

**University of Colorado Boulder**

**ECON 8209 – Research Methods Workshop I  
Fall 2023**

Professor: Daniel Kaffine  
Office: Economics 208C  
Phone: (303) 492-6652  
Email: daniel.kaffine@colorado.edu

**Lectures:** Monday and Wednesday, 9:30-10:45 ECON 5

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

**Course Description:** This is the first 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 fall workshop is to develop a research proposal that at a minimum features a well-specified research question, an introduction/literature review that explains the contribution of the proposed work, and a proposed methodology. Given that students to-date have demonstrated that they can be consumers of knowledge, this course focuses on becoming producers of knowledge.

**Course Organization:** The course will feature several key components designed to build up to the research proposal.

- 1) Introductory discussions:** We will discuss the basic structure of the research process, including choosing and working with advisors, generating research ideas, conference presentations, journals, etc.
- 2) Literature review:** Based on the research proposal topic, students will write a roughly 3-page literature review. Importantly, this literature review is not just a series of abstracts jammed together.
- 3) Methodology proposal:** Students will write a roughly 3-page paper describing the methodology they will use for their research proposal. Students will do a 15-minute presentation to the class.
- 5) Peer-editing:** One week before the due date for literature reviews and methodology proposals, students will send their rough drafts to two classmates (I will create peer groups to facilitate this). Each classmate will provide feedback and edit the drafts they receive.
- 6) Final presentation and proposal:** This is the main goal of the course. Based on the lit review, methodology proposal and feedback, students will write a 7-10 page research proposal and present it to myself and their advisor(s) as a 30 minute presentation followed by Q&A. Emphasis will be placed on a clear research question, clear methodology, and an introduction explaining the proposed contribution to the literature.

**Grading:** The primary assessment for this workshop is the quality of the research proposal. Doing well on the earlier aspects of the workshop (literature review, methodology proposal) is encouraged, as it will strengthen the research proposal. Thoughtful and constructive peer feedback is also considered.

### **Tentative Workshop Schedule**

- I. Introductory material
  - A. Starting the research process and the Culture of Research (Week 1)
  - B. Writing introductions and key ingredients – what is this paper about? (Week 2)
- II. Refining research questions
  - A. Individual meetings on area of interest and related paper (Week 3)
  - B. Class discussion and RQ refinement (Week 4-5)
- III. Literature reviews
  - A. Writing lit reviews (Week 6)
  - B. Rough draft to peers on 10/4 (Week 7)
  - C. **Final lit review due to me on 10/11** (Week 8)
- IV. Proposed methodology
  - A. Individual meetings to discuss methodology (Week 9-10)
  - B. Methodology presentations (Week 11)
  - C. Rough draft to peers on 11/8 (Week 12)
  - D. **Final methodology due to me on 11/15** (Week 13)
- V. Proposal presentations
  - A. Final presentations and peer editing of proposals (Week 14-15)
  - B. **Final research proposal due to me on 12/15**

### **Important Stuff**

#### ***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, 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](#).

## *Requirements for Infectious Diseases*

Members of the CU Boulder community and visitors to campus must follow university, department, and building health and safety requirements and all public health orders to reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

The CU Boulder campus is currently mask optional. However, if masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking requirements will be asked to leave class. Students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution. Students who require accommodation because a disability prevents them from fulfilling safety measures related to infectious disease will be asked to follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

For those who feel ill and think you might have COVID-19 or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home and follow the [further guidance of the Public Health Office](#). For those who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19, you do not need to stay home. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, a simple email to me will suffice.

## *ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES, TEMPORARY MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AND MEDICAL ISOLATION*

[Disability Services](#) determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so your needs can be addressed. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance.

If you have a temporary medical condition or required medical isolation for which you require accommodation, a simple email to me will suffice. Also see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

## *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.

## *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.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: [honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu), 303-492-5550. 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.

### ***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 violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. These behaviors harm individuals and our community. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who believe they have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and support resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

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

### ***Religious Holidays***

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

### ***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.