

ADMJ 240
RESEARCH PROJECT SCHEDULE
Spring 2004
(31% of final grade)

All assignments are due during your discussion sections unless previously announced in class. **Five percent will be deducted from you assignment for each day the assignment is late. This practice will be strictly enforced.**

Week 8

(1) Proposed area of research.

Remember, you need to select at least one dependent variable and two independent variables for your project. Questions are to come from "Violence and Threats of Violence Against Women and Men in the United States". The principal investigators are Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes. The questionnaire, data gathering information and data are available at <http://www.personal.psu.edu/lks12>

(2) Preliminary hypotheses

You need to have at least three hypotheses you will test. Two should have only an independent and dependent variable and one should have an independent, dependent and control variable.

-list the items (both number and question) from the survey.
Also, indicate whether they will be used as an independent or dependent variable

Example of an IV->DV (from the "The Violence Survey")

Respondents who are male are more likely believe personal safety for women in this country has improved than are female respondents.

IV=gender (rgender) DV=attitudes toward personal safety
(A1)

Example of Control variable->IV-DV hypothesis

Controlling for sex

Respondents who are younger in age are more likely believe that personal safety for women has improved than are older respondents.

OR

Respondents who are male and younger and are more likely to believe that personal safety for women has improved than are older women respondents

IV=age (b1) Control=gender (rgender) DV=attitudes on
personal safety for women(A1)

-2 % of final grade

Week 9

Review of 4 sources and preliminary biography (at least four professional sources).

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:You need to list at least four sources from ***scholarly journals***

*(1) Respond to the following items for **each** of the four journal articles.*

1. The name of the author(s), title of article, name of journal, volume, page numbers, year of publication.
2. What is the major purpose of the research? What research question did the author(s) want to answer?
3. Are there any other lit sources cited in the paper which could be of use to you as you write your paper?
4. How were the data gathered?
5. What kind of folks were respondents/participants (adults, youths etc; how many people were studied; were they studied over time?)
6. Did the author(s) describe questionnaire items in the methods section or appendices?
7. Major findings and conclusions.

(2) For your reference section

Your **reference section** and must be in American Sociological or American Psychological Association citing style. Check your Babbie text (Bibliography) for correct ASA citing style.

For help with APA style, see

<http://www.apastyle.org/aboutstyle.html>

--2 % of your grade

Week 12

---Draft of literature review, hypotheses and bibliography due.

---This should be 3 or 4 pages keyboarded review of the literature and description of your study including hypotheses.

---You need to:

1. Write a paragraph introducing your research topic.
Include a very brief description of your project.
Why is this area of interest to researchers?
It is acceptable to write in the first-person. However, do not get carried away and do not write things such as "I feel".
2. Briefly summarize each research study in a series of paragraphs.
You need to correctly cite the research study you are discussing.
For example (Smith, 1992).
--Use transition statements to tie the studies together.
3. This section should also include a list of your hypotheses and why you expect to support them. Each hypothesis should have some kind of explanation about why you expect to support it. Tie your literature in

here. For example, would you expect your hypothesis to be supported in one direction based on previous research? If your literature does not cover a specific hypothesis, discuss the reasons why you expect to support the hypothesis. Write in a professional manner as you develop your explanation.

-4 % of your final grade

Week 13

-First draft of the Methods section

:This information will be discussed in class.

The following information should be included in this section.

(1)sampling-how respondents were chosen

description of the overall sample (% male and female; % via age etc)

(2)a description of the respondents (percent of sample by age, race etc)

(3)response rate information

(4)a description of the items you will be examining (Ivs, Dvs and control variables). If you are recoding variables, you need to explain why you are doing so and how you did it here.

-2% of your final grade.

Week 14

-First draft of *findings* and *tables*.

For each hypothesis, you need to have a table. Then, simply write the findings from the table. This will consist of a very short paragraph for each table. Tables can be included in the findings section or on individual sheets of paper at the end of the paper (after the reference section).

Example of the findings for Table 1 (shown below)

Table 1 shows the relationship between gender of respondent and thinking violent offenders should be sent to prison every single time. As expected, men are more likely to express this opinion than are women. About fifty percent of men say violent offenders should be sent to prison every single time as compared to five percent of women. This relationship is significant at the .05 level.

Example of a table.

Table 1. Cross tabulation showing the relationship between gender of respondent and alcohol use.

Gender (IV)			
		Male	Female
Alcohol use (recoded) (DV)			
Every single time	50.0% (n=147)	44.3% (n=132)	
Almost all the time	15.3% (n=45)	17.4% (n=52)	
Most of the time	27.7% (n=80)	34.6% (n=103)	
Half time or less	7.5% (n=22)	3.6% (n=11)	
Total	100% (n=294)	100% (n=298)	

Example of tables with a control variable of sex.

Table 2. Cross tabulation showing the relationship between education and attitudes toward violent offenders going to prison controlling for gender of respondent.

