Final Project Timeline – Seminar in Criminology Research and Analysis (7301)

The final project for the course includes 100 points. I break up the 100 points into several smaller steps though. The purpose of this is to give feedback before the final project and paper is due.

Project Proposal - Due on [Week 3]– 10 Points

This entails a proposal for the project you will be conducting for the course. This should include a hypothesis statement and a description of the data sources you will be using for your project. Should be no longer than one page.

Modeling Strategy - [Week 7] – 10 Points

For this I want you to describe, in text and equations, how you will conduct your research analysis. This should include a description of the identification strategy, variables used in the analysis, and an equation(s) for how they will be modeled. Should be one to two pages.

Tables, Graphics, and Predicted Outcomes - Due on [Week 11] – 20 points

For this step I want simple descriptive statistics for your sample and graphics illustrating the bivariate relationship between your treatment and your outcome of interest.

I also want a description of the predicted outcomes you will be showing to help interpret your model. For example, if I fit a logistic regression equation predicting the probability of recidivism as a function of a treatment with an interaction between gender:

$$\text{Logit}(\text{Prob}[\text{Recidivsm}]) = \beta_0 + \beta_1(\text{Treatment}) + \beta_2(\text{Male}) + \beta_3(\text{Treatment} \cdot \text{Male})$$

Given some fixed value of β_0, you would probably want to make a plot of the predicted probability of recidivism for Males and for Females and treated vs. untreated. So you would then plot (where Logit is the inverse of the logistic function) :

- Female no treatment would be $\text{Logistic}(\beta_0)$
- Female with treatment would be $\text{Logistic}(\beta_0 + \beta_1)$
- Male with no treatment would be $\text{Logistic}(\beta_0 + \beta_2)$
- Male with treatment would be $\text{Logistic}(\beta_0 + \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3)$

This is just one example though. There could be many different plots to help interpret the model. If you already have the data modelled, you can simply include these plots in your homework assignment.

Final Presentation - Due on [Week 15] – 20 points

On our final day of class we will be making presentations to the class about our projects. These presentations should be between 5 to 15 minutes long. Points are given based on clarity of the slides for the presentation, the talk, and answering questions after the presentation.

Final Paper - Due on [Week 15] – 40 points

My expectations for the final paper are a brief introduction and motivation for the topic. Then a description of the methods and measures, and description of the results. Basically it should be focused on the methods and data analysis part, but can be brief on introduction and there is no need for a

conclusion section. It should be properly formatted as a journal article with in-line citations, tables and graphs included at the end of the document with notes such as [INSERT TABLE 1 HERE]. You can use any citation format you prefer, just be consistent.