

Fall 2009

# Homework 1

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## Repository Citation

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# Introduction to Sociology

## Homework #1

This homework is worth 5% of your grade, and is due in HARD copy typed on September 24 in class.

All of this homework can be completed using the following website:

<http://sda.berkeley.edu/archive.htm>

Using the GSS Cumulative File 1972-2008

### **Part I: Religion in the United States**

*The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* examines the relationship between religious, spirituality, and medical beliefs. In this section explore the religiosity of contemporary Americans. Run all of the analysis in this part using a Selection Filter of Year (1990-2006) to just examine recent GSS surveys.

#### **1. Gender**

Does Gender (SEX) affect whether or not someone is religious (ATTRELIG)? Run a crosstabs using the filter for years. Fill in the chart below

Sex	Attended Religious Services Last Week	Did not Attend Religious Services Last Week.
Male		
Female		

Describe in one or two sentences the relationship between gender and church attendance.

#### **2. Social Class**

What is the relationship between social class (CLASS) and church attendance (ATTRELIG)? Run a crosstabs using the filter for years. Describe in two or three sentences any patterns you see.

### **3. Race**

What is the relationship between race (RACE) and church attendance (ATTRELIG)? Run a crosstabs using the filter for years.

Briefly, what differences, if any, are there between the religiosity of different races?

### **4. Intersectionality**

Re-examine the relationship between social class and religiosity, controlling for either sex or race. Describe briefly if either sex or race affects the relationships between social class and religiosity.

## **Part II: Religious Beliefs and Medical Beliefs**

How could you study whether or not religiosity affects an individual's medical beliefs? Examine whether or not individuals have confidence in the medical system (CONMEDIC) and/or believe that God can heal them (HEALER).

Are individuals' beliefs better explained by religiosity or by variables such as race, class, sex and/or degree? Use your crosstabs to build an argument about whether or not religiosity affects people's confidence in the medical system. You should include HARD COPIES of all three crosstabs (no graphs needed) and two paragraphs of explanation below.