Assignment 5

1. Consider the dataset iraqwar.dta, which comes from the article "Responding to War on Capitol Hill: Battlefield Casualties, Congressional Response, and Public Support for the War in Iraq", by Douglas Kriner and Francis Shen. Consider columns 1 and 3 of table 5. The dependent variable is a binary variable with 1 indicating that the respondent believes the Iraq war was a mistake. Kriner and Shen posit that individuals are more likely to believe that the Iraq was a mistake if their member of congress has given many anti-war speeches. They further posit that this effect is limited to individuals who are politically knowledgeable, where this knowledge is proxied for using whether the respondent knows the party of their member of congress.

(a) Comment first on the theoretical expectations. To what extent can we theorize about the interaction between being politically knowledgeable and house anti-war speeches?

(b) Replicate the analysis in column 1.

(c) Does "knows party" interact with house anti-war speeches in determining the latent variable that determines whether the respondent reports that the Iraq was a mistake? Does knowing party interact with house anti-war speeches in determining the probability that the respondent reports that the Iraq war was a mistake? Justify your answer by reporting coefficients and substantive effects (with standard errors) when appropriate.

(d) Conduct the same analysis based on the model estimated in column (3).

(e) Using your findings for the previous parts, comment overall about Kriner and Shen's theory and whether their theory is supported by the data.

2. Consider the data file mexico.dta. Consider the dependent variable app_pri, which is a 5 point scale with 1 indicating strong approval of the PRI party, 2 indicating weak approval, 3 indicating neutrality, 4 indicating weak disapproval, and 5 indicating strong disapproval. The variable gift_pri is 1 if the respondent received a clientelist benefit from the PRI. educ is a 1-5 education scale. urban, female, and employed are dummy variables.

(a) Run an ordered probit model with PRI approval as the dependent variable and gift_pri, female, employed, urban, and educ as independent variables. Report the results.

(b) Interpret the relative effects of each variable relative to gift PRI (e.g. the effect of being female is twice as big as receiving a gift from the PRI).

(c) Predict the probability of observing each response in the following 3 scenarios: a baseline scenario where the variables are exactly what they are in the sample, a scenario where the variables are the same as in the baseline except that everybody receives a gift from the PRI, and a scenario where nobody receives a gift from the PRI. Report the difference between each of the latter two scenarios and the baseline and report a standard error for this difference. Use this to interpret the effect of receiving a gift on support for the PRI?

(d) Interpret the substantive effects of education on support for the PRI using a plot (you don't have to include standard errors in this plot).

(e) Does the effect of receiving a clientelist benefit differ depending on levels of educations.

(f) Replicate the same results from parts (a)-(e) using a linear model (assuming that the approval variable can be treated as having an interval level scale). Comment on any differences.

(g) Is it appropriate to use an ordered probit or linear model hear? What are the pros and cons of each approach?