Thesisdata Codebook

October 24, 2020

Platt, Matthew B. 2020. "Replication Data for: Examining Senior Seminar and Curricular Reform at an HBCU." Harvard Dataverse. doi:

This data was compiled by the author from all of the students who were enrolled in Senior Seminar from Spring 2016 through Spring 2019. Most of the information is taken from students' transcripts. The variables relating to the thesis itself were coded by the author. More specific information on that coding is available within the paper.

1 thesisdata.xlsx

1. term – did the student take the course in the fall or spring semester
2. ayear – the academic year in which the student took the course. For example, the 2015-16 academic year would be listed as 2016.
3. id – a unique identifier for each student
4. gpa – the student's cumulative grade point average
5. submitted - did the student submit a senior thesis
6. thesis – lists the number of points out of 100 that students earned who were enrolled in the author's section of Senior Seminar
7. semgrade – the student's overall grade in the Senior Seminar course
8. incomplete – was the student given an incomplete grade prior to the submission of the final thesis
9. semfield – the subfield that the section of Senior Seminar was organized around
10. entry – the date when the student entered the college; fall semester is generically listed as 9/1 and spring semester is generically listed as 1/1
11. scope – did the student pass Scope and Methods of Political Science prior to taking Senior Seminar; 1 = yes, 0 = no
12. scopeGrade – the letter grade a student earned in Scope and Methods; "transfer" means the student transferred in credit for the course and did not take it at the college

13. scopeTerm – which term did the student take Scope and Methods
14. electives – the number of upper-level electives the student passed prior to taking Senior Seminar
15. elective1-4 – lists the course number for each of the electives a student passed prior to taking Senior Seminar
16. degree – the date listed on a student's degree; "no" means the student had not completed the degree by the time of the study
17. graded – was the student's thesis available for inclusion in the study; 1 = yes, 0 = no
18. sources – the number of academic references in the student's thesis
19. pages – the length of the student's thesis in page numbers
20. topic – the topic of the student's senior thesis paper
21. topicfield – the subfield in which the student's topic falls
22. topicmatch – does the subfield of the thesis topic match with the subfields of the upper-level electives that the student completed prior to taking Senior Seminar? 1 = yes, 0 = no
23. concepts – does the thesis explicitly define and measure it main concepts? 1 = yes, 0 = no
24. litcritique – does the thesis provide e a critical assessment of the academic literature? 1 = yes, 0 = no
25. hypothesis – does the thesis have a hypothesis that states an explicit relationship between a dependent and independent variable? 1 = yes, 0 = no
26. primarydata – does the thesis analyze primary data or documents? 1 = yes, 0 = no
27. dataviz – does the thesis contain some original presentation of data analysis? 1 = yes, 0 = no
28. blackpol – can the research be classified as "black politics"? 1 = yes, 0 = no

2 electivestack.csv

1. electivestack – the course number for an upper-level elective that was taken by at least one student in the `thesisdata.xlsx` data.
2. freq – the frequency of this elective in the `thesisdata.xlsx` data.
3. field – the subfield for the course
4. syllabus – was a syllabus for the course available for review? 1 = yes, 0 = no
5. research – based on the syllabus, did the course include an assignment that is either a full research paper or some major component of the research process? 1 = yes, 0 = no, blank = no syllabus