

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

Course: Quantitative Research Methods

Level and status: 3 credit points B.A. obligatory class

Prior requirements: Statistics B.

Lecturer: Dr. Uri Shwed

Taught: 2010/11

Course description:

This course teaches the principles of collecting and analyzing data in social research. Primary subjects are measurement, sampling, surveys, and introduction to linear analyses, focusing on linear regression. The goal of the class is to grant basic proficiencies for critical reading and evaluation of quantitative sociological research papers, as well as an introduction for carrying out such studies.

The course is divided to two parts. The first is an introduction to quantitative methods, dealing with research design, measurement, sampling and surveys. At the end of the first part students will submit a short paper that evaluates the methodology of a peer-reviewed quantitative article of their choice. It is the student's responsibility to approve their paper of choice by the fifth class.

The second part deals with analysis of variance and linear regression. At the end of the second part students will submit a paper demonstrating their skills in testing complex hypotheses using a multiple regression framework.

Course requirements: Students are required to be present in classes and sections, read the obligatory papers on time, choose and approve a paper by the fifth class, submit the two assignments on time, and a minimal grade of 60 in the final exam.

Grade: Final exam (65% of grade), assignments (30%), participation and quiz (5%).

Course schedule and reading list:

Obligatory Readings:

First part -

Cohen, Yinon (1988) "War and Social Integration: The effects of the Israeli-Arab Conflict on Jewish Emigration from Israel." *American Sociological Review* 53:908-918. Also appeared in *Megamot* 42(4):443 (in Hebrew).

Katz-Gerro, Tally, and Y. Shavit (1998) "The stratification of leisure and taste: classes and lifestyles in Israel." *European Sociological Review*, 14 (4): 369-86. Also appeared in *Soziologia Israelit* 1 (1). (in Hebrew).

Report of the Institute for Zionist Strategy about Post Zionist Bias in Sociology Departments in Academia http://www.izs.org.il/default.asp?father_id=114&catid=395 Pages 1-6, 17, 23-44. (in Hebrew).

Second Part

Shwed, Uri, and Y. Shavit. 2006. "The Occupational and Economic Attainments of College and University Graduates in Israel." *European Sociological Review* 22 (4): 431-442.

Additional readings:

Report of the Institute for Zionist Strategy – the remainder of the report
Yeftachel, Oren (2010) "Ktav Hasata Hamitchaze Lemechkar" Yediot Achronot
4.10.10 (available on course's website).

Bait-Marom, Ruth (1986) "Research Methods in the Social Sciences" Units 1-3, 5-6,
9-10. Open University Press (In Hebrew).