

**Department of Political Science**  
 Quantitative Research Methods  
 Learning Standard No. 6: Research and Technology  
 POL 40 Empirical Political Research

**Primary Learning Objectives for Research Segment of the Course**

Students will be able to:

1. develop a testable hypothesis
2. select data base appropriate for testing hypothesis
3. use SPSS to perform statistical analysis suitable for testing the hypothesis
4. write a research report presenting findings and conclusions, using scientific style

**Assessment Strategies:**

Student Case Study:

“Obstacles in Their Path: Will Turkey Accede to the European Union? A Study of Barriers and Progress”

**Course Objective 1:** “Hypothesis 1: It is expected that human rights scores (civil liberties, freedom, human development ratings) for Turkey will be lower than EU Members. These will impede Turkey’s membership. ” (*Additional hypotheses in folder.*)

**Course Objective 2:** “The data provided in this analysis came from the Countries.por (SPSS portable file) data file. Variables were recoded to create a subset containing only information specifically related to the 25 (EU) member states and Turkey.”

**Course Objective 3:** “As the first hypothesis asserted, the data show that Turkey in comparison to the EU nations, lacks substantially in the area of human rights and civil liberties (see Tables 1.1 and 1.2). Each category places Turkey at about three, so even on a general scale of human liberties they rank below the median point. Turkey also had a human development score that was significantly below the EU score. The use of a t-test showed that the mean differences was significant ( $p < .05$ ; See Table 1.3).”

Table 1.3 Mean Human Development Scores for Turkey ad EU Member States

	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error of Mean
EU Member States	25	75.996	2.817	.563
Turkey	1	69.500		

$t = 2.261, df = 24, p < .033$

**Course Objective 4:** Write a research report presenting findings And conclusions, using scientific style

(a)In-text reference:

“The growth of Turkey’s economy has a direct bearing on the political strength and ability to enter the global market with the kind of power that should be accorded a state of 70 million. The human-rights improvements, although slow-moving and incremental, have allowed its economy to diversify. The government wants western capital. It wants foreign direct investment, and is in a position to provide a stable environment to attract this (Political Stability, 2006,4).”

(b)References

Bork, E. (2006, April 17). The price of denial: why Turkey needs to Come to terms with history. *The Weekly Standard*, 29.  
 Cordell, K (Ed.). (1999) Ethnicity and democratization in Europe. New York: Routledge.

**Instructor’s Evaluation of Student Papers**

Instructor used two templates: (1) a student review guide and (2)an evaluation template. (*See supplemental folder for copies of templates.*)

**Objective 1:** The three hypothesis were clearly stated. They followed naturally from the literature review.

**Objective 2:** The data file was appropriate. The creation of a data subset was imaginative and useful.

**Objective 3:** Descriptive statistics, tests of significance were appropriate.

**Objective 4:** Overall, very successful. Format and referencing were correct. Weakness: Tables did not conform to APA standards as well as they should have; supplemental information (coding) was not clearly stated.

(*See supplemental folder for detailed evaluation.*)

**Departmental Response to Evaluation of Student Research Paper**

**Recommendations:**

- Greater frequency and detail in progress reports.
- Scheduled appointment times with the instructor to review progress repots.
- Course worksheet revisions