Syllabus for SPSS for Social Science Research[1]

This set of classes provides information on using <u>SYNTAX</u> in SPSS.

Session 1:   Class overview. Hints on error avoidance and detection. The importance of documenting programs. Tips on record-keeping. Reading simple raw data. Reconfiguring SPSS so that it gives more and clearer information. Some debugging techniques.

Session 2:   Reading external raw data. Reading more complicated raw data - a hierarchical data set. LEAVE statement. Conditional input statements. Common errors in SPSS.

Session 3:   Saving a SPSS data file. Reading a SPSS data file. Another way to read a hierarchical file. Matching (merging) SPSS data files. More on errors and error detection.

Session 4:   Using a real social science data set. Matching with renaming. Calculating new variables using Do Repeats. Selecting a subset of cases.

Session 5:   Display labels. Using the TO keyword so that every variable does not have to be listed. Some SPSS functions (truncate, max, sum), asking for descriptive statistics on a variable. Creating dichotomous variables from a categorical variable. Check frequencies of variables before using them. Value labels. An example of multiple regression, correlations, frequencies and crosstabs with chi-square.

Session 6:   Running a program in batch mode. Making tables for publication: bringing SPSS output into Excel, letting Excel round for you. Finding the first and last of a set of cases using the lag function.

Session 7:   In this class we will reorganize a data set - changing variables to cases. Using the 1995 Viet Nam data set, we will create a Child-Level data set. Instead of each woman being a case, each children will be a case. We will do this in two ways so that we can learn different tools. We will use Add Files, and write out raw data.

Session 8:   More on using help in SPSS. Aggregate. Dates. A little about weights. Functions.

Session 9:   Not ready yet.

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[1]This tutorial has been prepared by Patty Glynn, University of Washington. May 15, 2001