

Final Project

1. Your project is to empirically study the relationship between the success of the Notre Dame football team and Catholic Church attendance from 1991 to 2008. Public-use data for attendance, from the General Social Survey, is on my website.
2. I am not looking for a particular result. I only care that your work is convincing. It is fine with me if you find a positive, negative, or insignificant relationship between ND football and church attendance.
3. Working in groups is allowed
4. You should collect ND football data on your own, and you should include it in your report to ensure that you collected the right data. How you measure ND football success is up to you. How you measure Catholic church attendance with the GSS data is up to you too.
5. You should clean the data and make sure that your variables are correctly constructed and free of strange values, missing values, and the like.
6. You must decide what X variables to use in any regressions you run, and how to calculate standard errors. You also need to decide on what sample of people to use.
7. Probably you will want to run more than one regression, so that you can see whether changing your X variables, or your sample, or your measure of church attendance or football success matters.
8. I expect a moderately-sized report, explaining how you assembled the data, how you decided what regressions to run, what regressions you ran (tell me exactly what y is and what all the x variables are), regression output, and discussion of the regression output. If you want to make pictures or present means or other statistics to help make your case, that is fine too.
9. Your report will be graded by, overall, how convincing it is. Do you put appropriate variables on the right hand side? Do you correctly construct and interpret hypothesis tests, standard errors, coefficients, the variables used, and so on? A well written document (e.g., few typos; not excessively flowery language; clear, unambiguous text) will also help.