Introduction to Computing -- Course schedule (First Session)

This course provides participants with basic training in the use of two major statistical packages – SPSS and Stata. In addition to teaching each package in a set of self-contained lectures, the course will also provide a comparison/contrast on several themes across the packages. Finally, the course will also present a series of lectures on issues involved in the creation, management, and maintenance of data sets, plus advanced techniques for each package.

The lecture time you select should reflect your needs and the requirements of the workshop(s) you will be attending. The following recommendations should help you decide where to be and when:

- if you need to learn only Stata, attend the first three early afternoon (1:00 pm) sessions (June 27, June 28, June 29);
- if you need to learn only SPSS, attend the Friday and Monday (1:00 pm) sessions (June 30, July 3), plus the Monday late afternoon (5:15 pm) (July 3);
- if you are have little or no experience in creating and managing data files, and must rely others to prepare data, although an experienced user of the package(s) to be used in your workshops, attend the late afternoon (5:15) sessions during the first week (June 27-June 30).

In scheduling your time during the Summer Program, remember that workshop instructors will generally be assuming a basic understanding of the relevant statistical package(s) in their classes. The workshops will build upon this knowledge. If you are not an experienced user of the package(s) used in your workshop(s), it is YOUR responsibility to learn the basics of the package(s), either through these lectures or on your own. In addition, for those of you remaining for second session classes, remember that those workshops may have different requirements than your current workshop(s)!

To contact me, either stop by my office (TBA), or send e-mail to:
Datafilemaster@gmail.com

or leave a note for me on my door. Be sure to indicate how I should contact you!
Class Schedule (Please confirm starting dates for selected topics if attending only selected classes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Early afternoon (1:00-2:30 pm) Lecture</th>
<th>Late afternoon (5:15-6:30 pm) Lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/26/2017</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>No class -- Registration</td>
<td>No class -- Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/27/2017</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Intro to Stata</td>
<td>Grappling with “easier” data sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/28/2017</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Stata syntax and procedures</td>
<td>Grappling with “more” difficult data sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/29/2017</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Stata graphics, advanced techniques</td>
<td>Preparing data files and advanced data management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/30/2017</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Intro to SPSS</td>
<td>Data management issues, including data management non-statistical software programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/3/2017</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>SPSS syntax and procedures</td>
<td>SPSS files and basic graphics, advanced techniques</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Evening labs

Hands-on experience is valuable in learning statistical packages. For those interested, I will hold several “labs” during the early evenings to provide opportunities for additional instruction and experience. These are optional (let’s be honest, the entire lecture series is optional…), so you may attend as you wish. As always, please recognize you have assignments due in other classes, so please do not let our “exploring” interfere with necessary work. Some of these labs may be oriented to a particular ICPSR workshop, and if so, I will notify you prior to the session about the lab’s intended audience.

The labs exist for your benefit. For each, I will provide a brief guided assignment to give you practice related to the topic we are covering (or just covered) in our lectures. I will make these available, help you with them, and then organize a brief meeting at the end to review for those who tried the assignment. You are free to ignore the assignment and use the time to ask questions, or you can use the time to work through your own examples. In other words, you can use the labs for guided instruction, or as your own Q & A session. These are extensions of the lectures, not additional classes with new material. Attend as you see fit. I will announce the schedule on the first day of class.