Male Respondents

		Education (IV)			
		Less Than H.S.	H.S. Grad	Some College	College Grad And over
Prison for violent offenders (recoded) (DV)					
	Every single time	59.1% (n=13)	53.1% (n=51)	55.8% (n=29)	43.1% (n=53)
	Almost all time	4.5% (n=1)	12.5% (n=12)	7.7% (n=4)	22.8% (n=28)
	Most time	13.6% (n=3)	26.0% (n=25)	34.6% (n=18)	27.6% (n=34)
	½ time or less	22.7% (n=5)	8.3% (n=8)	1.9% (n=1)	6.5% (n=8)
	Total	100% (n=22)	100% (n=116)	100% (n=52)	100% (n=123)

Female Respondents

		Education (IV)			
		Less Than H.S.	H.S. Grad	Some College	College Grad And over
Prison for violent offenders (recoded) (DV)					
Every single time	33.3% (n=7)	50.0% (n=58)	51.5% (n=34)	35.9% (n=33)	
Almost all time	9.5% (n=2)	13.8% (n=16)	10.6% (n=7)	27.2% (n=25)	
Most time	42.9% (n=9)	33.6% (n=39)	36.4% (n=24)	33.7% (n=31)	
½ time or less	14.3% (n=3)	2.6% (n=3)	1.5% (n=1)	3.3% (n=3)	
Total	100% (n=21)	100% (n=116)	100% (n=66)	100% (n=92)	

-5% of your final grade

Week 15

Discussion and conclusion section

*You will **not** receive feedback on this section unless you arrange it with your discussion section instructor.*

The function of this section is to:

: Explain if you supported your hypotheses

:why or why not

:tie in your literature review here or give your own explanation

:How or why is this research important.

:Does it have any policy implications?

Zero percent is assigned to this section.

The section will be graded only as part of the final paper.

Week 16

Final paper due (Include a title page with the name of your paper, your name, course name, discussion section, and your discussion instructor's name.)

:remember to hand in the first-draft from each section of the paper (except the discussion and conclusion section and the abstract)

:How to write an abstract

- This is a short (150 word) summary of our problem, sample, and findings.

- Check the journal articles you reviewed for examples.

:Order of paper

cover sheet

abstract (with title of paper)

literature review (with hypotheses)

methods section

findings

discussion and conclusion

:(The lit review, methods, findings and discussion and conclusion should be merged together.)

references

tables (which may be included in the text of the findings section instead)

:16% of your final grade

Final papers will be returned on the day of the final exam.

FINAL PAPER GRADE EVALUATION

Spring 2004

(This is the form that will be used to evaluate your final paper.)

Directions: Your paper has been reviewed by sections. The checks or circles indicate my evaluation of your paper. If something is not checked or circled, it means that the comment or point does not apply to you.

I. Abstract

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Needs Serious work

- Does not briefly summarize the main findings.
- Is poorly written.
- Does not include a brief description of the sample.

Comments:

II. Literature Review

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Needs Serious work

- Introductory paragraph does not adequately introduce the research.
- The section is poorly written.
- You need transition sentences between literature sources.
- You do not have an adequate number of literature sources.
- You do not list reasons for doing the research or hypotheses.
- You do not use the literature you have reviewed to explain why you expect to support your hypotheses.
- The order that you have discussed the literature sources is confusing and they need to be reorganized.

Comments:

III. Methods Section

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Needs Serious work

- The section is poorly written.

- You do not clearly describe how the data were gathered.
- You do not clearly describe the characteristics of your sample.
- You do not clearly describe which questions (IV and DV) you are examining.
- You do not generally describe the questionnaire

Comments:

IV. Findings

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Needs Serious work

- The section is poorly written.
- The section is not organized well and it is difficult to tell which are the major findings.
- It is difficult to tell to which table you are referring.
- The findings are confusing and difficult to read.
- You made a mistake when analyzing the data. (Percentaged incorrectly)

Comments:

V. Discussion and Conclusion

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Needs Serious work

- The section is poorly written.
- You do not explain your findings.
- You do not tie the literature you reviewed to your findings and explain how the literature is the same or different from your findings.
- You have no concluding paragraph which summarizes the importance of your research and direction for future research.

Comments:

VI. References

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Needs Serious work

- They are not in ASA or APA format.
- They still are NOT alphabetized by author.

Comments:

VII. Tables

- __Excellent
- __Good
- __Fair
- __Needs Serious work

- You do not have table headings.
- You do not list the number of cases in your table.
- They are not percentaged correctly.
- This is the SPSS ouput and not tables.

Comments:

VIII. Formatting and Appearance

- __Excellent
- __Good
- __Fair
- __Needs Serious work

- Your tables are not keyboarded.
- Your headings are not clear.
- The paper is not printed clearly.
- You do not have a title page or it is not attractive.
- Your sections are not merged together.
- The sections of your paper are NOT in the correct order.

Final Paper Grade: