TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
COMMERCE

EDAD 663.05-.07 DOCTORAL WRITING I: AUTHORING THE DISSERTATION
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2013

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:
Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). (2010)
    Washington D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Course Description:

This course serves as the introductory class in the doctoral dissertation writing process.
    We will be exploring the Doctoral Dissertation requirements of the Graduate
    School and the EDAD Doctoral Program. The course is also the place for the
    doctoral candidate to begin the process of choosing and refining a topic; as well as
    completing a rough draft of Chapter 1 of the five-chapter dissertation process.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The cohort members will develop advanced skills and knowledge of writing academic papers using the APA Style Manual 6th Edition.
2. The cohort member will gain an increased understanding of the dissertation writing process by review and evaluation of completed dissertation examples.
3. The cohort member will compose and submit an advanced dissertation topic statement, a well-developed description of the significance of their proposed research and dissertation topic.
4. The cohort member will compose a summative reflection evaluating their preparedness to successfully complete the dissertation process.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This class design is based on constructivist learning principles. This means that the instructor creates an environment for learning by providing focus and guidance to the content. Assignments are designed to be learning experiences for students, and it is presumed and expected that students actively participate in the class through the construction of their own learning. As a graduate level course, the instructor expects quality work from each student supported by adequate preparation and involvement.

Class Participation:

Given the constructivist design of the class and the online delivery format, it is imperative that this course is interactive. It is my expectation (and I'm sure yours too) that all students participate fully in all activities and assignments in order to maximize the learning experience.

In order for this class to be interesting and beneficial, each student is expected to be prepared to lead and/or enter into discussions, to ask relevant questions, and to share the results of their study and reflection. This means that each student should be:

(1) conscious of the class schedule and the requirements for each class (knowing what to be prepared for),

(2) self-disciplined (spending time to be fully prepared),

(3) eager to share with your classmates (participating actively by sharing what you have prepared). Participation is an extremely important part of your experience in this class. When you miss participating in a class assignment, not only do you miss information presented, but you miss the interaction of your classmates, which can lead to the loss of key learning experiences.

Regardless of circumstance, all assignments are due on the date specified.

Assignments:

Reflection on the Dissertation Writing Experience:

This assignment is designed for the student to reflection on personal expectations, concerns, and questions related to the dissertation writing process. Each student will post a response on the Discussion Board that includes the following:

- · What are your thoughts on the dissertation process? Fears? Questions?
- · What is a topic you are interested in pursuing? (Cover who, what, how, and why)?
- · What resources can you use in the dissertation writing process?
- · What are your strengths and weakness related to writing?

Each student will also respond to another cohort members post on this topic in the discussion board.

Discussion Threads:

Each Week Tab has at least one discussion thread that you will need to respond to. Please follow the discussion rubric to respond and post to each topic.
Discussion Thread Criteria:

- The discussants will demonstrate an observable understanding of the articles being discussed. The understanding will be at the critical thinking and synthesis level.
- The discussants will demonstrate an ability to engage the audience in a discussion that is relevant to the topics of the articles and related concepts. This can be done in a variety of ways including but not limited to:

    - posting engaging questions;
    - eliciting responses;
    - engaging the learners in an activity or task.

- The discussants will demonstrate the ability to effectively organize the discussion. This includes:

    - keeping the discussion focused on the topic;
    - providing structure (beginning arguments, closing arguments, wrap-up or synthesis);
    - staying within the timeframe allotted for discussion;
    - using effective media (if applicable).

- The discussants will demonstrate the ability to respond to questions effectively.
- The discussants will demonstrate the ability to relate the concepts discussed in the articles to personal and professional experience by using examples from everyday practices.

Dissertation Evaluation:
Utilizing a rubric (provided in the Doc Sharing tab) the student will evaluate a Chapter 1 from a self-selected dissertation that is related to your working topic in the reflection assignment.

Working Topic Selection:
The student will select a working dissertation topic for the purposes of this writing class. This topic may or may not be the student's final dissertation topic.

Final Submission of Chapter 1 Rough Draft:

Students will submit a final paper including Chapter 1 making corrections based on professor and peer feedback of previous assignments. This paper should follow APA and having the following sections:

The following format is directly from the Doctoral Dissertation Template approved by the TAMUC Graduate School. (Please follow APA 6 formatting in your Style Manuals. You may also access a free online APA tutorial at [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)).

CHAPTER 1

Papers should be double spaced, size 12font (New Times Roman), and follow the formats for papers as specified by the APA Publication Manual. This is a scholarly work and should not be written in first person. All resources should be cited using APA format and your paper should also be free of technical errors (spelling, punctuation, proper use of grammar, etc.).

GRADING:

Student Performance Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based on successful completion of each of the performance expectations. Each expectation has been assigned points towards the total on which the final course grade will be based. The points for each assignment may be viewed in the gradebook. This is a competency-based course. Accumulating 70% of the possible points for the course will be considered as a passing score.

