

# Introduction

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## outline

why this class ?

descriptive statistics

bonus—data sources

## let's introduce ourselves

- ◇ this is a small class, which is great for you
- ◇ we can customize it better
- ◇ we can have more class discussions
- ◇ and make it less formal than a usual lecture
- ◇ btw, did you get “welcome to regression” email? if not email me!
- ◇ about me: <https://sites.google.com/site/adamokuliczkozaryn/>
- ◇ data: mostly surveys: gss, wvs, eurobarometers

## about yourself

- ◇ your research interests?
- ◇ data you're using?
- ◇ specific expectations for this class?

## my teaching approach

- ◇ interrupt me during the class
- ◇ my approach to teaching methods is applied
- ◇ class is not useful if you do not use the material
  - really interested in teaching you to apply your skills
  - hence, we will use stata
  - and we will have many examples
  - and many materials for self-study
- ◇ min math, max application!

## warning!

- ◇ difficult class!
  - set lots of time aside
  - do not get behind—very difficult to catch up later
- ◇ i'll be harsh in grading
- ◇ but i will spend as much time with you as needed!
  - ask questions; email me; stop by; do it early!

## how it differs from qm1?

- ◇ qm1 just prepares for qm2
- ◇ qm1 is not very useful
- ◇ qm2 is much more useful than qm1
- ◇ qm2 requires much more work than qm1
- ◇ qm2 is more fun than qm1

## mechanics

- ◇ read carefully slides
- ◇ make sure you understand **everything crystal clear**
- ◇ if any slightest doubts, mark it up, stop by my office
- ◇ unlike most other classes, some stuff is non-intuitive
  - must let it digest, set it aside, come back to it several times
  - practice, practice, practice



## Gujarati?

- ◇ too detailed and comprehensive
- ◇ may be little overwhelming
- ◇ don't have to understand everything
  - esp may skip appendices to each chapter and heavy math
  - esp most of math is unnecessary
  - but v important: intuition, application, mechanics, interpretation
- ◇ ask questions!

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## why this class is useful

- ◇ there are many jobs that require statistical skills
- ◇ we have more and more data
- ◇ data analysis will become more important in every field  
[\*]<http://www.amazon.com/Super-Crunchers-Thinking---Numbers-Smart/dp/0553805401>
- ◇ data analysis is usually done (in social science) with regression that you will learn in this class

## this class is about research

- ◇ you do phd to do research and research only!
  - otherwise it doesnt make sense!
- ◇ if you want to \*do\* public administration, community development etc, just get BA/MA
- ◇ if you want to research them and other things do PhD
- ◇ typically, successful PhDs become academics or researchers in various organizations
- ◇ obtaining PhD and not doing research is failure and waste of time
- ◇ if you want to be manager, leader etc, just get MBA!!

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## rule

- ◇ never run regressions without doing descriptive statistics first
- ◇ you need to understand data before making inferences from it

## descriptive statistics first !

- ◇ what is the level of measurement ?

- ◇ interval/ratio

- ◇ ordinal

- ◇ nominal

examples ?

- ◇ in ols regression: DV (Y) < — IVs (Xs)

- dv (outcome var) has to be interval/ratio

- all rhs (predictors) var have to be interval/ratio or dummies (1/0); shouldn't use ordinal variables

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# data.gov

◇ `http://www.data.gov/`

## data sources

- ◇ <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>
- ◇ <http://www.norc.uchicago.edu/GSS+Website/>
- ◇ <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/>
- ◇ <http://www.thearda.com/>
- ◇ <http://ksghome.harvard.edu/~pnorris/Data/Data.htm>

## more data sources

- ◇ <http://www.measureofamerica.org/>
- ◇ <http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/0,,contentMDK:20388241~menuPK:665266~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:469382,00.html>
- ◇ <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>
- ◇ <https://international.ipums.org/international/>