

Homework 1

This page also online at: http://www.rbtaylor.net/3404_fa11_homework_1.pdf

Learning goals

1. You will learn how to go an instructor-specified online credible data source, and create and save a scatterplot linking international murder rate differences to international differences in socioeconomic condition.
2. You will interpret a bivariate scatterplot.
3. You will draw implications, from the position of the US and Moldova in the chart, for the international trafficking shown in Season 2 of “The Wire”

What you will do to get ready to write. Create a Gapminder chart (*be sure to save your chart printed out or in pdf form if needed for later discussion*) looking **at only 2005 data** where

- “GDP/capita (US\$, inflation-adjusted)” (*under economy tab, under incomes & growth sub-tab*) is on the **x or horizontal axis**. Be sure you have **this specific** economic variable. This translates to gross domestic product (GDP) per person (/capita), in 2000 US dollars, adjusted for inflation across years.
- “Murder (per 100,000 people)” (*under the society tab*) is on the **y or vertical axis**. Be sure you have the murder **rate** not the murder count.
- **You want both variables in log form.**
- PDF Gapminder help file is on Blackboard

What you will write. You will write a 250 word paper (written like a paper, not a list) that answers the following questions:

1. At the nation level, what is the relationship between murder rates and income per person: is it positive (as income goes up, murder rates go up), negative (as income goes down, murder rates go up), or no relationship (the two variables are not connected).
2. What is the income difference between Moldova and the US?; how does each score on the income variable?
3. In what ways does this information help you evaluate the plausibility of the human trafficking scenario presented in the first few episodes of Season 2 of “The Wire”? Be as specific as you can.
4. Mention at least one specific way this information corroborates or refutes information presented **either** in the Finnegan reading OR the Hughes and Denisova.

PARAMETERS

1. All papers typed, double spaced, no more than one page of text (references can be extra). Adobe PDF or word doc/docx format
2. ONLY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION that appears on the paper is YOUR TUID at the top of the page.
3. Submitted via Safe Assign (UNDER **INFORMATION** TAB not content) no later than midnight 9/19/2011. Instructions about submitting via Safe Assign are on Blackboard under HOW TOs. NOTE: site will shut down at the cutoff date and time. Only way to late submit is to email to instructor tuclasses at gmail.com
4. Follow proper referencing format. (<http://jratcliffe.net/papers/referencing.pdf>)
5. **Each day late loses 20% of grade**; no point submitting after 5 days. Student submitting paper after 5 days may meet with instructor for constructive feedback, but should not expect a grade.

GRADING RUBRIC (see below)

3025/3404 Fall 2011 Homework 1 grading rubric

TUID:

Points possible	For	Points assigned
1	All paper parameters followed (only TUID, one page, typed, double spaced)	
1	No mis-spellings, no flagrant grammatical errors	
1	Bivariate relationship correctly described	
1	Economic difference between US and target country (Ukraine or Moldova) correctly described (which is higher?)	
2	Correct values reported for 2005 GDP/Capita (US\$, inflation adjusted) for US and either Moldova or Ukraine	
1	Integrates at least one point of information from either Finnegan or Hughes and Denisova reading	
1	At least mentions link with "The Wire" trafficking theme	
1	In addition to above, thoughtful linkage made between "The Wire" and data	
=====		
9	TOTAL POSSIBLE	
	ADJUSTMENT: -2 points each day late	
	ADJUSTMENT: academic misconduct problem (points lost vary; see syllabus)	
	Adjusted total	

