Nathan Martin

4/19/2024

Reflection

Sociology-346

Throughout my time enrolled in Sociology 346, I was able to gain a lot of valuable information and even new skills and perspectives I did not believe I ever would. Even though I am a graduating senior this upcoming May the skills and knowledge I have obtained will forever be important and beneficial in my life. Although I do wish I could have been able to receive these lifelong skills far earlier in my academic career. Which could have been extremely beneficial not only for grades but my newfound determination and organization.

The information, skills, and knowledgeI was able to gain following this course has given me a solid head start for my future careers. Beginning with all the information and knowledge throughout the course. Such as the programs I had to utilize in order to find the research I needed. RStudio and SPSS, these programs which are not the easiest to master or learn in general are a very sought out tool in life beyond college. I can confidently say that I have learned a good amount of the ins and outs of these programs from this course. Simply by running different variations of tests through which include ANOVA, Chi Squared, Pearson's Correlation, T-Test, Regressions, and more. Just by completing these tests in order for me to fulfill my research needs (amount of family involvement based on the highest education they received) has given me a great new tool and valuable skill that I could utilize in my future. Following, the knowledge I received outside utilizing the programs such as SPSS and RStudio will forever be beneficial as well. Being able to solve the tests discussed earlier manually with only having a simple calculator is a skill many others do not have. Overall I have gained more information, skills, and knowledge that I could have ever imagined simply through a semester course.

 While I was able to gain a lot of new knowledge following completing this course, I was also able to gain new skills and perspectives. Beginning with the creation of our statistical manual, which is a binder filled with all her notes, assignments, and other information given organized by all the chapters of the course. Being able to stay in pace of the course and stay organized is a newfound skill I can confidently say I never really had. I have always struggled with organization and in some instances falling behind in a given course. However, having the simple task of creating this statistical manual throughout this course, gave me the skills of organization. Which has not only benefited me in this course but also the other courses I have been taking this semester. Also, another simple task which also gave me a very beneficial skill. Which includes having to complete different tests weekly using the SPSS program. The SPSS program is only available through the school computers in the library. This simple issue made me utilize our school's library more than I typically did. This led to me utilizing the library to not only complete these SPSS tests weekly but also to do any other work or study for any more information in my other courses this semester at the library. Overall, I obtained very valuable skills which will impact my needs for the better. in the future.

My future plans following graduating here from Longwood this May is to go into law enforcement back in Lynchburg. Although some of the skills I have obtained such as the SPSS and RStudio programs may not be fully utilized throughout my career. It can always be a great backup tool I could utilize if I ever decide to change my career plans. However, the skills I obtained from staying organized is a very important key factor throughout law enforcement because you can be threatened or even lose your job if you are not correctly organized. Which in the past I have severely struggled and worried about with my future career. This course was able to give me a major spark to prepare me to be organized for my career in law enforcement.

Overall, Sociology 346- Statistics for the Social Sciences course here at Longwood will forever impact my future. Due to all the information, skills, and knowledge I have received following completing this course will be very beneficial for me in my daily life outside of college. I was able to gain new skills and knowledge I wish I was able to obtain earlier in my academic career which could have been very beneficial and helped improve my academics in the past. However this course has greatly benefited me in numerous ways and has given me a great head start for my future career.