

IDH3931 CURE Course:

What's Happening in Higher Ed? Wonder What Honors Students Think? Qualitative Social Science Research in Higher Education

**Spring 2026
T3, R3-4 in HV1-114**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. TehQuin Forbes (tforbes@ufl.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Society and higher education are continually changing so there is always something new to learn by studying college life and college students. The sociology of education and higher education research fields are storied, producing much of what we know about the macro (e.g., organizations, processes) and micro (e.g., identity development, relationships) outcomes of attending, completing, and not completing college in the USA. What can be learned from studying high-achieving (i.e., honors) students at this snapshot in time? In this CURE course, students will assist instructor Dr. TehQuin Forbes with exploratory research related to student narratives, experiences, and outcomes at a large, public research university. There will be a technical focus on qualitative research methodology and a substantive focus on high-achieving (i.e., honors) students. This course is particularly of interest to high achieving students of all departments.

An IRB form has been developed in coordination with this course and submitted with the following project title: Qualitative Investigation of Honors Students' Attitudes and Narratives in the Mid-2020s

COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course's primary goals are for students to gain practical research skills and be introduced to sociology and education literatures. This course's secondary goal is to advance the present research agenda.

Upon completion of this course, students will have done all the following:

- Synthesized social science scholarship to prepare annotated bibliographies and literature reviews
- Assisted in creation of an in-depth interview guide, a vital data collection instrument
- Conducted and transcribed in-depth interviews
- Coded interview data and analyzed said data using qualitative data analysis software NVivo
- Practiced reporting research findings to a public audience, in both written and oral formats

MATERIALS

All required materials will be provided in the course Canvas website.

ASSESSMENT

A student's final grade in this course will be determined using the following:

Attendance and Participation – 25%

Reflection Paper – 25%

Research Deliverables – 50%

The below grading scale is not subject to change. No "Incomplete" (I) grades will be issued.

Students are expected to keep track of their course progress and grades on Canvas throughout the semester. Any discrepancies should be reported to the instructor.

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 63-66

D- 60-62

E 0-59

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Completion credit.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory at each class. Students are allowed two unexcused absences; subsequent unexcused absences will negatively impact the final grade. Please arrive on time and ready to work each week. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Undergraduate Catalog and require appropriate documentation:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> . Inform the instructor of planned excused absences from class as early as possible.

Additionally, a student's work group might decide to hold additional meetings to prepare research findings or manuscripts. Attendance is expected at these meetings as well. If the instructor learns that a class member is not pulling their weight in the preparation of research, this could also negatively impact the final grade.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. The DRC is located at 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565 (<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>).

SOFTWARE USE

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

CAMPUS HELPING RESOURCES

Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings:
<https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/> - Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Wellness Coaching
- U Matter We Care, <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>
- Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>

UNIVERSITY HONESTY POLICY

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this class.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS

Students are expected to provide professional and constructive feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Students can access summary results of these assessments online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>