Sociology 610
Statistical Methods II
Winter, 2001

**The Project** (due Tuesday, April 17)

The project consists of a brief exercise in hypothesis formulation and multivariate analysis. You are to do the following:

1. Using any of a number of possible data sets, including the NORC General Social Survey (GSS), one of Fox's data sets, or a data set of your choice, identify a sociological (or related social scientific) problem about which you would like to test one or more hypotheses. You may begin with a brief description of the problem. It is not necessary to provide an elaborate theoretical justification nor must you provide a literature review, although a couple of citations might be useful. But I'm more concerned that you generate a reasonable substantive hypothesis (or set of hypotheses).

2. State one or more research hypotheses that you plan to test.

3. Describe the variables that you will use to test your hypotheses. If you have only one substantive hypothesis, then include at least one control variable. Describe the character (in terms of level of measurement), range, and distribution of the variables. Describe the population and (to the best of your knowledge) the sampling procedure. Justify on some substantive/theoretical ground the validity of your measures.

4. Select an appropriate multivariate statistical technique to test your hypothesis(es). Explain why you are using this approach. Then state your null and alternative hypotheses in statistical terms.

5. Analyze your data on the computer. You may use any statistical package but you must include your output. Include only what is necessary to see the results. Present the results of your analysis. Describe them in such a way that you demonstrate to me that you know what they say.

6. Evaluate your hypothesis(es) in light of your findings. Draw any conclusions that you view as appropriate.

The recommended length of the paper is 3-5 pages, double-spaced typed. You may go beyond five pages, but please treat that as a suggested upper limit. Your grade will depend on your demonstrated facility with your hypotheses, data analysis, and interpretation of your results. Although I encourage you to do something that interests you, you will not be graded on the substantive importance of your topic.

**PLEASE TYPE AND STAPLE YOUR PAPER, AND STAPLE YOUR COMPUTER OUTPUT TO THE TEXT.**