

## **SOC 3070 GSS Extract Codebook**

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## **What is the GSS?**

The General Social Survey, or GSS, is a nationally representative and publicly available data source on Americans' attitudes. The survey was first fielded in 1972 and, today, data is collected in face-to-face interviews every two years. Because it was established almost four decades ago, the GSS allows sociologists to track attitudes and trends over time. The GSS is a cross-sectional dataset, though there is a small sub-sample that is tracked longitudinally. You can learn more about the GSS by going [here](#).

## **What is an Extract?**

The GSS website allows you to make a "data extract," or a smaller data file that includes only the variables you are interested in. This is helpful because the full GSS dataset (which includes all the data since 1972 and over 6000 variables) is very large. I created this extract for our use in lab. You can search through the GSS variables and create your own extract by going [here](#).

## **What is a Codebook?**

This document is a codebook. It lists the questions respondents were asked and their corresponding variable names. Most codebooks also list the available options respondents could have selected and their corresponding values in the dataset. I have left this out of this codebook, as you can look that up in SPSS. To view the entire GSS codebook, go [here](#).

## Variable Names and Questions

### General

|        |                              |
|--------|------------------------------|
| ID_    | Respondent ID                |
| YEAR   | GSS year for this respondent |
| BALLOT | Ballot administered          |

### Demographics

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AGE      | Respondent's age.   |
| COHORT   | Respondent's year of birth.   |
| SEX      | Respondent's sex.   |
| SEXBIRTH | What sex were you assigned at birth? (For example, on your birth certificate)   |
| SEXNOW   | What is your current gender?  |
| RACE     | What race do you consider yourself?   |
| HISPANIC | Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino/Latina?<br>Yes . . . . . (ASK A)<br>No . . . . . (GO TO NEXT QUESTION)<br>IF YES: Which group are you from? Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/Chicana, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Other |
| RATETONE | Respondent's facial coloring rated by interviewer.  |
| EDUC     | Respondent's highest year of school completed.  |
| DEGREE   | Respondent's highest degree.  |
| CLASS_   | A. If you were asked to use one of four names for your social class, which would you say you belong in: the lower class, the working class, the middle class, or the upper class?                                       |
| RANK     | In our society there are groups which tend to be towards the top and those that are towards the bottom. Here we have a scale that runs from top to bottom.<br>A. Where would you put yourself on this scale?            |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| INCOME16  | In which of these groups did your total family income, from all sources, fall last year before taxes, that is?  |
| RINCOME16 | In which of these groups did your earnings from (job) for last year fall? That is, before taxes or other deductions.  |
| USCITZN   | Now we would like to ask you about U.S. citizenship. Are you...   |
| BORN      | Were you born in this country?  |
| PARBORN   | Were both your parents born in this country?  |
| YEARSUSA  | How long have you lived in the United States? If you have lived in the United States for more than one period during your life, what is the total number of years you have lived in the United States?  |
| SEXORNT   | Which of the following best describes you? (Sexual orientation)   |
| MARITAL   | Are you currently--married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?   |
| MARTYPE   | Whether respondent is in marriage between a man and a woman or between people of the same gender.   |
| DIVORCE   | Are you currently--married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?<br>B. IF CURRENTLY MARRIED OR WIDOWED: Have you ever been divorced or legally separated?  |
| CHILDS    | How many children have you ever had? Please count all that were born alive at any time (including any you had from a previous marriage).  |
| RELIG     | What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?   |
| PARTYID   | Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?   |
| POLVIEWS  | A. We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. I'm going to show you a seven-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal--point 1--to extremely conservative--point 7. Where would you place yourself on this scale? |
| HOMPOP    | Number of persons in household.   |
| FAMGEN    | Number of family generations in household.  |

|        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| REGION | Region of interview.             |
| ZODIAC | Astrological sign of respondent. |

