First Assignment: Questionnaire Design and Analysis of Survey Data

The purpose of this assignment is to apply the quantitative analysis skills you have learned in class. You must formulate an original research question related to the topic of *Gender and Behaviors/Attitudes Regarding Household Chores*, and provide an adequate justification of the relevance of your question. You must then use the survey data gathered from your peers to answer your chosen research question and complete the assignment according to the outline provided below.

Steps:

1) Submit 2 Original Survey Questions

You will be required to design 2 original survey questions on the topic of *Gender and Household Chores*. Both of your survey questions should ask about the respondent's attitudes and behaviours related to household chores since the questionnaire will already include a question on gender. Both survey questions must be close-ended, meaning that you must provide fixed responses for your respondents to choose from. You may have *no more* than 4 fixed responses for each question.

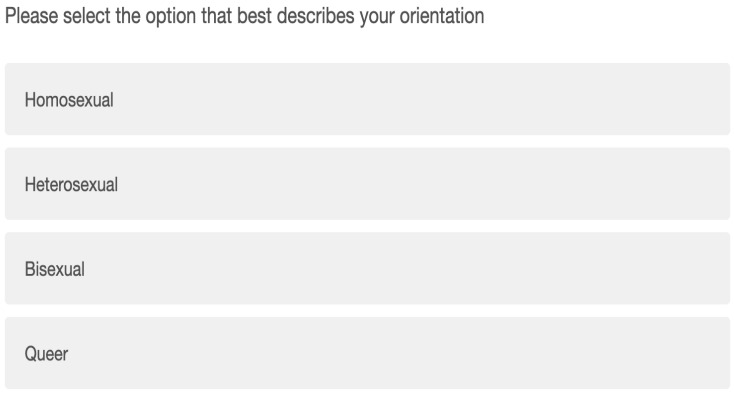
The survey questions should be based on your preliminary research question. Tips for designing survey questions:

- Survey questions should not relate two variables to one another
- Survey questions should not be double-barreled
- Responses should be exhaustive
- Responses should be mutually exclusive

2) Take the Survey

3) Formulate a Unique Research Question

You will be required to formulate a research question on the topic specified above. Your question should aim to investigate the relationship between two variables. Generally, your variables will each correspond with a specific question on the survey. Note that you are not limited to using the survey questions you created; you are free to draw on any of the questions in the survey (examples of some questions in the survey…)



Please select the option that best describes your living situation

- Live with parents
- Live alone
- Live with partner
- Live with roommate(s)
- Live in student residence

Please select the option that best reflects your reaction to the statement

	Agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree
My parents shared the housework evenly	○	○	○	○	○
My mother always did all the housework	○	○	○	○	○
My family always did the housework as a group	○	○	○	○	○

Suppose our topic was about religion and mental health. An appropriate research question could be: What is the relationship between *religious background* and *depressive symptoms*? Here you are examining two variables and asking whether people identifying as belonging to one religion (such as Christianity) have a higher or lower prevalence of depressive symptoms than those identifying as belonging to another religion (such as Hinduism). Each variable in the research question is drawn from a survey question: the variable *religious background* is drawn from the survey question "What religion do you identify with?" and the variable *depressive symptoms* is drawn from the survey question "In the past month, have you experienced any of the depressive symptoms listed below?"

4) Justify your Research Question using the Literature (minimum of 2 academic sources)

In addition to creating a research question, you must also justify its significance by situating it within the context of other research that has been carried out on the topic. You must address the questions of why your question is important, and why it needs to be answered. To do so, you must identify and discuss at least 2 pieces of relevant academic research (an article from a peer-reviewed journal or a book published by an academic press) which will help you to situate and lay the groundwork for your research.

5) Learn How to Use PSPP

No prior knowledge of the program is required.

You may download PSPP for Windows here:
https://sourceforge.net/projects/pspp4windows/files/latest/download

For Mac – go here:
https://www.hs-augsburg.de/~beckmanf/pspp/ (Links to an external site.)

6) Run and Analyze Data Tables

Using the PSPP software, you must run and analyze various data tables that help you answer your research question. It is not uncommon for your research question to change at this point in the assignment. You must make sure that the research question you are interested in can be answered using the questions available in the survey. Please make sure that the variables (survey questions) you have selected have an adequate number of responses in order to make your conclusions meaningful (e.g., if only 10 students responded to the question measuring variable one, this question would not be adequate)

Your analysis must include the following 4 components:

a) Univariate analysis (frequency distribution) for your first variable
b) Univariate analysis (frequency distribution) for your second variable
c) A cross-tab analysis examining the relationship between the two variables
d) A chi-square test for the cross-tab analysis

PSPP will generate tables that you can then cut and paste. You should have *one table only* for each of your four analyses. The tables must present percentages and *not* numbers. Specifically, each cell in the cross-tab should contain *only one* percent. For the cross-tab, you must ensure that your row variable and column variable meaningfully reflect your research question and that you have percentaged the cross-tab in the *one direction* that allows you to address your research question. Each of the two variables in your cross-tab should contain 4 or fewer response categories (attributes).

You must use the snipping tool (Google "Snipping Tool" for instructions on how to use this tool on your computer) to cut and paste the tables generated by PSPP into your assignment write-up. Be sure to adjust the size of the tables so that they are legible.

7) Write Up your Assignment

Please proofread your assignment for spelling errors and grammatical mistakes; you will be marked down for errors of this kind.

The following seven sections are required in the written component of your assignment (which will be 3-4 double-spaced pages in length). Please separate the sections and label each one with a bold header.

a) **Research Question:** State your research question and describe it. Explain why you chose this question. What are your hypotheses about what you might find?

b) **Justification of your Research Question:** Discuss and describe the 2 pieces of published academic research you have found. Indicate how they relate to your research question. Why is your question interesting, unique, exciting, or worth studying?

c) **Describe your Variables:** Describe the two variables you are using to answer your research question. How were the corresponding questions asked in the survey? What were the response options? Which do you hypothesize is the independent variable, and which is the dependent variable?

d) **Describe your Findings:** Go through each of your four tables and tell the reader what the tables show. Discuss any patterns in your findings. Provide an opinion as to which findings you think are the most important and why. For the cross-tab, be sure to note whether your findings are statistically significant or not based on the chi-square test.

e) **Conclusion:** What can you conclude from your findings? Do you accept or reject your hypotheses? Can you conclude that there is a causal relationship between the two variables? Why or why not? How generalizable are your findings?

f) **Citation List:** Create a reference list for all of the sources you use for this assignment (including the course textbook). You must use the ASA citation format described in the ASA Citation Guide posted in the course module titled, "Introduction to The Course: Syllabus and Guides".

g) **Appendix (Tables):** Attach your tables at the end of your paper (they will not count towards the page limit). Number and title each table. Refer to each table by its number in the text of your paper (eg. “Table One presents the results for…”).