
History 4390—Applied Quantitative History (CRN: 21570)

Meeting Time: 8:30 am – 9:45 am

Classroom: A627 and S618

Prerequisites: History 1305, History 1306
English 1301 and either Math 1300 or Math
1310

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Office: 670S

Office Hours: MTWTh 11:30-12:30

Instructor: Dr. David Ryden

Course Description:

This course provides basic instruction in the methods and techniques used by quantitative historians and other social scientists. A major component of the course includes hands-on data management, calculation, and presentation. The class is designed to lead students from basic statistics and data management to multivariate analysis.

Educational Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will know how to design, execute, and complete a quantitative history research project. They will demonstrate skills in working with a modern statistical software package (presently SPSS) as well as an applied knowledge of a variety of statistical tools.

Attendance:

Students will find passing this course difficult if they do not regularly attend class. I will take attendance every day, and if you are not present when your name is called you will be counted as absent. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course if need be. Each student will be held responsible for all material covered in class as well as any announcements I make concerning examinations, readings, etc.

Honesty Code Reminder:

The University of Houston-Downtown maintains an honesty code, which is an essential element of the institution's academic credibility and integrity. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the code and abide by it.

Academic honesty is the foundation upon which the student builds personal integrity and establishes a standard of personal behavior. In this course these university policies, outlined in PS 03.31, will apply. "A violation of the honesty code is any activity which compromises the academic integrity or subverts the educational process of the university, including but not limited to, the following examples.

- ❖ Providing or receiving information for unauthorized use during exams, quizzes, or other graded work.
- ❖ Failing to report incidents of academic dishonesty.
- ❖ Using unauthorized notes, books, or other disallowed materials to aid in answering questions during an examination.

- ❖ Serving as or enlisting another person to take a test in the student's place or to do any academic work for which the student will receive academic credit.
- ❖ Plagiarizing (submitting work or portions of work that is not your own).
- ❖ Changing answers and attempting to claim instructor error.
- ❖ Any other conduct intended to obtain academic credit fraudulently or dishonestly, which a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest or improper in an academic setting."

In addition there are honesty code requirements for this history course. Students must not use any notes, outlines, or verbal information during exams. Students must return all exam materials to the professor after the exams have been graded and returned to students for their perusal. Failure to return printed exam materials will result in a zero on that exam and possibly other disciplinary action. Once a student begins an exam, the student may not leave the room without forfeiting finishing the exam.

ADA Statement:

The University is in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws concerning reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students should register with Disabled Student Services, S-903, and contact the instructor in a timely manner for appropriate accommodations.

Tentative Schedule for Required Readings, Papers, and Examinations:

Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	<p>Quantitative History: Origins, Applications, and Limitations</p> <p><u>Assigned Reading:</u> Roderick Floud, "Quantitative History and People's History: Two Methods in Conflict?" <i>Social Science History</i>, vol 8 (1984) pp. 151-168; Robert Whaples, "A Quantitative History of the Journal of Economic History and the Cliometric Revolution," <i>Journal of Economic History</i> (1991) pp. 289-301.</p> <p><u>Homework:</u> Reaction Paper (250-500 words).</p>
Week 3	<p>Starting a Research Project</p> <p><u>Topics:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cross Sectional vs Time Series Data b. Aggregated vs Microdata c. Prepackaged vs manuscript sources d. Descriptive vs Predictive Statistics <p><u>Assigned Reading:</u> www.ipums.org</p> <p><u>Homework Assignment:</u> Enter the Barbados Plantation Data (PRO CO 28/62 f. 262) into excel spreadsheet (submit hardcopy). Briefly explain if this data is aggregated or is it microdata; cross sectional or time series; and if it is a primary or secondary source.</p>

Week 4

Downloading and Importing data into SPSS

Topics:

- a. Slave Trade Dataset
- b. Downloading IPUMS
- c. Data, command, and output files
- d. Recoding, Computing, and Aggregating variables

Homework Assignment: **Proposals for final project are due.** Please include a 'tiny' version of your IPUMS or slave trade dataset and a hardcopy of your SPSS command file.

Week 5

Descriptive Statistical Measures

Topics:

- a. Frequency Distributions
- b. Central Tendency
- c. Dispersion

Assigned Readings: Charles H. Feinstein and Mark Thomas, *Making History Count: A Primer in Quantitative Methods for Historians* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) Sections 2.1.1; 2.1.2; John H. Kranzler, *Statistics for the Terrified* (Upper Salle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2003) pp 49-63.

Homework: Using SPSS, select a variable (such as 'age') from your dataset and submit a hardcopy of a frequency distribution and a set of descriptive statistics. Also, write a short description of your results and explain the differences between the mean, median, and mode (please include a hardcopy of command file).

