

Sociology 205  
March 26, 2004.

### Instructions for Paper #2 (analysis of survey)

This paper is due Friday, April 23.

- 1) Look at the class survey and choose a dependent variable.
- 2) Select four different independent variables. Explain what relationship you expect each to have to the dependent variable. Also explain how you think the connection takes place. For example, if you're talking about a difference between men and women, don't just say that "It seems to me that women are more likely to feel unsafe on campus than men." Also suggest a reason that things are that way--actual differences in the risk of crime, women being more willing to admit fear or need for help, etc.
- 3) Tell Gordon Gauchat your hypotheses by April 16<sup>th</sup>, and he will produce the relevant tables. You will get either four crosstabs or four tables comparing means.
- 4) Show the tables, or a summary of them, in your paper. Explain what the relationship between x and y is, according to the data. For each independent variable, say whether the results support your hypothesis or not. If not, is there no relationship, or is there a relationship that's different from what you expected? Make sure that you explain what the tables show: don't assume that they speak for themselves.
- 5) Give an overall summary--which independent variables make a difference, which (if any) don't, which seem to make the most difference, is there anything surprising or strange about the results, etc.
- 6) The paper should be about 3-4 pages not including the tables.
- 7) Note: the choice of variables is up to you, but it should be something that you can argue is sociologically interesting. There are some relationships between variables that are pretty much automatic--for example, students with higher class standing will have changed majors more often simply because they've had more time to change their minds. Stay away from those.