

36-303: Sampling, Surveys and Society

Presentations
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22 March 2012

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Handouts:

- These Lecture Notes
- Handout: The Importance of Mistakes
- The following are posted under a “Guides” link at the class website:
 - Bem: On writing
 - Pueschel: On talks (& another on making tables!)
 - Three examples of 303 final papers

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Outline

- Upcoming Events
- Oral Presentations
 - Presentation Mechanics
- Paper Outline
 - Paper Mechanics
- Presentation Order (Mar 27, 29)

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Upcoming Events

- **Mar 27, 29:** Project Progress Reports
- **Fri Apr 7:** Drafty draft final reports due (email 1 pdf or doc file per team)
- **Mon Apr 2:** Meeting of the Minds Application Deadline
- **Thu Apr 12:** Midterm Review
- **Tue Apr 17:** Final Midterm Exam (in class; cumulative)
- **Thu Apr 19:** Carnival! No Class
- **Apr 26, May 1, 3:** Final Project Presentations
- **Fri Apr 4:** Final Papers due (email me 1 pdf or doc file per group)
- **May 9:** Meeting of the Minds (for those participating)

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Oral Presentations

- *Progress reports next week should include*
 - **Introduction:** What's it about?
 - Research Question & Motivation
 - Questionnaire, or at least a couple sample questions from it
 - **Body:** Describe the work you have done so far
 - How sample was selected... Any advice for future 303 students?
 - How survey was set up and respondents contacted
 - Glitches? How did you fix 'em?
 - What is the nonresponse or refusal rate so far? How will you decrease it?
 - What are the distinguishing features of nonresponders/refusers?
 - Successes? Tell us.
 - **Conclusion:** Future work – what's left to do?
 - When will you / did you cut off data collection?
 - What post-processing and/or analyses will you perform?
(*nonresponse, postprocessing, answering your research questions, etc.*)
 - Anything else?
- *Length and Presentation*
 - 3-4 teams per lecture (order on last slide of this talk)
 - 15 minutes per group
 - At least 2 “real” slides by each team member
 - 5 min or so Q&A after each presentation

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Presentation Mechanics

- Bring your presentation as ppt or pdf on a usb memory stick
- Make sure it works on a Windows PC (sometimes graphics from Macs won't display in Windows)
- See handout [online] on advice for talks
 - Handout is great but doesn't emphasize enough:
 - practice, practice, practice, practice, practice ...

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Paper Outline

- Section 1: Introduction
 - Research Question and Motivation
 - Citations to literature on this topic
 - Quick summary of main results from Section 4
- Section 2: Methods
 - Target population, frame, sample design/methods, sample size
 - Number of respondents contacted, number of respondents, other nonresponse/refusal information
 - A few questions from your questionnaire (full questionnaire, contact letter(s), informed consent statement, etc, in appendices)
 - Post-survey processing
 - Other relevant information from the body of your progress report talk
- Section 3: Results (may or may not be longer than Section 2!)
 - Restate research question(s), show statistical analyses, discuss how they answer each research question (gory stat details in another appendix!)
- Section 4: Discussion
 - Overall discussion of research questions, how well survey answered them
 - Any expected – or unexpected! – results
 - Strengths and weaknesses of your survey; recommendations for future
 - Take-home message(s)
- List of References
- Appendices

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Paper Mechanics

- Read carefully the handout by Bem on writing an empirical research paper.
 - Make your paper conform to his advice and examples ***as much as possible***
- I expect there to be holes in your “Drafty Draft” on Fri Apr 7.
 - Most of Sections 1 and 2 should be complete
 - The rest of the paper depends on work you haven't done yet, so there should be many holes.
 - For each hole, write a paragraph detailing what you plan to do to fill the hole (put the paragraph in bold or italic, or box it or something so I know it is “plans” and not part of the actual paper text).

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Order of Presentations Mar 22, 24, 29

■ Tue Mar 29:

- **Group G**: Spatial and Analytic Study of Student Housing at CMU
- **Group E**: Analysis of the Off-Campus Housing Search for CMU Students
- **Group B**: Music/movie internet piracy at CMU
- **Group F**: Parking Meters at CMU

■ Thu Mar 29:

- **Group D**: Political Attitudes and Academic Major at CMU
 - **Group A**: A political survey of the CMU community
 - **Group C**: How to improve our on-campus parking system?
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