Hi,

Here are some miscellaneous updates for 617...

1. I posted (usually brief) feedback on your peer reviews, on canvas. Almost everyone got 3/3 because they posted all three reviews assigned to them. Generally the reviews were good. Remember to be brief, positive, and make suggestions that will help the writer do better next time.

2. I also finished (again, usually brief) feedback on project 02 drafts last night. Check on canvas if you're waiting for that. I mostly just skimmed papers and made comments about things that caught my eye. I generally did not read discussion sections, because the papers aren't ready for that yet (remember, finish results and appx first, then discussion, methods, intro and abstract, more or less in that order). I will be grading final project papers using the rubric in the project 02 assignment pdf. Please use the rubric as a guide, as you finish up the papers for submission.

3. A couple more general comments on papers:

(a) IMRAD is not a perfect form for statistics data analysis papers, but it is a common form in empirical work generally, so it's good to get to know.

\*\* A difficulty that many of you are having (which I totally understand) is what to put in methods vs what to put in results. As a general guide, the methods section should be full of nouns, the results section (and appx) should be full of verbs. What I mean by that is the methods section should describe the data and name the methods that will be used in the results section and appx, but shouldn't carry out any of those methods.

\*\* If you want to describe transformed data in the methods section that is ok---you need to write a brief(!) rationale for each transformation, and then refer me to (specific pages in) the appx for what you actually did to arrive at those transformations. Or, if it makes for a more coherent presentation of your work, put the transformation work along with the linear modeling in the results section (again, final results and a summary of how you got there in the results section, and refer me to specific pages in the appx for details).

(b) Even though you have a lot more to think about and write about in this paper, please don't forget CCC structure. I will grade and give credit for what I can easily find in your paper; since I have 31 or 32 to look at, I won't spend a lot of time looking for something or trying to understand why you did something. Lay it out for me clearly, using CCC structure, so it's easy for me to find and give you credit for.

\*\* If you are unsure of whether your paper is easy to follow, have a NONSTATISTICIAN read it and give you feedback. (if they say "it's fine", you know you've asked the wrong person. if they have suggestions for making your paper clearer or easier to follow, that's great! If they have suggestions for improving the statistical analysis, that would not be good, since I am trying to see what you can do, not what someone else can do for you.)

\*\* Since you are answering several questions in the results section, and each question will probably require several paragraphs, tables and figures, it will also be helpful for you to break the results section into several subsections, one for each question. Then, within subsections and in each paragraph, CCC is king.

4. Unfortunately I have a faculty meeting at 330 today (weds), so office hours will be short, just 1/2 hr. But I have extra office hours Thu in my office at 3pm.

see you in class,

-BJ

Most of my comments are written directly on your draft. In general, I think it is best to finish the paper in this order: Appendix, Results, Methods, Discussion, Introduction, Abstract.

Figs 1 and 2 belong in appx, or possibly results. You shouldn't actually \*do\* anything in methods section. Just describe the data and any transformations you did (details of how and why in the appx) and describe what methods you will use in the results section.

I like the use of subsections

this model does not allow the relationship between crime and income to vary across regions

this is not a useful model. will get little to no credit

All of the details from here to the end fo the section belong in the appx or possibly the results section.

You shouldn't actually \*do\* anything in methods section. Just describe the data and any transformations you did (details of how and why in the appx) and describe what methods you will use in the results section.

since the results section will be rather long, perhaps you could break it up into 4 subsections, one for each question that you are supposed to answer for the social scientist

I like that you are just highlighting interesting stuff here; you can put all the details in the appx (but make sure I know on what page to find them!)

check mechanics (spelling, punctuation, etc.)

I like rthat you are listing transformations here.

Please give a short rationale for your transformations here, and then a full set of analyses supporting these transformations in the appx (and make sure I know what page(s) of the appx teh full analyses are on!)

This fig is too small to read

each analysis is long enough that you probably should break this up into 4 subsections, one for each question you are supposed to answer

This figure is too small to be readable, and not all of the subplots are interesting. Best to highlight interesting stuff here; you can put all the details in the appx (but make sure I know on what page to find them!)

proofreading (here and throughout document)

there will almost always be collinearity when you introduce interactions in a model (the main effects and the interactions are often collinear). One has to decide the tradeoff between the utility of the interaction (interpretation, model flexibiity, etc.) vs the known bad effects of high collinearity.

In this case, you pretty much can reject model 3 (explain to me why, in teh final paper!), and in model 2 I doubt that the collinearity problems exist.