

## Final Paper Data

A self-contained version of the 2012 General Social Survey, including all relevant documentation, was included in the course data release.

## Final Paper Analyses

All analyses should be conducted using Stata and should be completed using a full stack of .do files that begin with the original GSS dataset and end with your final statistical output. These should be programmed so that the stack can be executed in full with no pauses, errors, or manual changes to the data. Analyses should include, at a minimum, descriptive statistics for all variables, difference of mean tests, correlation tests, and a series of final regression models.

## Final Paper Structure

The structure of the paper is given under the formatting guidelines. Papers should assess at least one overarching hypotheses that is informed by a brief literature review (see accompanying article for examples). All analyses should be summarized using properly formatted “publication ready” tables. These tables should include a table with descriptive statistics for all variables used in analysis. Analyses should be accompanied by relevant figures (histograms, scatterplots) for the dependent variables and key analyses. Figures should be edited using the Stata graphics code tools so that they have labeled axes, titles, keys, and appropriate color schemes.

## Grading

All papers will be graded using the rubric on the following page and will be returned with a coversheet including comments. Certain areas, highlighted in dark red on the rubric, are things that I consider “deal breakers”. If your paper falls into one of these categories, including not producing an appropriate set of analyses, not following the written guidelines, or violating academic integrity policies (including not citing sources), you will get a zero on the assignment.

## Final Paper Formatting Guidelines

- ▶ Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced
- ▶ 1” margins on top, bottom and sides
- ▶ Final papers should have the following organization:
  - ▶ Introduction - 1 to 2 pages
  - ▶ Literature Review - 3 pages - should provide a sufficient overview of the sociological literature (see accompanying article for example) that informs the research questions assess, which should be included at the end of this section
  - ▶ Data and Methods - 5 pages - should give a 1 page overview of the General Social Survey followed by a detailed description of **all** methods used for analyses
  - ▶ Results - 3 pages - use “plain english” interpretations
  - ▶ Discussion - 2 pages - should summarize the implications of your statistical tests for your research questions
  - ▶ Conclusion - 1 paragraph
  - ▶ Works Cited
  - ▶ Tables & Figures
- ▶ All code and output should be uploaded to your GitHub assignments repository
- ▶ All citations and manuscript formatting should be made using the ASA style. The type of citation format that you use in this class should be ASA Style. You can find more details on that here - [link](#).

## Final Paper Grading Rubric

	Poor (F)	Fair (D)	Satisfactory (C)	Good (B)	Excellent (A)
<b>Analyses (40%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not meet assignment criteria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inappropriate application of most or all statistical tests (such as ignoring assumptions)</li> <li>Analyses conducted manually without .do files</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyses have moderate issues (some deviations from assumptions)</li> <li>.do files are not sufficiently annotated or organized appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyses have only minor issues</li> <li>.do files are generally well annotated and organized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All analyses are conducted appropriately</li> <li>.do files are exceptionally well annotated and organized</li> </ul>
<b>Content and Development (20%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No thesis statement</li> <li>No cogent or supported analysis</li> <li>Does not clearly address elements of the course</li> <li>Complete summary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No thesis statement</li> <li>Analysis and argument offer limited support, insight and/or logical progression</li> <li>Literature review has significant conceptual flaws</li> <li>Hypotheses are not informed by literature review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unclear thesis statement</li> <li>Analysis and argument are moderately supported, insightful and cogent</li> <li>Literature review is tangentially related to hypotheses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear thesis statement</li> <li>Analysis and argument are generally supported, insightful and cogent</li> <li>Hypotheses are generally informed by literature review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear thesis statement</li> <li>Analysis and argument are supported, exceptionally original, insightful and cogent</li> <li>Hypotheses are directly informed by literature review</li> </ul>
<b>Organization and Cohesion (10%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper has no obvious organizational strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper has significant organizational or flow discrepancies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper has moderate organizational or flow discrepancies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper is generally well organized and easy to follow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper is clearly organized and easy to follow</li> </ul>
<b>Format (10%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper does not adhere to the written guidelines</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper deviates from the written guidelines in only a minor way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper follows written guidelines for formatting with no deviations</li> </ul>
<b>Quality of Writing, Grammar, and Spelling (10%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing quality is poor and seriously detracts from the message of the paper</li> <li>There are a significant number of syntax, grammar, word choice and/or spelling errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing quality is below average and detracts from the message of the paper</li> <li>There are numerous syntax, grammar, word choice and/or spelling errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing quality is average but does not detract from the message of the paper</li> <li>There are a moderate number of syntax, grammar, word choice and/or spelling errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing quality is generally high</li> <li>There are a small number of syntax, grammar, word choice and/or spelling errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High quality writing</li> <li>Little to no syntax, grammar, word choice and/or spelling errors</li> </ul>
<b>Citations (10%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citations do not adhere to the written guidelines</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citations and bibliography (if applicable) are formatted correctly with only a small number of errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citations and bibliography (if applicable) are formatted correctly with little to no error</li> </ul>