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?

- note: if don't have it yet, look for your own data!
  - soon you'll have to use your own data
  - it will take time to find it; contact me, ask questions!

finding your own data

- ◇ be opportunistic:
  - cannot find data for neighborhoods?
  - study cities, counties, or states
- ◇ do not have exact variable you need?
  - study sth similar!
- ◇ read literature! and follow it! (in terms of data too)
  - your first studies should closely follow published examples
  - just tweak them a little bit

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 sligtest 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
- dont have to understand everything
  - esp may skip appendices to each chapter and heavy math
  - esp most of math is unecessary
  - 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!
- otherwhise 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/