Satisfactory Score   210-300
Unsatisfactory Score 209 and Below

Please Note: While students may receive numerical grades for various assignments listed in the syllabus based on the criteria provided by the instructor and which contribute to an overall grade average represented in the breakdown listed above, grades are given to primarily provide feedback to students and to guide the instructor in making an assessment of student work. The final grade awarded for the course, however, will be at the sole discretion of the instructor and will be based on several factors, including but not limited to the rubric provided (see Rubric for Course Grade attached).

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is an online class. All instructional activities and assignments will be delivered and received online using the eCollege learning media platform. The following technological resources will be required.
- Access to a computer with Internet access (high-speed preferred)
- Document Productivity Software (Microsoft Office preferred)
- Please submit all written assignments in WORD (required)

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This is a 100% online class. All instruction and assignments will be delivered using the eCollege learning media platform. Please periodically review (a) updated announcements within the EDAD 595 *eCollege* course home page for updated

information pertaining to this course, and (b) check your university e-mail account frequently.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

In order to minimize confusion and repetition, I would like to communicate though personal email as little as possible. Therefore, each of the seven modules within our EDAD 663 course shell has a link entitled *Module Q&A* where you can post questions and review responses to questions that pertain to course information as we progress through this course.

That said, please communicate with me in whatever form you are comfortable (e-mail or through the *Module Q&A* Forums); however, avoid using the public forum for confidential matters. If you would prefer to correspond via the telephone, you are welcome to do so; but please do not call after 9:00 p.m.(CST). Prior to asking a question, please quickly review previous responses within a particular *Module Q&A* forum as your question may already have been addressed. You are also welcome to respond to a classmate's question if you can accurately address the issue.

Another way to interact with me is through *ClassLivePro,* which is a synchronous online tool that provides an additional avenue for you to ask me questions pertaining to course content. You will find instructions on how to access *ClassLivePro* within our Module 1 agenda. If you would like to schedule a time to meet with me virtually via *ClassLivePro*, please request a time within the particular Module Q&A Forum. Click **Live** at the top of the *eCollege* course page followed by **Join Session**. Having high speed Internet and a microphone will make your *ClassLivePro* experiences more enjoyable. ClassLivePro participation is not mandatory.

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

? **Chat Support:** Click on *'Live Support'* on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

? **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

? **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

? **Help:** Click on the *'Help'* button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc…

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

All assignments for the course must be submitted to the appropriate drop box as indicated in the course modules.

Late work:

Late work is not accepted. You will have plenty of notification and time to complete course assignments. If you know you are going to be out of town and unable to access a computer, plan ahead. See course semester outline at the bottom of this syllabus.

Attendance:

This is an online class; therefore, attendance is up to you! You will be required to work as a team via various activities. The quality of your contributions and regular participation in weekly activities will be considered attendance. It is strongly encouraged that you attempt to log into the course each day – Monday through Friday. Please check your MyLeo email for messages in order to keep current. If we do synchronous sessions via ClassLive PRO, these sessions will not be required.

Scholarly Expectations:

All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level.

University Specific Procedures:

Dropping the Class:

At times, we become overloaded or have unplanned events that demand our attention. If you need to adjust your schedule by dropping this course, please follow university procedures to officially drop the class. Please do not just disappear. If you fail to officially drop the class, a grade must be assigned at the end of the course.

Academic Honesty:

Please see the TAMU-C Graduate Catalog and the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2001) for the discussion of academic honesty. Academic honesty is especially important when it comes to citing/quoting sources in research papers and assignments. Students are responsible for reading this material and becoming familiar with the conventions for acknowledging sources of information. Consequences for academic dishonesty range from failing a specific assignment to expulsion from the University.

"Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of ideas or words of another and passing them off as one?s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments) and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material."

(Texas A&M University –Commerce, Graduate Catalog).

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism WILL NOT be tolerated and will result in an automatic F in the course. Various versions of your work and final papers will be run through Turnitin software - this is not meant to "catch" you in the act, but rather assist you in seeing possible areas that may be unintentionally plagiarized and allow for editing your work.

Words or ideas that require citations include, but are not limited to, all hardcopy or electronic publications whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. Submissions to any public meeting or private mailbox fall within the scope of words and ideas that require citations if used by someone other than the original author.

In a nutshell, the term "copyright" refers to a form of protection provided by the laws of the United States in Title 17 of the United States Code. Copyright protection is provided to authors of "original works of authorship" including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and other intellectual works. One aspect of copyright that complicates things is that no publication, registration, or other action is required to secure copyright protection under U. S. Law. Copyright is secured automatically when the work is created.

Academic dishonesty in an online learning environment could involve:

Having a tutor or friend complete a portion of your assignment.

Having a reviewer make extensive revisions to an assignment.

Copying work submitted by another student to a public class meeting.

Using information from online information services without proper citations.

*Again, all papers, reports, etc. will be submitted for review by the online library service "Turitin". Specific instructions will be given at a later date for access and use.

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).*

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

For clarity, cohort members should refer to the course outline/calendar posted in the "online
syllabus" section of the eCollege course shell for EDAD 663.