

S.J.U. EDU 7211: Data Analysis II – Course Synthesis, Fall 2011

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*Data Analysis II* was an opportunity to learn more about statistical theory, the statistics program entitled SPSS and the relationship between the two. Through the use of practice data and real life data from our professional experience, we were able to demonstrate the usefulness of the SPSS program. The data came alive for us and the practical applications became quite apparent.

Perhaps the most wonderful fruit of this course was that it confirmed our inclinations to gear our joint dissertation research towards a quantitative study. It allowed us to test the correlation between variables we wished to study. One of these variables was Catholic elementary school enrollment over time. Through the use of scatter plots, Pearson correlations, lines of best fit and regression analysis, we were able to clearly understand ways in which to frame our research problem in a more precise manner.

In addition to the research project, we wrote reactions to two articles related to statistics. In the search for the articles we chose to critique we discovered a number of avenues for future reading for our respective literature reviews.