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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials—Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Required


Two HIED dissertations completed on this campus.

Recommended
A guide for preparing the dissertation and/or proposal (the following are some options):

**Course Description:** This course is a forum for the search of knowledge and understanding of contemporary and historical issues concerning education. The student will demonstrate his/her competence in using systematic research procedures through preparation of a doctoral proposal.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the systematic process of research. Specifically, the student will be able to
   1.1 Describe the systematic process of constructive inquiry.
   1.2 Describe the process of developing and writing the dissertation proposal.

2. Demonstrate an understanding of quality dissertation work. Specifically, the student will be able to
   2.1 Describe and evaluate at least two completed dissertations.
   2.2 Offer critical suggestions to fellow class members on selected components of a dissertation proposal.

3. Develop a potential dissertation proposal. Specifically, the student will be able to
   3.1 Select a researchable topic.
   3.2 Complete an initial, cursory review of the literature.
   3.3 Formulate the design of the planned study.
   3.4 Develop and write a problem statement.
   3.5 Develop and write a purpose statement.
   3.6 Develop and write hypotheses and/or research questions.
   3.7 Develop and write a method of procedure section.
   3.8 Develop and write a title and an introduction.
   3.9 Develop and write a significance section.
   3.10 Develop and write lists of limitations and delimitations and assumptions.
   3.11 Develop and write definitions of terms.
   3.12 Develop and write a reference list.

4. Demonstrate an understanding of a major weakness that plagues students during the proposal writing process. Specifically, the student will be able to
   4.1 Identify weaknesses in his/her own writing, as well as that of others.
   4.2 Develop his/her writing skills.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Instructional Methods/Activities/Assessments**
Review of lectures and readings in the course text as well as additional outside reading. This reading is necessary to serve as a basis for class discussion and presentations.

Participation in weekly threaded discussion.

Critical review (via written presentation to class) of two recent HIED dissertations completed on this campus. These presentations will focus only on the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the dissertations. The studies themselves MUST not be detailed.

Development and preparation of a complete dissertation proposal in scheduled segments.

Revision of proposal.

Remediation of writing skills, as needed.

**Grading**
The following criteria will be utilized for student evaluation:

Dissertation presentations—50 pts. (25 pts. each)

Proposal: Introduction & Significance—50 pts.


Proposal: Title, Table of Contents, Statement of Problem, Purpose Statement, Definition of Terms, Limitations and Delimitations, Basic Assumptions, Organization of Dissertation Chapters, and References—50 pts.
Revised proposal—100 pts.  

Total possible—300 pts.

The minimum number of points required for each grade is as follows:

- A—250
- B—200

(Please remember, no grade below a B may be applied to a doctoral degree.)

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

This course will be using the eCollege platform for course delivery and for all student submissions and discussion. All direct communication with the class and the professor will be conducted in the appropriate week’s discussion session.

Access to the library’s available databases via the student’s MyLeo account will be required, unless the student prefers to use the library’s holdings in person.

**ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

To access the eCollege platform, students should type the following address into their internet browser: https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx.

Students will need their CWID and password to log in to the course. Students who do not know their CWID or have forgotten their password should contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A12.08—see Student Guidebook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

All graduate students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity and honesty. Academic dishonesty, as defined in the Graduate Catalog, will incur a penalty commensurate with the severity of the infraction, from failure on the applicable assignment to failure in the course. A more severe infraction may also lead to a recommendation for suspension or expulsion.

**Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination 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 the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148 (StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

(Note: Subject to change)

**Topic**

Overview of research and dissertation process, pretest, and assignments

Presentations/discussion of proposed topics
Presentations—critical review of dissertations
Process of developing and writing dissertation proposal
Problem and Purpose Statements due
Hypotheses/Research Questions and Method of Procedure due
Title, Introduction, and Significance sections due
All remaining sections due