

## SOCIOLOGY HONORS SEQUENCE

SOCY 4441/4451, 2019-2020 Academic Year

---

Professor: Lori M. Hunter, Ph.D.  
Contact: [Lori.Hunter@colorado.edu](mailto:Lori.Hunter@colorado.edu), 303-492-5850  
Background: <http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/es/hunter/>  
Office: Sociology Chair's office, Ketchum 195  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00

---

**Overview:** This year-long course provides an overview of the process of independent research as students engage in the development of their own Honor's thesis. All stages of the research process are covered including identifying a research question, presenting hypotheses, undertaking a literature review, obtaining human subjects research approval, developing and implementing a research methodology, doing data analyses and presenting results. Students will also gain experience in the pursuit of research funding and the presentation of results within professional settings.

Throughout the year, emphasis is placed on using our "Sociological Imaginations" to shed light on social patterns, processes, institutions, as well as social problems.

You will leave this course with:

- ◆ a hands-on understanding of the many dimensions of the social scientific research process;
- ◆ experience working with a faculty advisor, including the incorporation of feedback and advice;
- ◆ experience presenting your independent scholarship in a professional context;
- ◆ the processes of peer review as well as review by senior scholars;
- ◆ the opportunities and challenges within the pursuit of external funding.

**Materials:** Reading materials will sometimes be informational such as reviewing the guidelines for proposal submission for the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). On other occasions, readings will be more instructional such as overview on research design, methods, and analysis. All materials will be posted (or linked) on Canvas.

**Requirements:** Students must have been accepted into the Sociology Department's Honors Program and be actively working on a senior thesis. That said, course credit is allocated not solely on the thesis, but is based on attendance at group sessions, quality of feedback offered to peers, individual meetings with the faculty instructor, written work, and adherence to timelines. The course instructor will also seek input from advisors and the Honors thesis committee for determination of overall course evaluation.

**Format:** The class meeting time is Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 during Fall semester (TBD for Spring). We will meet in the Ketchum 371 unless otherwise communicated.

**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](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

**Classroom Behavior:** Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. 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. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

**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 who are 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](#).

**Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation:** The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse (including 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](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, 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, please just let me know if you have concerns about any deadlines as a result of religious obligations. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

<i>Week</i>		<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Be ready to discuss ..</i>	<i>Due</i>
1	27-Aug	Introductions; overview of year; timeline; status reports; challenges			
2	3-Sep	Scientific method	Canvas	Reading, IRB, progress, challenges, committee	1-page project write-up; IRB submission complete; committee finalized
3	10-Sep	Research ethics, data	Canvas; PSA information; PACE conference funding background	Reading, PSA, PACE, progress, challenges	1-page thoughts on PSA, PACE, progress, challenges
4	17-Sep	Research methods	Canvas	Outline, progress, challenges	Thesis outline; draft of Honors registration form
5	24-Sep	Individual meetings	None	Research methods, challenges	Progress report; 1/2 page methods description; challenges
6	1-Oct	Thesis outline, literature review, emerging issues, PSA	Canvas	PSA applications outline, research methods, challenges	DEADLINE: Honors registration; Detailed thesis outline, including outline of literature review
7	8-Oct	Individual meetings	None	PSA applications, outline, methods, literature, challenges	Progress report; 1 page literature summary; challenges
8	15-Oct	Data preparation and collection	Canvas	PSA applications, outline, methods, data, challenges	DEADLINE: PSA applications; 1/2 page update on data preparation/collection
9	22-Oct	No meetings	None		
10	29-Oct	Individual meeting (literature, data, analytical approach)	None	methods, data, preliminary analysis, challenges	Preliminary analysis
11	5-Nov	Preliminary analyses	Canvas	methods, data, preliminary analysis, challenges	1 page summary of preliminary analysis
12	12-Nov	Individual meetings	None	overall progress, challenges	
13	19-Nov	Trouble-shooting	Canvas	overall progress, challenges	1 page summary of analyses, progress, challenges
14	26-Nov	Individual meetings	None	overall progress, challenges	
15	3-Dec	No meetings	None		
16	10-Dec	Wrap up; timeline for Spring; plans for break	None		