**Polling Memo Assignment**

POL 215: Statistical Methods of Political Science

Prof. Alauna Safarpour (Gettysburg College)

In June 2020, the AP and NORC conducted a nationwide survey on attitudes towards policing and criminal justice reform. Read the article about the survey findings here: <https://apnews.com/ffaa4bc564afcf4a90b02f455d8fdf03>

This assignment is a replication and extension of the AP/NORC survey and should be written in the style of a public facing news article discussing the survey results.

**Assignment Details:**

For each of the following exercises, you should create either tables or figures with the results and after each table or figure, include a brief, professional write up of the results. If you are stuck on how to talk about your results, you should model your language after the article linked above, or similar polling articles. You will be graded based on your professionalism in creating a polished product (e.g., professional tables/figures and precise writing free from typos/errors.) Your memo should address the following questions:

1. Examine support for policing reforms by party identification. Which reform shows the most sizable gap in attitudes by party? Create a figure that demonstrates the policy where gaps are the largest.

2. Examine attitudes towards who is treated more fairly by police (pol5d) by education. What is the difference between individuals with a HS degree and those with a BA or above who say "White people are treated more fairly [by police]"? Create a figure to accompany your discussion of these results.

3. Explore the codebook for variables that interest you, compute at least 2 weighted cross tabulations, and explain what the results indicate.

4. Lastly, run an appropriate statistical test to evaluate whether ONE of the relationships you examined in question 3 is statistically significant, or not. The exact statistical test you run will depend on what you are comparing. You will be assessed based on whether the test is appropriate given the data, your accuracy at interpreting the results, and your professionalism in presenting the results.

**Grading Criteria:**

* Maximum of 6 pages double spaced (including text, tables, and figures).
* Contain at least 5 tables/figures but no more than 7 tables/figures total. Papers that are more than 6 pages double spaced, and/or do not contain between 5-7 figures/tables will be penalized.
* All file submissions should be turned in as either Microsoft Word or PDF documents. At the end of your finished product beginning on a separate page, you should also copy and paste the R script that you used to produce your results as under the heading "Appendix: R script for reproducing results" at the end of the paper. The R script does not count against your page count and it should exactly replicate the results of your memo. This includes any re-codes you performed. If you use the re-code in the code above, be sure to include it in your replication code along with any packages necessary to run your code.
* You should include a separate cover page which has a descriptive title for your memo, your name, the email/phone number you would give to a prospective employer, and the date. The title page should also include the following statement:
  + *"The following is an abridged replication and extension of findings from Associated Press polling conducted in Summer 2020 following the death of George Floyd. It was completed as part of my course work in Political Science statistical methods at Gettysburg College and demonstrates my applied data analytics skills. For additional details on the original poll and article, see:"*
  + Then include a citation for the AP article discussed in the assignment. Your citation should be in APSA citation style.
  + The cover page does not count against the page limit.
* The pages of your memo should be numbered.
* The best memo's will be provide a brief introduction/ background to the poll/ survey context, and be clear and self-contained (E.g., doesn't reference the questions by number, but instead flow naturally from one analysis to the next in a cohesive manner). Your memo should look like something you could provide to a potential employer during a job interview.