Go to http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/GSS/

select “ANALYZE” at top of page

Download a customized subset of variables/cases
hit START

Select FILE(S) to construct:

Data file (ASCII)
Delimiter between variables: None Blank Comma ***CHOOSE BLANK***

Codebook for subset data (ASCII) ***CHOOSE THIS***

Data definitions for:
SAS SPSS STATA SDA (DDL file) ***CHOOSE SAS***

Select CASES to include:
Filter variables: *** BEST OPTION IS TO USE SOMETHING
*** LIKE YEAR(1995)
*** SEE THEIR EXAMPLES

Select VARIABLES to include (individually and/or by group):
(Note: CASEID is always included)
Enter names of individual variables to include
*** IN THE BOX LIST THE VARIABLES YOU WANT **
*** INCLUDE ALL VARIABLE - INDEPENDENT **
*** AND DEPENDENT ALIKE **

HIT ‘CONTINUE’ AT TOP OF PAGE

You will be asked to ‘Check the Subset Specifications’ (which means verify that what you asked for is really what you want). If so, hit “Create the Files.”

Creating the file can take a few minutes depending on what you asked for.

You will see a new window that says:
Download Files
X variables for YYYY cases in subset.
Data subsetting is now complete. The files are ready to view and/or download to your computer.
The following procedures work with most browsers:

To view a file: ** DO THIS IF YOU LIKE BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARY **
Click on its link.To save it to disk while viewing it select the "File/Save As..." menu option.

To immediately save a file to disk (without viewing it first): *** THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT**
Right-click on the link, then click on "Save Target As..." (Internet Explorer) or "Save Link As..." (Netscape)(On a Macintosh, click on the link with the option key held down.)

* Data file
* Codebook
* SAS file

Save all three of these to a directory that you control (i.e., not a TEMP directory). Also give them names that make sense since the defaults are gibberish.

What you want to do is to use the SAS file to read the raw data and then save it as a SAS system file like GSS. To do this you will make a couple of minor changes to the SAS file (program) you just saved so that it knows where to read the data. In other words, you need to remember where you saved the data in the preceding step.

In a handout I gave at the beginning of class, you saw that you will need to use three basic commands:

filename indata “c:\newdata.dat”; (where the raw data file is —c:\ is just an example)
libname xxx ‘c:\’; (the directory where you want to save permanently the new file)
data xxx.paperstuff;
infile indata; (must match ‘indata’ in the filename line)
input v1 v2 v3 etc;

All these lines of data will be in the SAS program you saved but you will need to edit the filename and libname commands to fit your circumstances.

When you do this, you will have a SAS system file that will behave like the GSS file.