

University of Colorado Boulder

**ECON 8219 – Research Methods Workshop II
Spring 2025**

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Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-3:15pm ECON 5

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:30-2:00 (and as need be, just ask!)

Course Description: This is the second course in a two-course sequence designed to transition you to the research and scholarship phase of your doctoral program. The primary goal of the workshop is to produce a substantial research product suitable for a dissertation. In addition, students will make several presentations related to their own research. By the end of the course, it is expected that students will complete the comprehensive oral exam proposal and defend it.

Oral Comprehensive Exam Guidelines: The oral comprehensive exam is a 1-hour presentation based on the student's third year paper. The presentation is open to anyone but is typically attended by three faculty members designated as examiners for the student. In addition to the main advisor, the student should select a second committee member in consultation with the instructor. The instructor will serve as the final member of the committee. A student is deemed ready to present if, in the opinion of their advisor(s), s/he has a substantial research product. The final paper with a complete list of references must be distributed to the committee at least two weeks in advance. If this deadline is not met, the comprehensive exam must be rescheduled.

Course Organization: The course will feature several key components designed to build up to the final research paper and presentation.

1) Introductory discussions: We will discuss the process of turning your research proposal into a full research paper. You will find a related JMP to help serve as a template for your efforts during the semester.

2) Proposal revisions: You should have received feedback on your research proposal during your proposal defense in December. Learning how to incorporate feedback and revise your research is an important skill to develop. You will revise and polish the abstract, intro and methodology sections (in journal style) – we will have a round of peer editing to help polish the “front half” of your paper.

3) Results draft: Students will write a draft of their results section – this should be the answer to your research question. We will have two rounds of peer editing as this section will form the core of the “back half” of your paper.

4) Conference-style presentation: The purpose of the 20 min presentation is for you to give a conference-style condensed version of your full research. Presentations should be 10-12 slides and target 15-17 minutes of presentation, with a few minutes for questions. Slides should clearly indicate Motivation, Research Question, Contribution, Methodology, Results, Next Steps/Conclusions. We will have a round of peer editing on slides prior to the presentation.

5) Final paper and presentation/oral comp: This is the main goal of the course. Students will prepare their final research paper, which is expected to serve as the basis for the final presentation in the one-hour oral comprehensive exam. This paper should be in the style of a journal article – the paper should be complete, but not necessarily finished (e.g. it can include “next steps”). Final papers are due to me after the presentations during finals week (5/4).

Grading: The primary assessment for this workshop is the quality of the final research paper and presentation. Doing well on the earlier aspects of the workshop (proposal revisions, results draft, conference presentation) is encouraged, as it will strengthen the research paper. Thoughtful and constructive peer feedback is also considered.

Tentative Workshop Schedule

I. Introductory material

- A. Turning a research proposal into a research paper (Week 1)
- B. Individual meetings on research next steps and identified related JMP (Week 2)

II. Revisiting and refining your proposal (Abstract, Introduction and Methodology)

- A. Class discussion - revising your research (Week 3)
- B. Rough draft to peers, end of class 2/3 (Week 4)
- C. **Final abstract, intro and methodology due to me on 2/7** (Week 4)

III. Results draft

- A. Class discussion - Writing up results, tables, figures, etc (Week 5-6)
- B. Rough draft to peers on 2/28 (Week 7)
- C. **Final results draft due to me on 3/7** (Week 8)

IV. Conference-style presentation

- A. Individual meetings to discuss results (Week 9)
- B. Class discussion – preparing presentations (Week 10)
- C. Rough draft of slides to peers, end of class 3/17 (Week 11)
- D. Spring Break! (3/21-3/28)
- E. **Conference-Style Presentations** (Week 12)

V. Final paper presentations/comp exams

- A. Draft paper to faculty committee two weeks prior to comp exam (Week 13-15)
- B. Final presentation and comp exams (Week 13-15)

C. Final research paper due to me on 5/4 (Finals week)

Important Stuff

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or DSinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, a simple email to me will suffice.

Accommodation for Religious Obligations

Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email CUreport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and [OIEC support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors are required to inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these concerns regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about their options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It page](#).

Mental Health and Wellness

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.