

Reflection

What I learned- After completing SOCL 345 and 346 course, also known as “Stats For The Social Science” I have learned many different skills that would be applicable in a wide variety of job requirements. This was a two semester course that compiled different techniques of writing, research, and by-hand calculation that allowed me to go beyond what I thought I was capable of accomplishing. This course taught me how to properly conduct a social research experiment by creating a well thought out survey that we then completed a professional analysis of by gathering different quantitative and qualitative data. I am now capable of interpreting and explaining data collected in a way that is formal and well educated and understandable to a diverse audience.

Another skill I have learned throughout Dr. Pederson's course is how to complete multiple different types of statistical analysis tests that are often used in data analysis by professional researchers. This was beneficial to do by hand to really understand their applications in a real world setting and why tests such as these are applied in different ways to understand the significance of the data collected. Along with the by-hand calculation I also learned how to properly use R-studio and SPSS which is statistical analysis and coding software that is most often used by professional researchers for data analysis. Lastly and most importantly, I have learned how to grow as a student and gain understanding in a field of study I had no prior experience with by starting from the beginning and learning all the steps and skills necessary to complete coursework that seemed confusing and overwhelming at first.

Why What I Learned Matters- As previously stated, this class was unlike any other in the focus of my degree as a criminal justice major. That being said, what I learned and the skills I

developed while taking this course still has real world application. I may never have to use statistical analysis software such as R-studio and SPSS but I know why other researchers use it and I know how it operates so that when looking at data from an article I am interested in. I will be able to clearly understand what that data is saying and how the researchers came to their conclusion. My problem solving skills have increased as well due to throughout two semesters I have had to comprehend and solve problems given to me that overwhelmed me at first.

I've realized after taking SOCL- 345 and 346 how much our daily lives involve data and statistical analysis, that before having the knowledge I do now, I was not able to interpret and was just overlooked by me. The things that I learned in this course matter because it has broadened my knowledge and my abilities in the world of statistical analysis and research. This is so important because in every job or profession one can have some sort of analysis of a problem and how to solve that problem has to be done every day. I have proved to myself that I can successfully complete a task that at one time would have seemed impossible to me.

What Will I Do With What I've Learned- I intend to use what I have learned to benefit me throughout my job career and throughout my everyday life. I can use these skills and apply them in real world applications on the job and off. To me, problem solving capabilities play a key role in being successful in one's career. A big take away from this course is those problem solving capabilities I have developed over the past two semesters of work. Also, I intend to use what I have learned to help me in the future when something in my life arises that may seem confusing or overwhelming and to take that situation one step at a time until it is resolved.