Week 6

Comparing Means, Correlation, and Cross Tabulation

Assigned Reading: Darren George and Paul Mallery, *SPSS for Windows Step by Step: A Simple Guide and Reference* (Boston: Allyn and Bacon) Chapters 10 & 11.

Homework: Using SPSS, select a couple of variables (such as age categories by race) and construct a 'crosstab.' Also, calculate mean ages (or some other continuous variable) for both blacks and whites and state whether the difference between the two is statistically significant.

Week 7

Midterm

Week 8-9

"Graphical Practice"

Topics

- a. Tables v Charts
- b. Chart Design
- c. Creating Charts in Excel

Assigned Reading: E. Tufte, *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information* (Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press) pp. 13-15; 28-39; 14.

Homework I: Reaction Paper (250-500 words).

Homework II: Using the dataset for your project, construct at least three well-thought-out graphs and tables.

Week 10-11	Correlation and Multivariate Regression <i>Assigned Reading:</i> Charles H. Feinstein and Mark Thomas, <i>Making History Count: A Primer in Quantitative Methods for Historians</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) Chapter 4.
Week 12	OLS and Non-linear Transformation
Week 13	Regression and Dichotomous Variables
Week 14-15	Mini Conference <u>RESEARCH PAPERS DUE April 18!</u>

Course Requirements

Examinations:

There will be two examinations, the first representing 10% of the final grade and the second, comprehensive exam making up 15% of the final grade. Students will supply their own blue books, if required.

Class Participation:

Students are required to attend all classes and to contribute to the discussion at hand. In addition to regularly participating, each student will lead a discussion of a quantitative history article that s/he has unearthed from an issue of the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Social Science History*, or the *Journal of Economic History*. Last, all students will participate in the mini-conference scheduled above.

Homework:

Homework assignments are listed in the above schedule.

Papers:

Students are required to submit two papers, which include a 500-word research paper proposal and a 20 page quantitatively based research paper (either IPUMS or Slave Trade microdata). The research paper will include a literature review and will analyze the data in light of current thinking on the topic.

Text, Figures, and Charts must be typed in a Times New Roman 10 or 12 point font. They must also be double-spaced with 1.25-inch margins. The word count should appear at the bottom of the final page. Punctuation, style, footnotes (not endnotes), etc., will be according to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.

Due-dates are posted above. No late papers will be accepted. If you have any questions concerning the paper or would like me to look it over before any of the deadlines, arrange a time to meet with me.

Final Exam Schedule:

CLASS INFORMATION			EXAM INFORMATION			
CLASS DAY	BEGIN TIME	END TIME	DAY	DATE	BEGIN TIME	END TIME
MW	7:00 AM	8:15 AM	M	5/9/2005	7:00 AM	9:30 AM
MW	8:30 AM	9:45 AM	W	5/11/2005	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
MW	10:00 AM	11:15 AM	AM	5/9/2005	10:00 AM	12:30 PM
MW	11:30 AM	12:45 PM	W	5/11/2005	11:30 AM	2:00 PM
MW	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	M	5/9/2005	1:00 PM	3:30 PM
MW	2:30 PM	3:45 PM	W	5/11/2005	2:30 PM	5:00 PM
MW	4:00 PM	5:15 PM	M	5/9/2005	4:00 PM	6:30 PM
MW	5:30 PM	6:45 PM	W	5/11/2005	5:30 PM	8:00 PM
MW	7:00 PM	8:15 PM	M	5/9/2005	7:00 PM	9:30 PM
MW	8:30 PM	9:45 PM	W	5/11/2005	8:30 PM	11:00 PM
TR	7:00 AM	8:15 AM	R	5/5/2005	7:00 AM	9:30 AM
TR	8:30 AM	9:45 AM	T	5/10/2005	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
TR	10:00 AM	11:15 AM	R	5/5/2005	10:00 AM	12:30 PM
TR	11:30 AM	12:45 PM	T	5/10/2005	11:30 AM	2:00 PM
TR	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	R	5/5/2005	1:00 PM	3:30 PM
TR	2:30 PM	3:45 PM	T	5/10/2005	2:30 PM	5:00 PM
TR	4:00 PM	5:15 PM	R	5/5/2005	4:00 PM	6:30 PM
TR	5:30 PM	6:45 PM	T	5/10/2005	5:30 PM	8:00 PM
TR	7:00 PM	8:15 PM	R	5/5/2005	7:00 PM	9:30 PM
TR	8:30 PM	9:45 PM	T	5/10/2005	8:30 PM	11:00 PM

Grades:

The assigned weights to the course requirements are as follows.

