

SOCIOL 189: Honors Section for Social Data Science.

Winter 2026

Last updated: January 2, 2026

This syllabus is for an honors section connected to Soc 114. Any student enrolled in Soc 114 is welcome to enroll in the honors section. The honors section is graded as a separate 1.0 credit course. It is an opportunity to engage in a small creative research project and interact with the professor and peers in a seminar format.

Faculty

Ian Lundberg, ianlundberg@ucla.edu, ianlundberg.org

Time and Location

W 1–1:50pm in Haines 110

Office hours TBD

Where to send questions. Please post questions on [Piazza](#) (accessible through BruinLearn). This includes substantive questions about the material as well as administrative questions about the course. You will get a faster answer because all of the course staff and your peers are on Piazza. When possible, use Piazza rather than email!

Credits

1.0 Units, Student Option Grading (Letter, P/NP). To be eligible for College Honors, the lecture course and this seminar must be taken for letter grades.

Course description. Concurrent enrollment in Sociology 114, lecture 1 required. More in-depth discussion and application of data science topics covered in lecture. Required final project involves data analysis and literature review components beyond the components ordinarily required for Sociology 114.

Course objectives. As a result of participating in this course, students will be able to

- construct their own research question about inequality
- download survey data to answer the question
- produce a written report and presentation to convey results with visualizations and written summaries

Who should take this course? The course is open to anyone enrolled in Soc 114 who would like to carry out an independent data analysis project.

Instructional format. Seminar.

Typesetting. Reports will be typeset using Quarto, which embeds code and results in a single reproducible document. Quarto will be taught.

Method of assessing student achievement. Grades will be determined by:

Class participation	30%
Peer feedback	30%
Project writeup	30%
Project presentation	10%

For details, see [Assignments](#).

Grading scale. Course grades will be assigned on the following scale:

$97\% \leq x \leq 100\%$	A+	$87\% \leq x < 90\%$	B+	$77\% \leq x < 80\%$	C+	$67\% \leq x < 70\%$	D+
$93\% \leq x < 97\%$	A	$83\% \leq x < 87\%$	B	$73\% \leq x < 77\%$	C	$63\% \leq x < 67\%$	D
$90\% \leq x < 93\%$	A-	$80\% \leq x < 83\%$	B-	$70\% \leq x < 73\%$	C-	$60\% \leq x < 63\%$	D-
						$0\% \leq x < 60\%$	F

Assignments

Class participation. This class is interactive and participatory. Participation grades will be determined by attendance, participation in class, and engagement with in-class group work.

Peer feedback. A principle on which this course is built is that you will offer feedback to one another. Following this principle, you will be assigned to anonymously provide feedback to one peer on each project milestone.

Final project. The project will involve original analysis of data to answer a question of your choosing. This project will involve:

- A brief in-class presentation
- A writeup of the results containing no more than 500 words
- A reproducible package of code that produces all results

Below this line are policies identical to Soc 114.

Course Management

Late work. Each hour an assignment is late deducts 0.5% of the assignment's total points. Thus for example an assignment submitted 1 minute after the deadline has a 0.5% penalty, and an assignment submitted 23 hours 1 minute after the deadline has a $(24 \text{ hours} \times 0.5\% \text{ per hour} = 12\% \text{ penalty})$. This deduction is applied automatically in BruinLearn. No assignments will be accepted after Mar 20 at 5pm.

Software requirements. This course will involve coding in the R programming language. For most students, the easiest way to do this is to install R and RStudio on your laptop (instructions at posit.co/download/rstudio-desktop). Some students may prefer to use a cloud server, for example if your laptop is a Chromebook. One option is Posit Cloud (posit.cloud/plans), for which the Basic Plan (free) is likely sufficient or you can sign up for the Student Plan (\$5 per month) if you find the Basic Plan is insufficient.

Reproducibility. A key principle of science is that we be transparent about the procedures that produced any reported result. In this course, all statistical results will be accompanied by the code that produces them (e.g., via Quarto). If a reported result should be generated by code and is clearly not generated by the accompanying code, we will impose a reproducibility penalty by subtracting off 30% of the total possible points on the assignment.

Academic integrity. Each student in this course is expected to abide by the UCLA [Academic Integrity](#) policies. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit must be the student's own work.

Collaboration. You are encouraged to work together. Consulting with each other on problem sets is often a good idea. However, this should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an email, an email attachment file, or a hard copy.

Statement on accessible education.¹ Your access in this course is important to me. If you are already registered with the Center for Accessible Education (CAE), please request your Letter of Accommodation in the Student Portal. If you are seeking registration with the CAE, please submit your request for accommodations via the CAE website. Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations should submit their request for accommodations as soon as possible, as it may take up to two weeks to review the request. For more information, please visit the CAE website (www.cae.ucla.edu), visit the CAE at A255 Murphy Hall, or contact them by phone at (310) 825-1501.

Mental health and wellbeing. Your health and wellbeing are important to me. There are services and resources at UCLA designed specifically to bolster well-being: see bewellbruin.ucla.edu. Remember, your mental health and emotional well-being are just as important as your physical health. If you or a friend are

¹This statement is based on [guidelines](#) from the Center for Accessible Education.

struggling emotionally or feeling stressed, fatigued, or burned out, it is always a good idea to connect with someone through one of the services at that link. If you find yourself experiencing a mental health crisis, call CAPS Crisis Counseling at (310) 825-0768.