**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**SOCI 449 -301**

**Sociology Honours Tutorial**

**Fall & Winter 2020 -2021 (Term I & II)**

Instructor: Oral Robinson

Office: ANSO 2202

Class time: TBD

Location: Online

Office Hrs: TBD

Email: oral.robinson@ubc.ca

Instructor’s telephone: (604) 827-5369

**Course Description:** This seminar is a required component of the honors program in Sociology. The tutorial provides an orientation to sociological research, effective oral and written presentation of research findings, and critical evaluation of research. Students will receive training in formulating research problems, research design, and data analysis, and will engage in peer assistance throughout the program. Students carry out a research project and report on its development over the year-long course of honours tutorials and seminar sessions. Meetings are geared towards enhancing professional development and academic skills.

For information about the BA honors program, please see the Department’s website

<https://sociology.ubc.ca/undergraduate/sociology-programs/honours/>

**Requirements**

Requires submission of a thesis and an oral presentation at the annual Undergraduate Research Conference. This tutorial is restricted to students in the Sociology Honours program.

**Credits**: 6

**Prerequisites**

One of [SOCI 100](https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=SOCI&course=100), [SOCI 101](https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=SOCI&course=101), [SOCI 102](https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=SOCI&course=102).

This course is restricted to students in one of these programs: BA with one of these specializations: HON SOCI.

**Optional Text**

Greetham, B. (2019). *How to write your undergraduate dissertation* (3rd edition). Macmillan International Higher Education.

Bem, D. J. (2003). Writing the empirical journal article. Unpublished manuscript, Cornell University. Retrieved from <https://psychology.yale.edu/sites/default/files/bemempirical.pdf>

**Approach to Learning**

Class meetings are held in a seminar format, with the focus on presentation and discussion of best practices, skill development and training to help you with each step in the development of your thesis. We will also focus on professional development issues, practical research skills, and writing and presentation skills in workshop formats. Participation in out-of-class activities is encourage (e.g., attending departmental colloquia and completing online tutorials, academic conferences). Some class meetings could be replaced by virtual mini-conferences or social events, intended to promote a sense of community among honors students.

**Important Note for International Students**

During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/supportresources/freedom-expression>

**Research Project**

As an honours student, you will be doing sociological research and communicating that experience to others both orally and in writing. These activities will happen almost independently at your own pace, although your research project will be completed under the supervision of a faculty member from the Department of Sociology or related Departments and the Honours facilitator. This faculty-student mentor relationship is the responsibility of each student. You must invest in these relationships by initiating meetings, agreeing on the terms of the relationship and doing your best to maintain the relationship. This is important for your success in the program. The Honours facilitator (Oral Robinson) is here to provide advice, support and be an extra resource for you as you go through the program.

You are required to make contribute vibrantly to the tutorial sessions and do some oral presentations to the about your own work and your progress on an ongoing basis. You must also produce a written product of your research project within the agreed timeline. You are also expected to provide constructive feedback and peer help to each other.

Your thesis will take the form of an expanded research paper. The length of the paper will vary from student to student depending on the nature of the research project, but most papers will be somewhere around 30-50 pages. Your paper should follow the professional standards of academic papers (abstract, introduction, literature review, methods, findings, discussions, conclusions). This means that you should be able to convert your thesis into an article for submission to an undergraduate journal (at a minimum). Please bear this in mind.

The final paper (your thesis) is due Wednesday March 31, 2021.

We will be working together to develop different parts of your thesis (e.g. literature review, methods) at different points of the year. Please make every effort to follow the timeline for the smooth functioning of the honours tutorial and for a relatively stress-free journey throughout the program.

**Prizes for Students**

There are two main awards that you might be eligible for:

1. Best Honours Thesis
2. Canadian Sociological Association Honours Prize

I will do our best to support each of you so that you are competitive for these awards.

**Course policies** (for additional information see the section of the UBC Calendar on academic regulations http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,0,0,0»):

**Email** Ensure that you regularly check the email address that you have registered with the University.

**Attendance** This course depends on your active participation. Your attendance is important for the smooth functioning of the tutorial.

