**SOCY 3201: Sociological Research Methods, Spring 21**

Tuesday & Thursday 11:10-12:00pm

Course zoom link: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/99351238737>

**Instructor:** Dr. Laura Patterson

**Office:** <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/95999683264>

**Office Hours:** Thursdays, 1-4pm

**Email:**  [laura.patterson@colorado.edu](mailto:laura.patterson@colorado.edu) (“SOCY 3201” in subject line, PLEASE)

**TA:** Katherine Craig

**Email:** katherine.craig@colorado.edu (“SOCY 3201” in subject line, PLEASE)

**Office:**  <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/98297586995>

**Office Hours:** Tuesday/Wednesday: 9:30-10:30am

**Office Hours Sign up**: <https://calendly.com/katherine-craig/socy-3201-office-hours>

Recitation Zoom Links:

101: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/93917683109>

102: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/97668827394>

103: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/95672469269>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Sociological research relies on collecting and analyzing different types of data to investigate social phenomena. These methodological tools vary widely depending on the research questions a sociologist seeks to answer. This course will teach you to investigate the world through a sociological lens and give you experience designing studies and using many of the fundamental tools of sociological research. The purpose of this course is to build an understanding of sociological research methods and data analysis and to apply this understanding to real-world research questions. You will build a strong set of skills that may serve you well in your future workplace, including research design, critical thinking about data, construction and administration of qualitative and quantitative data collection instruments, data management, and applied statistical and textual analysis.

In this course, you will sharpen your research design and analytical skills by combining lectures with hands-on sociological research and data analysis. The course is divided into two main units. In the first unit, you will learn about social science research methods and research design considerations. Then in the largest unit of the course, you will narrow your focus from research in general to four methodological tools in particular, learning how to design studies to give you the best possible data and analyze that data. You will collect original sociological data and write a short paper for each of these methods.

This class is intense and involves a lot of active learning. You will join a group to design studies and collect and analyze data. You will also do some work independently, while being part of a group that will provide constructive feedback.

Please note that it is essential that you have taken a basic statistics course before enrolling in this class. We will teach you some basic statistical analysis, and we will assume that you have studied these statistics (though we will briefly refresh your memory).

**COURSE MATERIALS**

*Readings*: There is one textbook for this class, available through inclusive access in Canvas.

1. *Making Sense of the Social World,* 6th edition, by Daniel F. Chambliss and Russell K. Schutt.

2. Additional readings will be posted online.

3. Students will also be using their Google Drive account through CU. This account can be accessed using your CU email and Identikey password.

*4. Software*: In the survey unit, we will be using Qualtrics, an online survey design and administration package. This is free to CU affiliates at <http://qualtrics.colorado.edu>.

**Grading**

Your final grade will be based on the following course requirements. There are 450 points total.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignments** | **Points Per Assignment** | **Total Points** | **% of Grade** |
| 2 Exams | 100 points each | 200 | 44% |
| Lit review article summaries | 20 points | 20 | 4% |
| Lit review rough draft | 20 points | 20 | 4% |
| Lit review final draft | 50 points | 50 | 11% |
| CITI tutorial | 10 points | 10 | 2% |
| 4 research projects | 20 points each | 80 | 19% |
| Analysis presentation | 20 points | 20 | 4% |
| Participation | N/A | 50 | 11% |

**Course Requirements:**

Two Exams

Exam One covers our initial unit on sociological research methods. The exam will be mixed format, including multiple choice and short answer.

The final exam covers all course material and will focus both on what you have learned about specific research methods and how that links to the broader material from the first unit. It will also be mixed format, including multiple choice and short answer.

CITI tutorial

Because you will be conducting sociological research, you will need to pass a short online tutorial on conducting research with human subjects that is required by the university. Students who have completed this tutorial in the past three years do not need to retake it and can simply submit a printout of their certificate of completion. You can find the link to this page on the class Canvas site.

Participation

Twenty-five points of your participation grade will be calculated based on having your Zoom video on during our synchronous class meetings. The TA will take a screenshot at a random point during each class and will calculate grades accordingly. If you are unable to have your video on during our class meeting, please email the TA prior to the start of class in order to receive credit for that day.

Participation surveys will be sent to each group member following each group assignment in this course. Twenty-five points of your participation grade will be calculated based on your group members’ ratings of your contributions to each group assignment. Note that grades on group assignments (e.g. the survey project, etc.) may be adjusted individually as well, in cases where a particular group member did not contribute their share of effort to the project. Participation grades will also be affected by any failures to uphold course policies (e.g. disregarding Zoom decorum, etc.).

Four Research Projects

You will collect a small amount of sociological data using a different method for each of the four research projects included in this course: surveys, in-depth interviews, field observations, and content analysis. You and your group will work on study design, data collection, data analysis, and a write-up of findings. You will have some time in class to work on the group aspects of the projects, and you may also use tools such as Google Drive and Zoom to collaborate. Each research project will be worth 20 points; research projects will contain both group and individual components.

Literature Review

As part of your group, you will write a four- to five-page (maximum, double-spaced) literature review about your topic.  A review of the literature provides a conceptual framework for your project and discusses what questions are currently being debated in the field with regard to your topic.  Your group will need to include at least 10 scholarly (peer-reviewed) sources in your literature review.

Analysis Presentation

Your group will select one research project and present your findings. This will include summarizing your findings and detailing what your findings contribute to the discipline of sociology.

Please be aware that some course requirements or assigned readings may change during the semester. However, we do not expect the overall workload to increase if changes are made.

