STAT 406, SPRING 2006  
Assignment #3  
Due Thursday, February 9, before 12:30 pm

Task: explain what you would like to do for the final project.

If I haven't missed anything, you should find yourself in one of the following situations. Please identify which scenario applies to you, and describe with as many details as you can what you would like to do for the final project. Turn in a short report, no longer than one typed page.

Situation 1: You have a data set you would like to work on, and you have some interesting questions you would like to get answers for. Describe the data set and your questions. Be sensible in the details you give, restrict to the essential ones.

Situation 2: You don't have a data set, but you have something in particular that you are interested in (maybe you'll collect data next summer? or maybe our major professor, or a colleague is working on a data set that you could help them with?) Describe the general question you are interested in. I may have a data set available for you, or we may find someone else interested in the same things as you are.

Situation 3: You are not sure what you are interested in, and you don't necessarily want to work with a data set. You have the option of reading and giving a half an hour presentation on a theoretical subject that we didn't cover in class, but interests you. You should think of including and example or two in your presentation as well. Another option is to implement in R some theoretical model we have or will discuss in class, and give a presentation on the implementation as well as results.

General rules for the final project: You can choose a project partner, but I will not allow more than two people to work on the same project. If there are two people working on the project, they should both be involved in the write-up and the presentation of the project. The projects worked on by two people will be longer and more complex than a project conducted by only one person. During week 10 of the semester I expect everyone to be decided on their project and submit an abstract that will be posted on the course web site. We should try to think of the schedule of the presentations around that time as well. You are expected to present your project in front of the class, as well as submit a written report before the final's week.

Grading policy: You will be given a grade based on the submitted report as well as the oral presentation given in class. I expect you to ask questions when reports are presented in class. To make it even more interactive, I have decided to ask everyone in class to critique one project. I will be the one pairing each critique with each project, so stay tuned! Also, I will ask everyone to submit me their grades for each project. In short, everyone will give a grade to each project except their own. Be careful, giving everyone the maximum grade will only tell me that you didn't pay attention to the presentations! I think this will be helpful both for the presenters (they will get your feedback as well as mine), and for you (you will have to assess another project's strengths and weaknesses).

We should discuss this in more detail in class, these are just general guidelines.