Course Description:

Purpose: To establish outline of ideas, based on the student’s selected topic, for the student’s dissertation research. The goal of the course is to be able to produce a dissertation proposal or other scholarly product such as an article or conference presentation suitable for the basis of or to assist with the dissertation.

Course Objectives:

The student will be able to:
1. Focus on a selected issue with the goal of developing a researchable problem.
2. Develop the necessary thought processes to generate an introductory statement to a research problem.
3. From the research problem statement develop a purpose of the study.
4. With the constraints of the type of research problem, develop a methodology that can be used to study the issue selected.
5. Prepare needed proposal for the IRB.
6. Develop a research proposal suitable for submission to the doctoral committee.
7. Develop the necessary procedures to submit to the University Institutional Review Board for protection of human subjects.
8. Develop the needed presentation for defending the proposal and final dissertation to the doctoral committee.

Date  Topic of discussion  (subject to change) Text References

(1) Course Introduction Lunenberg Glathorn Ch 1 Ch 1-2
(2) The intermediate product Chptr 2, 3, 5 Chptr 3-6
(3) Participation at Midwinter if possible
(4) Developing the Problem – (**) Chptr 4, 6 Chptr 7-9
(5) Presenting the methodology Chptr 7-8 Chpt 11-12
(6) Doctoral comps- No meeting Appendix
(7) Human Subjects protection Take training on line
(8) Pursue your Proposal Ideas Ch 11-16
(9) Processing the ideas (Indv confs*) Ch 9-10 Chptr 17-20
(10) Processing the ideas (Ch 11
(11) (to be determined)
(12) The final product: Defending the dissertation & reporting your research Ch 12 Chptr 21-23
(13-14) Research Seminar-proposals/ end products

(**) face-to-face  (*) individual conferences


*Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed. 2nd printing or later. (2009) APA. (this is needed to complete your dissertation)*

**References:**


Johnson, B., & Christensen, L. *Educational research quantitative, qualitative, and mixed approaches.* (3rd ed.), Sage Publications. (may be an earlier edition)


Course requirements:
In general: Interact with fellow students in processing research ideas and developing proposals with the advice and counsel of your own doctoral advisor. Course should result in development of one or more ideas and preparing a proposal, an article or a professional presentation based on research and research processes.

Specifically you must:

1. Participate with fellow students in processing research ideas and developing proposals with the advice and counsel of your own doctoral advisor.

2. Develop in the grid one or more research ideas to share and critique with class members. (This occurs during the course.)

3. Write a letter to subjects to cover an instrument for collecting data that includes the items that are needed to be approved by the IRB.

4. Actively work with your doctoral advisor developing your research idea.

5. Understand how to prepare the necessary work for submission of your topic to the Institutional Review Board

6. Develop one or more ideas and **prepare a proposal, an article or a professional presentation** (professional paper) based on research and research processes. (This is the final *written product* for the course and is expected to be 15-25 pages in length.)

7. Make a final presentation to the class in conference format on your proposal, some other research project or the project that you carry out in 698. Submit one paragraph or more necessary for proposing the presentation prior to the meeting. This
paragraph is included in the program for the presentations that evening.

Course Outline

Developing the concept for doing an individual major research study

Developing a research problem
  Conceptual idea
  Related literature search and study

Alternatives for your Methodology
  Quantitative
  Qualitative
  Mixed Approaches

IRB Processes and Procedures

Developing a research Methodology
  What needs to be decided?
  Design
  Data to be collected
  Method of collection
  Population and sampling techniques
  Data collection procedures
  Analysis of the data

Working with your committee
  Proposing to study
  Defending the final product
  Solving Problems

Publishing the results: papers and presentations

Notes:

Course Specific Procedures:
  Adjustments may be made in the posted schedule or assignments to meet the needs of students, instruction, or emergencies that might arise. Absences and issues should be discussed with the instructor individually.

University Specific Procedures:
Students who stop attending class for personal reasons are required to contact registrar to make arrangements to withdraw or drop and to insure that instructor does not have to award a grade. If student fails to do this instructor may be required to award a failure grade. Incompletes can only be given under circumstances designated in university policy.

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).