**Synthesis**

**EDU7211: Data analysis II**

**Professor: Dr. Nicholas Bernice**

Data analysis II became a great opportunity for me to learn statistics in a secure environment where I was able to learn apply general terms of in quantitative research efforts to specific situations. Some of my responsibilities of article reviews were good reinforcement in developing an idea of how statistics can describe circumstances in education. Also, I was able to utilize SPSS and apply the descriptive analysis of charts in my presentations. After these presentations, the cohort members were able to discuss my findings and we were able to utilize my research results as a learning instrument in statistaical analysis. Each of us in cohort 8 was able to learn about statistical anlaysis in the same way. In fact, we were able to utilize the varied mechanisms of SPSS in this course and we reviewed how to use the program in our presentations as it related to prevalent educational themes today. Dr. Bernice was instrumental in his guidance in my quest to learn statistics; he gave me the impetus to utilize this proven program and discuss the results confidently, while I became accustomed to the nuances and became nimble in how to navigate the many “bells and whistles” of SPSS. I could still be able to discuss the results of my research in my presentations by analyzing the my data in general terms, and I learned more about quantitative anlaysis each day I utilized this important statistics computer program. Indeed, Dr. Bernice was instrumental in creating a learning environment where I could explain my results without being conscientious about my lack of experience in communicating results quantitatively. I still have a long way to go as far as interpreting the results of quantitative results, or utilizing a survey and discussing the charts and graphs from the raw data, yet, I have learned to be confident in asking the appropriate questions in my research analysis efforts.

The text, Statistics For People Who Hate Statistics, is a good resource for me in many respects. The reading is easy to understand and the terminology is applicable to discerning how to describe raw data and, I look forward to utilizing the text to describe the data that I gather in my dissertation. I do realize that I have to be more adroit in using SPSS, but I have a better understanding of the terms and concepts inclusive in a quantitative research effort after my experience in this statistics course under the tutelage of Dr. Bernice. In addition, Dr. Bernice was very accessible; at the beginning, Dr. Bernice told us we had much of the weekend to work on our projects on our own or in groups, so I did not believe that he would be able to help me complete my projects that were due each session. However, Dr. Bernice answered each of my e-mails, he explainations during the sessions I attended were very clear and concise, and he enabled each of us to download the necessary information we needed to utilize in our research projects. Also, he offered to assist me in person, much the same way that Drs. Hughes, Smith, and Taylor-Dunlop have offered in the past and continue to do so. It is very comforting for me to have the sense that help is on the way, especially at times when I feel alone trying to understand something new. Dr. Bernice offered to help me every step of the way; that offer gave me the security to reach out, take intellectual risks and find out new things about quantitative research.

By the end of the course, I learned a lot about descriptive and inferential statistics, variability, samplings, criteria, correlations and designs. It was a good base for me to review as I continue my quest in gathering information for my research efforts concerning my topic, middle school models. After each homework assignment and paper, I was better able to grasp quantitative analysis; specifically, the ability to utilize information, and explain the results in terms of statistical releveance. Dr. Hughes was the first to give me the ability to explain raw data in Data Analysis I and Dr. Bernice boosted my ability in this area to a new level. I intend to utilize this ability to use general terms in quantitative analysis my studies as I approach the writing of my dissertation topic, conerning effective middle schools.