Semester Project

The semester project will consist of a short paper and a class presentation on your team’s study.

The class presentation will be a 10 minute exposition of your project, followed by a 5 minute question period. All members of the team must participate in the preparation of the presentation and the actual delivery. As time is limited, it will help to have power point or overhead transparencies of graphs and results ready for the presentation. Include in the presentation a critical assessment of the reliability of the results you obtain and a discussion of ways in which the study or experiment can be improved.

The paper will be due on the day of the final, **Monday, May 9, 2005**. No late papers will be accepted. Include discussion of the following in your report:

1. Clear statement of the question or questions that motivated the experiment or survey of your project.
2. Description of the experiment or study. Discuss various issues that arose during the design phase of the project (sampling etc...) How did your team control for bias?
3. Discussion of the data collection process. How were the measurements taken?
4. Analysis of the data and the rationale for the analytical tool or tools used in the analysis.
5. A critical evaluation of the project and results. Are the conclusions that you reached in the analysis statistically significant? How reliable are the data that you collected? If your results and conclusions were published in a journal, newspaper, or magazine would you trust them? Did you violate any assumptions that were needed in the analysis?

The project will consist of the following parts:

- Project Proposal due Thursday, March 31st
- Data Summary due Tuesday April 19th
- Rough Draft due Thursday April 28th
- Final Draft / Oral Presentation due Monday May 9th (2pm - 5pm)
Semester Project Proposal

For the term project in this course, you will be working in groups of three people. You will be exploring a question or problem in which statistical methodology is used. You will find your data from the web or another source in order to answer a question (i.e., test a hypothesis.) The data should be collected with this specific hypothesis in mind.

Proposal
Write a two page proposal for your project. The write up must contain a clear statement of the question(s) or problem(s) you will be studying as well as a description of the procedures you intend to follow in order to answer the questions(s). The report should consist of the following:

1. State the title of the project, list your name and the names of the other person or people in the group.

2. Introduction – present the problem(s) or question(s) you wish to study and state the goals of your investigations. State the hypotheses you intend to test or a thesis that you would like to develop and establish.

3. Procedures – Briefly describe what your team intends to do in order to answer your question(s) or solve your problem(s). This will entail:

   (a) a description of the experimental set-up or study you intend to investigate, as well as the kinds of data you expect to collect and analyze.

   (b) an explanation of how you plan to analyze the data. You do not need to restrict your analysis to the use of tools we have discussed in class.

Note that there are some links to various data sources on my website.

Your group must meet with me to discuss the project sometime before the proposal is due. That means before Thursday March 31st.