**Submissions to Academic Journals**

Students are encouraged to submit work to undergraduate research journals. In particular, the Journal of Political Studies (JPS) and Sojourners: Undergraduate Journal of Sociology welcome student papers for publication. The JPS and Sojourners are student-led, blind peer-reviewed journals that publish undergraduate work. Students can submit up to two papers that have not yet been published elsewhere. Submissions are due on December 23, 2020 (JPS) and December 19, 2020 (Sojourners), and can be sent to [ubcjps@gmail.com](https://www.mail.ubc.ca/owa/redir.aspx?REF=wJB4IuVAM86gtnZejZBJbbtFVlx9gRHkbW0iwIVzk7vRNSW4XUnYCAFtYWlsdG86dWJjanBzQGdtYWlsLmNvbQ..) and [sojourners.eic@gmail.com](https://www.mail.ubc.ca/owa/redir.aspx?REF=7mR2tl_WqRr9dZCtR-ewKrWYEmxJy9m-R4sGv-5du_vRNSW4XUnYCAFtYWlsdG86c29qb3VybmVycy5laWNAZ21haWwuY29t), respectively. When in doubt, submit your work.”

**Due Dates:** The expected timelines provided in the course schedule below are suggested timelines. They are intended to help you stay on track and prevent you from having too much to do at any one point. Your thesis supervisor might also require you to complete. Please note that the due dates for your thesis is March 31, 2020. Please make plans with this deadline in mind. Please speak with the honours coordinator and your supervisor if you encounter any troubles meeting the deadline. You are encouraged to review all examination policies and procedures at: <http://students.ubc.ca/success/academics-ubc#final-exams>

**Important information about your written assignments**

**Submission**: Your thesis is to be submitted in the agreed format (electronic or hard copy) to your supervisor by the due date. A soft copy of your thesis is also to be submitted to the honours chair and the Sociology Undergraduate Office.

**Referencing**: Your thesis must adhere to an established referencing style (e.g. APA or ASA). It is important to be consistent with your referencing style throughout your paper.

**OTHER COURSE INFORMATION**

**Access & Diversity:** The University accommodates students with disabilities or ongoing medical condition or challenges that may affect their academic success. Some examples of accommodations are: alternate format for print materials; extended time on exams; classroom captioning. The university also accommodates students whose religious obligation conflict with that course, including attendance, submission of assignments or the completion of tests and examinations on specific dates. It is your obligation to inform your supervisor in advance of any accommodations that you may require. For more information on accommodations offered by the university, please visit the Access and Diversity Centre on campus or their website at: <http://students.ubc.ca/success/student-supports/academic-accommodations>

**Integrity Defined:** The University is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. Please review the UBC calendar on “Academic regulations” for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. You should visit the student services website for tips and resources to help you stay compliant to the university regulations at <http://students.ubc.ca/success/academics-ubc>

**Plagiarism (taken from UBC Course Calendar):** The university defines plagiarism is the act of submitting the intellectual property of another person as your own. It is one of the most serious of academic offences. Penalties for plagiarism may range from a failing grade in a course to suspension from the University. Acts of plagiarism include:

* Copying all or a part of another person’s work and presenting it as your own
* Purchasing a paper from someone (or a website) and presenting it as your own
* Re-submit your work from one course to fulfill a requirement in another course

*Citation*

Intellectual property includes ideas, arguments, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or results of research.  When you use excerpts from someone else’s work in your essay, paper, or presentation, you must acknowledge the original author in a footnote or another accepted manner of citation. The UBC Library can help you with proper citation.

*University Regulations*

It is your responsibility to be aware of University regulations. A complete listing of academic regulations that apply to every student at UBC can be found in the “Policies and Regulations” chapter of the UBC Calendar at <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,0,0,0>

**Early Alert:** If at any time, I become concerned about your academic performance or wellbeing, I will do my best to connect with you to address the situation. I also encourage you to speak to me if you need assistance. I may also identify my concerns using Early Alert, a program which allows academic, financial, or mental health concerns to be identified sooner and responded to in a more coordinated way. This provides you with the earliest possible connection to resources and support to help you. The information is treated confidentially and would be sent out of concern for your academic success and wellbeing. Please visit earlyalert.ubc.ca for more information.