## Attitudes

### *Attitudes about Class*

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| EQWLTH    | A. Some people think that the government in Washington ought to reduce the income differences between the rich and the poor, perhaps by raising the taxes of wealthy families or by giving income assistance to the poor. Others think that the government should not concern itself with reducing this income difference between the rich and the poor. Here is a card with a scale from 1 to 7. Think of a score of 1 as meaning that the government ought to reduce the income differences between rich and poor, and a score of 7 meaning that the government should not concern itself with reducing income differences. What score between 1 and 7 comes closest to the way you feel? (CIRCLE ONE): |
| HELPPPOOR | Some people think that the government in Washington should do everything possible to improve the standard of living of all poor Americans; they are at Point 1 on this card. Other people think it is not the government's responsibility, and that each person should take care of himself; they are at Point 5.<br>A. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you have up your mind on this?   |
| HELPSICK  | In general, some people think that it is the responsibility of the government in Washington to see to it that people have help in paying for doctors and hospital bills. Others think that these matters are not the responsibility of the federal government and that people should take care of these things themselves.<br>A. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you made up your mind on this?  |

### *Attitudes about Race*

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AFFRMACT | A. Some people say that because of past discrimination, blacks should be given preference in hiring and promotion. Others say that such preference in hiring and promotion of blacks is wrong because it discriminates against whites. What about your opinion -- are you for or against preferential hiring and promotion of blacks?<br>IF FAVORS: A. Do you favor preference in hiring and promotion strongly or not strongly?<br>IF OPPOSES: B. Do you oppose preference in hiring and promotion strongly or not strongly? |
|----------|---|

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|----------|---|
| DISCAFF  | What do you think the chances are these days that a white person won't get a job or promotion while an equally or less qualified black person gets one instead? Is this very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely to happen these days?  |
| HELPBLK  | Some people think that (Blacks/Negroes/African-Americans) have been discriminated against for so long that the government has a special obligation to help improve their living standards. Others believe that the government should not be giving special treatment to (Blacks/Negroes/African-Americans).<br>A. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you made up your mind on this? |
| MARBLK   | Would you be very in favor of it happening, somewhat In favor, neither in favor nor opposed to it happening, somewhat opposed, or very opposed to it happening?<br>B. How about having a close relative or family member marry a black person?  |
| MARASIAN | Would you be very in favor of it happening, somewhat In favor, neither in favor nor opposed to it happening, somewhat opposed, or very opposed to it happening?<br>C. An Asian American person?   |
| MARHISP  | Would you be very in favor of it happening, somewhat In favor, neither in favor nor opposed to it happening, somewhat opposed, or very opposed to it happening?<br>D. An Hispanic American person?  |
| MARWHT   | Would you be very in favor of it happening, somewhat In favor, neither in favor nor opposed to it happening, somewhat opposed, or very opposed to it happening?<br>G. What about having a close relative marry a white person?  |

***Attitudes about Gender***

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| FEJOBFAFF | Some people say that because of past discrimination, women should be given preference in hiring and promotion. Others say that such preference in hiring and promotion of women is wrong because it discriminates against men. What about your opinion - are you for or against preferential hiring and promotion of women?<br>IF FOR:Do you favor preference in hiring and promotion strongly or not strongly?<br>IF AGAINST:Do you oppose preference in hiring and promotion strongly or not strongly? |
| FEHIRE    | Now I'm going to read several statements. As I read each one, please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree. For example, here is the statement:<br>Because of past discrimination, employers should make special efforts to hire and promote qualified women.  |

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| FEPOL    | Tell me if you agree or disagree with this statement: Most men are better suited emotionally for politics than are most women.  |
| FECHLD   | Now I'm going to read several more statements. As I read each one, please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it. For example, here is the statement:<br>A. A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work.               |
| FEPRESCH | Now I'm going to read several more statements. As I read each one, please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it. For example, here is the statement:<br>C. A preschool child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works.  |
| FEFAM    | Now I'm going to read several more statements. As I read each one, please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it. For example, here is the statement:<br>D. It is much better for everyone involved if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and family. |
| HUBBYWRK | Do you agree or disagree ...<br>I. A husband's job is to earn money; a wife's job is to look after the home and family.   |
| MEOVRWRK | And, do you agree or disagree . . .<br>C. Family life often suffers because men concentrate too much on their work.   |
| ABDEFECT | Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if. . .<br>A. If there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby?  |
| ABNOMORE | Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if. . .<br>B. If she is married and does not want any more children?  |
| ABHLTH   | Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if. . .<br>C. If the woman's own health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy?   |
| ABPOOR   | Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if. . .<br>D. If the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children?  |
| ABRAPE   | Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if. . .   |

