not successful. If it is, there may be an issue with your Stata snippets file.

[6] We'll talk more in-depth about a number of these commands as the semester progresses. The User's Guide also breaks down how this template works.

Part 3: Your First Stata Do-File

15. Use the `tab` key to move through areas that require editing in the file. We will do this as a group, time permitting.[6]

16. Complete a do-file that accomplishes the following tasks using the dataset `nlsw88.dta` that is pre-installed with Stata:

    (a) Open the dataset

    (b) List all variable names and labels in the dataset

    (c) List the variable names and labels for the following variables: `age`, `race`, `married`, `occupation`, and `union`.

    (d) List descriptive statistics for all variables in the dataset.

    (e) List descriptive statistics for the following variables: `age`, `race`, `married`, `occupation`, and `union`.

    (f) Create a frequency table for the variable `occupation` with value labels displayed and also without value labels.

    (g) Create a frequency table for the variable `union` with value labels displayed and also without value labels.

    (h) Create a histogram of the variable `hours`.

17. Debug your do-file so that it executes without error.

Part 4: Questions

18. Open the question sheet provided with these instructions (`lab-01-questions.md`). Answer all of the questions in the spaces provided.

19. After you submit the lab questions to GitHub, open the file on GitHub.com and see how the website renders the Markdown text.

Document Details

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README.md file for additional details.