**Missed Classes:** You are responsible for all material presented in class (including announcements). If you are unable to attend class, you should obtain notes from a classmate. It is therefore important that you get to know your course mates, so you can get any missed information from them.

**University Academic Courses Policy:** Criteria to Pass: Students must submit all their assignments and must achieve a minimum of 50% overall to pass this course.The following grading system as adapted fromthe Faculty of Arts “Grading Guidelines” applies:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Comment** | **Detailed Description** |
| A+ (90 - 100%)A (85 – 89%)A- (80 – 84%) | Exceptional | Exceptional student performance: Strong evidence of original thinking and sound critical evaluation. Very good organization and capacity to analyze and synthesize information. Superior grasp of the literature and/or subject matter. |
| B+ (76 - 79%)B (72 - 75 %)B- (68 – 71%) | Very Competent | Very competent student performance: Evidence of original thinking and critical evaluation. Good organization, analytic ability and synthesis of information. Very reasonable understanding of the literature and/or subject matter. |
| C+ (64 - 67%)C (60 - 63%) C- (55 - 59%) | Adequate | Adequate student performance: Able to provide simple solutions to critical and analytical problems. Adequate organization, analysis and synthesis of information. Some understanding of the literature and/or subject matter. |
| 50% - 54% (D) | Pass | Passing student performance: Serious weaknesses in organization, critical, and analytic skills. Little evidence of understanding of the literature and/or subject matter. |
| 0% - 49% (F) | Fail | Failing student performance: Severe weaknesses in organization, critical and analytic skills. No evidence of understanding the literature and/or subject matter. |

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Month | Workshop/Activity\* | Expected Progress |
| Sept. 2020 | Course Overview & Virtual Tea/Coffee  |  |
|  | Reviewing your proposal/ Finalizing your research idea |  |
|  | Ethics & Getting BREB Approval | Prepare BREB Application for supervisor review by September 30, 2020  |
| Oct. 2020 | Writing Literature Reviews | Working on your literature review Ongoing |
|  | Writing an Introduction |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | Sharing Circle on Literature & Intro | Submit BREB Application by October 15, 2020 |
|  |  |  |
|  | Thinking about graduate School (Guest speakers) |  |
|  |  | 1st Draft of Literature Review Done by October 30, 2020 |
| Nov. 2020 | Writing your Methods Section |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | Data Collection: Qualitative & Quantitative Methods | 1st Draft of Methods Section |
|  |  |  |
| Dec. 2020 | Sharing Circle: Progress Update  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | End of term Mixer |  |
|  |  |  |
| Jan. 2021 | Data Analysis Workshop: SPSS |  |
|  | Transcription/Data Analysis Workshop: NVIVO |  |
|  | Writing a results section (reporting stats, presenting tables, figures and reporting quotes and qualitative findings) | Finish Data Collection |
|  |  |  |
| Feb. 2021 | Professional Development | Finish writing your Methods and Data Analysis Sections |
|  | * Writing an Abstract
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|  | * Poster & Digital Posters Presentations (Guest speaker)
 |  |
|  | * Oral Presentation Hacks
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|  |  |  |
| Mar. 2021 | Writing your discussions & Conclusion |  |
|  | Peer Review Workshop |  |
|  | Mock Conference Presentation |  |
|  | MURC Conference (date to be announced) |  |
|  | Submit Undergraduate Thesis | Honours Thesis Due Mar. 31 |
| April 2021 | Next Steps: Submitting your works to journals |  |
|  | Anthropology/Sociology Undergraduate Research Conference | Mandatory |
|  | Honours Celebration Event |  |

\*Specific dates for each of these activities will be communicated via email. Please check your emails regularly.