

University of Colorado Boulder
ECON 8209 – Research Methods Workshop I
Fall 2021

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Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:20-3:35 MKNA 204

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30-12:30 (remote or in person)

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 workshop is to develop a research proposal that features a well-specified research question, a 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 exercises:** We will discuss the basic structure of the research process, including choosing and working with advisors, generating research ideas, conference presentations, journals.
- 2) Presentation of a paper of your choosing:** Students will select a published paper related to their area of interest and give a 15-minute presentation to the class
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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) during a 30 minute presentation. Emphasis will be placed on a clear research question, clear methodology, and 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.

Tentative Workshop Schedule

- I. Introductory material
 - A. Starting the research process and the Culture of Research (Week 1)
 - B. Writing introductions and key ingredients (Week 2)
- II. Paper presentations
 - A. Individual meetings on area of interest and paper to present (Week 3)
 - B. Class presentations (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

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail 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 policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution policies](#).

REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). For more information, see the policy on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

As of Aug. 13, 2021, CU Boulder has returned to requiring masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a temporary precaution during the delta surge to supplement CU Boulder’s COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Exemptions include individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, as well as those who are hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. In addition, vaccinated instructional faculty who are engaged in an indoor instructional activity and are separated by at least 6 feet from the nearest person are exempt from wearing masks if they so choose.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, a simple email to me will suffice.

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

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.

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 academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, 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 the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the [Honor Code website](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by or against members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about OIEC, university policies, [reporting options](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and reporting options.

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.