

## SOC 301 General Social Survey (GSS) Codebook

The data for this course are on my website ([www.princeton.edu/~slynch/SOC\\_301/gss301.dat](http://www.princeton.edu/~slynch/SOC_301/gss301.dat)). The data are from the 1972-2006 GSS, a nationally-representative survey conducted (now) bi-annually. The data are in a free-field ASCII format, meaning that they are arranged so that each row is a person's record, and each column is a variable, with spaces delimiting the columns. The variables are in the following order and are coded as follows:

Position	Variable	Codes
1	Year	72-106 (year-1900)
2	Age	in years, 18-89
3	Sex	1=Male 2=Female
4	Race	1=White 2=Black 3=Other
5	Region	1=Northeast 2=Midwest 3=South 4=West
6	Marital Status	1=Married 2=Widowed 3=Divorced/Separated 4=Never Married
7	Education	Years of school (range: 0-20)
8	Income	in \$1000 units, adjusted to 2006 dollars
9	Happy	0=not too happy 1=somewhat happy 2=very happy
10	Health	0=poor 1=fair 2=good 3= excellent
11	Political Party	0=Strong Democrat ... 6=Strong Republican
12	Life satisfaction	index of five items (range: 0-30)

Note: The life satisfaction measure is missing (coded as a .) for everyone surveyed after 1998.