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| --- | --- |
| **Grading Scale** | |
| **A** | 93-100 |
| **A-** | 90-92 |
| **B+** | 86-89 |
| **B** | 83-85 |
| **B-** | 80-82 |
| **C+** | 76-79 |
| **C** | 73-75 |
| **C-** | 70-72 |
| **D+** | 66-69 |
| **D** | 63-65 |
| **D-** | 60-62 |
| **F** | 0-59 |

# COURSE POLICIES AND ENVIRONMENT

# Please be prepared to leave your Zoom video ON during our course meeting and make sure your attire and location are professional (or use a virtual background).

# When you email us please put “SOCY 3201” in the subject header. We may delete and thus not respond to emails that do not have this as the subject heading. We check emails once a day during weekdays before 5pm.

* Important announcements will be sent out over email to the addresses listed on the class roster. You are required to check this email account regularly over the course of the semester.

# You are responsible for material and announcements presented during classroom time. We will not repeat material during office hours if you miss a class. It is your responsibility to get missed notes and updates from fellow students, not the instructor or TA. If a due date or other administrative changes are announced, that will supersede the “tentative schedule” found in this syllabus. You are responsible for all information communicated in class, whether or not you are in attendance.

* Please do not arrive late or leave early prior to the end of lecture or discussion. This inhibits other students’ ability to hear and understand the material.
* We expect that you will attend regularly and participate in in-class activities. This course is very experiential. If you miss class, you will be hampered in completing the assignments, and it is very likely that your grade will suffer.
* Please turn off cell phone ringers, and avoid engaging in side-talking, reading, sleeping, texting, or surfing while in class.This is disrespectful of other students and the instructors and disruptive to the learning community. If we notice you doing any of these things, you will be asked to leave the course meeting.
* Please do the assigned readings for the class before the first class meeting for which they’re assigned. This makes class more enjoyable for everyone and more useful for you.
* If you miss an exam, you have 24 hours to inform your instructor. If you do not inform your instructor within 24 hours of missing an exam you will be given a zero for that score. Please check the syllabus now to determine if there are any exam conflicts you need to discuss with us.
* Late assignments are only accepted up to four days after the due date, after which the assignment will not be accepted. A late penalty of one-half letter grade is assessed for each day past the deadline the assignment is turned in, up to four days late.
* Please keep all returned work in the event that you have a grade dispute at the end of the semester. If your calculation of your grade does not match our records, it is your responsibility to provide proof of graded work. You should keep track of your online grade book to catch any errors as early as possible.
* Course Canvas Page: The syllabus, some readings, assignments, grades, and other information will be posted on the Canvas website. The most recent course information will be available there, as information in this syllabus may be changed over the course of the semester. Email updates will be sent out when important material is posted on the website.

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](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/sites/default/files/attached-files/2020-2021_student_code_of_conduct_0.pdf).

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 public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Required safety measures at CU Boulder relevant to the classroom setting include:

* maintain 6-foot distancing when possible,
* wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus consistent with state and county health orders,
* clean local work area,
* practice hand hygiene,
* follow public health orders, and
* if sick and you live off campus, do not come onto campus (unless instructed by a CU Healthcare professional), or if you live on-campus, please alert [CU Boulder Medical Services](https://www.colorado.edu/healthcenter/coronavirus-updates/symptoms-and-what-do-if-you-feel-sick).

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](https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/). For more information, see the policies on [COVID-19 Health and Safety](https://www.colorado.edu/policies/covid-19-health-and-safety-policy) and [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please see the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

All students who are new to campus must complete the [COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course](https://www.colorado.edu/protect-our-herd/how#anchor1). Before coming to campus each day, all students are required to complete the [Buff Pass](https://pass.colorado.edu/login).

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, please contact your instructor before missing class. If advance notification is not possible, please contact us within 24 hours after your missed class to discuss any additional accommodations that will be needed to make up for the absence.

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](https://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/). 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, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/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 policy may include: 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](mailto: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 at the [Honor Code Office website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

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 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 [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

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 options for reporting and support resources.

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. In this class, we will make accommodations for absences due to religious observance, as long as you contact us about your impending absence at least one week prior to the absence.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.

Basic Needs:

I believe that in order to learn, students need to have their basic needs met: food to eat and a safe place to live. If you’re having trouble with either, the campus has some resources for you. If you’re facing food insecurity, reach out to [food@colorado.edu](mailto:food@colorado.edu), and they will work with you to find food resources. If you’re having trouble paying rent or facing housing insecurity, you can get in touch with these advocates: [Boulder County Housing & Human Services](https://www.bouldercounty.org/families/housing/rental-assistance/#about) at 303-441-1000 or [Off-campus Housing](https://www.colorado.edu/offcampus/) at [och@colorado.edu](mailto:och@colorado.edu) & 303-492-7053. For assistance with landlord-tenant matters, contact [Mediation Services](https://bouldercolorado.gov/community-relations/mediation-program) at 303-441-4364 and  [mediation@bouldercolorado.edu](mailto:mediation@bouldercolorado.edu).  A [**Student Emergency Fund**](https://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/student-emergency-fund) has been created to support students experiencing a temporary financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. Other campus resources are available here (including mental health resources and [free therapy](https://www.colorado.edu/counseling/)). [Case manager resources](https://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/sscm) are also available to help you find appropriate campus and local resources. A 24/7 [**Suicide Prevention hotline**](https://www.colorado.edu/resources/suicide-prevention) is available for you: just call 303-492-2277. Please don’t hesitate to also approach me if you have trouble negotiating these resources.