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|          | E. If she became pregnant as a result of rape?  |
| ABSINGLE | Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if. . .<br>F. If she is not married and does not want to marry the man? |
| ABANY    | Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if. . .<br>G. The woman wants it for any reason?                        |

***Attitudes about Criminal Justice and Police***

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| CAPPUN   | Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?   |
| POLHITOK | Are there any situations you can imagine in which you would approve of a policeman striking an adult male citizen?  |
| POLABUSE | Are there any situations you can imagine in which you would approve of a policeman striking an adult male citizen?<br>A. Had said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman? |
| POLMURDR | Are there any situations you can imagine in which you would approve of a policeman striking an adult male citizen?<br>B. Was being questioned as a suspect in a murder case?  |
| POLESCAP | Are there any situations you can imagine in which you would approve of a policeman striking an adult male citizen?<br>C. Was attempting to escape from custody?               |
| POLATTAK | Are there any situations you can imagine in which you would approve of a policeman striking an adult male citizen?<br>D. Was attacking the policeman with his fists?          |

***Attitudes about Free Speech***

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| SPKATH | There are always some people whose ideas are considered bad or dangerous by other people. For instance, somebody who is against all churches and religion . . .<br>If such a person wanted to make a speech in your (city/town/community) against churches and religion, should he be allowed to speak, or not? |
| COLATH | There are always some people whose ideas are considered bad or dangerous by other people. For instance, somebody who is against all churches and religion . . .<br>Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university, or not?   |

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| LIBATH  | <p>There are always some people whose ideas are considered bad or dangerous by other people. For instance, somebody who is against all churches and religion . . .</p> <p>If some people in your community suggested that a book he wrote against churches and religion should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book, or not?</p> |
| SPKHOMO | <p>And what about a man who admits that he is a homosexual?</p> <p>Suppose this admitted homosexual wanted to make a speech in your community. Should he be allowed to speak, or not?</p>   |
| COLHOMO | <p>And what about a man who admits that he is a homosexual?</p> <p>B. Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university, or not?</p>  |
| LIBHOMO | <p>And what about a man who admits that he is a homosexual?</p> <p>If some people in your community suggested that a book he wrote in favor of homosexuality should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book, or not?</p>  |
| SPKRAC  | <p>Or consider a person who believes that Blacks are genetically inferior...</p> <p>If such a person wanted to make a speech in your community claiming that Blacks are inferior, should he be allowed to speak, or not?</p>  |
| COLRAC  | <p>Or consider a person who believes that Blacks are genetically inferior....</p> <p>Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university, or not?</p>   |
| LIBRAC  | <p>Or consider a person who believes that Blacks are genetically inferior.</p> <p>If some people in your community suggested that a book he wrote which said Blacks are inferior should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book, or not?</p>  |
| SPKCOM  | <p>Now, I should like to ask you some questions about a man who admits he is a Communist.</p> <p>Suppose this admitted Communist wanted to make a speech in your community. Should he be allowed to speak, or not?</p>  |
| COLCOM  | <p>Now, I should like to ask you some questions about a man who admits he is a Communist.</p> <p>Suppose he is teaching in a college. Should he be fired, or not?</p>   |
| LIBCOM  | <p>Now, I should like to ask you some questions about a man who admits he is a Communist.</p> <p>Suppose he wrote a book which is in your public library. Somebody in your community suggests that the book should be removed from the library. Would you favor removing it, or not?</p>  |

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| SPKMIL | Consider a person who advocates doing away with elections and letting the military run the country.<br>If such a person wanted to make a speech in your community, should he be allowed to speak, or not?  |
| COLMIL | Consider a person who advocates doing away with elections and letting the military run the country.<br>Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university, or not?  |
| LIBMIL | Consider a person who advocates doing away with elections and letting the military run the country.<br>Suppose he wrote a book advocating doing away with elections and letting the military run the country. somebody in your community suggests that the book be removed from the public library. Would you favor removing it, or not? |

