This assignment asks you to create a scale from four or more variables measured in the National Community Study (Jeffres). These variables should either be interval/ratio level measures, or be measures that have been converted to “dummy” (0/1) binomials with Recodes (into new variables, don’t forget!). Remember that the scale should measure a single construct.

In a brief write-up, accompanied by your SPSS output with syntax included (see below), do the following:

1. Explain your scale construction decision according to the Scale Construction handout. Explain any Recodes you have used. If you do not standardize, you must explain why.

2. Comment on the distributions of each of the three or more individual measures you selected. Use Analyze --> Descriptive Statistics --> Frequencies to look at the univariate statistics we’ve discussed. Use Analyze--> Descriptive Statistics --> Explore (with Plots–click “Histogram” and “Normality plots with tests”) to look at deviations from normality; look at the Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic in the output. You can also try Graphs –> [Legacy Dialogs--->] Histogram and click “Display normal curve”.

3. Comment on the distribution of the scale you have created. Use Analyze --> Descriptive Statistics --> Frequencies to look at the univariate statistics we’ve discussed. Use Analyze--> Descriptive Statistics --> Explore (with Plots–click “Histogram” and “Normality plots with tests”) to look at deviations from normality. Check the Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic in the output, which tests deviation from normality.

4. Run a Cronbach’s alpha coefficient on the scale items. Do this through Analyze --> Scale --> Reliability Analysis (click Statistics --> Correlations; you may also click “scale if item deleted” just for fun). Don’t forget to flip the coding on “negative” items (into new variables!). Comment on the meaning of your alpha.

NOTE: Don’t forget that on your SPSS output, I expect to see the syntax! Remember, to set up your SPSS session to automatically write syntax to the output, do the following: Edit --> Options --> Draft Viewer --> Display commands in log.

NOTE: Commands within brackets are for SPSS 15.0, but not 12.0.