Sociology 4441

Senior Honors Seminar 1

Fall 2016

Lectures: Tue. 5:00 – 7:00 in MKNA 204

Professor: Liam Downey, Ph.D.

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**Office Hours**: Tu 4:00-5:00 and by appointment

**We will meet on the following Tuesdays: Aug. 30, Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 29 (we are on vacation on Nov. 22), and Dec. 6.**

**Honors Council Office:**

Norlin Library Room M400M

303-492-6617

[honors@colorado.edu](mailto:honors@colorado.edu)

<http://www.colorado.edu/honors/>

**Things you need to take care of immediately:**

1. Identify your committee chair and outside committee member.
2. Fill out and turn in your “Registration to Graduate with Honors” form.
3. Figure out your research question.
4. Write up a one paragraph description of your honors thesis.
5. Determine whether you need IRB approval for your research: <http://humanresearch.colorado.edu/pre-submission/how-do-i-apply-irb-review> .
6. If you do need IRB approval, submit a request for IRB approval as soon as possible.

**You do not have as much time as you think!!!**

1. April 11: Last day to defend your honors thesis.
2. March 21: Absolute last day to distribute your thesis to your committee.
3. March 7 (or March 1): Absolute last day to submit your next to final draft to your committee chair.
4. Spring semester starts January 17, which only gives you 7 weeks to write your thesis if you have not already started writing it.

**Your grade in this class** is based on attendance, coming to class on time, participating in class discussions, completing any assignments I give you throughout the semester, and making satisfactory progress on your thesis. Although I would like you to start writing your thesis this semester, satisfactory progress this semester means:

1. Putting together your committee
2. Submitting all the necessary honors thesis paperwork, including getting signatures from all three of your thesis committee members
3. Receiving IRB approval if necessary
4. Developing a research question and analytic method
5. Identifying your data source or body of evidence
6. Identifying and reading a body of literature that you will use to
   1. situate your study and
   2. develop theoretical and empirical predictions or expectations
7. Conducting all the research you need to do to write your thesis

**In order to help you do this,** our class time will be devoted to collectively answering questions and addressing problems that each of you have as you develop your questions, theory, literature review, and research. As a result, what we do in class will largely be driven by the questions you bring to class and the progress you make on your research during the semester.

I may also ask you to provide proof of the progress you are making throughout the semester. My goal in doing this is to ensure that you are able to successfully write and defend your honors thesis with as little stress as possible.

**Finally, I am not your thesis committee chair.** I will be on your thesis committee and will thus have important input on your project, but your committee chair will have final say over what you need to do to successfully write and defend your thesis. Thus, my role this semester and next is to help facilitate what you and your thesis chair decide you need to accomplish. That said, I am a very good researcher with years of quantitative and qualitative research experience and should therefore be able to provide important guidance throughout the year.