## Work

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| WRKSTAT   | Last week were you working full time, part time, going to school, keeping house, or what?                    |
| HRS1      | A. IF WORKING, FULL OR PART TIME: How many hours did you work last week, at all jobs?                        |
| SATJOB1   | All in all, how satisfied would you say you are with your job?   |
| SPVTRFAIR | My supervisor treats me fairly.  |
| KNOWSCHD  | How far in advance do you usually know what days and hours you will need to work?                            |
| STRESS    | How often do you find your work stressful?   |
| WKAGEISM  | Do you feel in any way discriminated against on your job because of your age?                                |
| WKRACISM  | Do you feel in any way discriminated against on your job because of your race or ethnic origin?              |
| WKSEXISM  | Do you feel in any way discriminated against on your job because of your gender?                             |
| WKHARSEX  | In the last 12 months, were you sexually harassed by anyone while you were on the job?                       |
| WKHAROTH  | In the last 12 months, were you threatened or harassed in any other way by anyone while you were on the job? |

## Political Behaviors and Opinions

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| VOTE16  | In 2016, you remember that Clinton ran for President on the Democratic ticket against Trump for the Republicans.<br>Do you remember for sure whether or not you voted in that election?  |
| PRES16  | Did you vote for Clinton or Trump?   |
| VOTE12  | In 2012, you remember that Obama ran for President on the Democratic ticket against Romney for the Republicans. Do you remember for sure whether or not you voted in that election?  |
| PRES12  | Did you vote for Obama or Romney?  |
| GRASS   | Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?   |
| GUNLAW  | Would you favor or oppose a law which would require a person to obtain a police permit before he or she could buy a gun?   |
| HELPNOT | Some people think that the government in Washington is trying to do too many things that should be left to individuals and private businesses. Others disagree and think that the government should Do even more to solve our country's problems. Still others have opinions somewhere in between.<br>A. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you made up your mind on this? |

### Religious Behaviors and Beliefs

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| ATTEND   | How often do you attend religious services?     |
| AFTERLIF | Do you believe in. . .<br>A. Life after death   |
| HEAVEN   | Do you believe in. . .<br>C. Heaven             |
| HELL     | Do you believe in. . .<br>D. Hell               |
| MIRACLES | Do you believe in. . .<br>E. Religious miracles |

### Behaviors Related to Drugs, Sex, and Guns

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| EVIDU    | Have you ever, even once, taken any drugs by injection with a needle (like heroin, cocaine, amphetamines, or steroids). Do not include anything you took under a doctor's orders.      |
| EVCRAK   | Have you ever, even once, used "crack" cocaine in chunk or rock form?  |
| CONDOM   | The last time you had sex, was a condom used? By "sex" we mean vaginal, oral, or anal sex.   |
| RELATSEX | The last time you had sex, was it with someone you were in an on-going relationship with, or was it with someone else? Remember that by "sex" we mean only vaginal, oral, or anal sex. |
| OWNGUN   | Do you happen to have in your home (IF HOUSE: or garage) any guns or revolvers?  |

### Health and Happiness

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| HAPPY    | Taken all together, how would you say things are these days--would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?  |
| HEALTH   | Would you say your own health, in general, is excellent, good, fair, or poor?  |
| PHYSHLTH | Now thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?                |
| MNTLHLTH | Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good? |
| HLTHDAYS | During the past 30 days, for about how many days did your poor physical or mental health keep you from doing your usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation?      |
| HIVTEST  | Have you ever been tested for HIV? Do not count tests you may have had as part of a blood donation. Include oral test (where they take a swab from your mouth).                  |

### Computer Use

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| COMPUSE  | Do you personally ever use a computer at home, at work, or at some other location?  |
| EMAILMIN | About how many minutes or hours per week do you spend sending and answering electronic mail or e-mail?  |
| WWWMIN   | Not counting e-mail, about how many minutes or hours per week Do you use the Web? (Include time you spend visiting regular web sites and time spent using interactive |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Internet services like chat rooms, Usenet groups, discussion forums, bulletin boards, and the like.)<br>B. Minutes per week? |
|--|--|

### Sources of Information

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| NEWSFROM | We are interested in how people get information about events in the news. Where do you get most of your information about current news events – newspapers, magazines, the Internet, books or other printed materials, TV, radio, government agencies, family, friends, colleagues, or some other source?          |
| SCIFROM  | We are interested in how people get information about science and technology. Where do you get most of your information about science and technology (– newspapers, magazines, the Internet, books or other printed materials, TV, radio, government agencies, family, friends, colleagues, or some other source)? |

### Pets

|     |                    |
|-----|--------------------|
| DOG | Current pet - Dog. |
| CAT | Current pet - Cat. |