Syllabus for
EDAD 663.05W and .06W
Doctoral Writing: Authoring the Doctoral Dissertation

Course Syllabus

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Course Information

EDAD 663, Doctoral Writing-Authoring the Doctoral Dissertation.

Hours: 3.

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 a start to choosing and refining a topic, and completing a rough draft of Chapter 1 of the five chapter dissertation process.

Course Goals and Objectives

The cohort member will develop advanced skills and knowledge of writing academic papers using the APA Style Manual 6th Edition.

The cohort member will gain an increased understanding of the dissertation writing process by reviewing and evaluating completed dissertation examples.

The cohort member will compose and submit an advanced dissertation topic statement, and a well-developed description of the significance of their proposed research and dissertation topic.
The cohort member will compose a summative reflection evaluating their preparedness to successfully complete the dissertation process.

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**Course Requirements**

**Design of the Class:**

This is an online course with 100% of instruction and assignments delivered using the eCollege learning media platform and thus, some obvious technological resources will be required. These include:

- Access to a computer with Internet access (high-speed preferred)
- Document Productivity Software (Microsoft Office preferred)

As a student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce, you have access to an email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from eCollege (and all other university emails) will go to this account, so please be sure to check it regularly. Conversely, you are to email me via the eCollege email system or your myLeo email as our spam filters will catch yahoo, Hotmail, etc. and I will not check for your email in spam.

**When sending me an email be sure that you have included your name and Course (EDAD 663) and section number (.05W, or .06W) in the subject line.**

This class design is based on constructivist learning principles. This means that the professor 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 doctoral level course, the professor expects quality work from each student. This includes adequate preparation, involvement, and commitment.

**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 their 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 reflect 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, fears, and questions regarding the dissertation process?
- What is a topic you are interested in researching? Your response should include who/what you plan to research, with what, how, and why this is an issue of importance.
- What resources can you use in the dissertation writing process?
- What are your writing strengths and weakness?

Each student will also respond to another cohort member’s post 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 as you 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 as befitting a doctoral student.

- 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, posing engaging questions, eliciting responses, and 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 and 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 the 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
Final Submission of Chapter 1 Rough Draft:

Students will submit a final paper of a solid Chapter 1 rough draft. The paper will utilize corrections based on professor and peer feedback of previous assignments. This paper should follow APA format, 6th edition, and having the following sections:

- The following format is directly from the Doctoral Dissertation Template approved by the TAMUC Graduate School. Please follow APA 6th edition formatting from your APA Style Manuals. You are required to complete the free online APA tutorial at Purdue Online Writing Lab.

CHAPTER 1

1. INTRODUCTION ................................................................. #
Statement of the Problem...................................................... #
Purpose of the Study ............................................................ #
Research Questions (generally for Qualitative Research) ........... #
Hypotheses (generally for Quantitative Research) .................... #
Significance of the Study ...................................................... #
Method of Procedure............................................................ #
Step 1 (for example).............................................................. #
Step 2 (for example).............................................................. #
Collection of Data ................................................................... #
Treatment of the Data ........................................................... #
Definitions of Terms.............................................................. #
Limitations............................................................................. #
Delimitations........................................................................ #
Assumptions ......................................................................... #
Organization of Dissertation Chapters

Papers should be double spaced, size 12 font (New Times Roman), and follow the formats for papers as specified by the APA Publication Manual, 6th edition. 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 the completion of each of the performance expectations. This course will be a pass/fail course based on participation and completion of tasks.

**Technology Requirements**

This is a 100% online class. All of the instructional activities and assignments will be delivered and received online using the eCollege learning media platform. Since this is an online course and some obvious technological resources will be required.

- Access to a computer with Internet access (high-speed preferred)
- Document Productivity Software (Microsoft Office preferred)

As a student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce, you have access to an email account via myLe<o>o - all my emails sent from eCollege (and all other university emails) will go to this account. Please be sure to check it regularly. Conversely, you are to email me via the eCollege email system or your myLeo email as our spam filters will catch yahoo, Hotmail, etc. I will not check for your email in my spam. **When emailing me be sure you have the included your name, course (EDAD 663) and section number (.05W or .06W) in the subject line.**

**Course Access and Navigation**

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer
Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

**eCollege Access and Log in Information (7.1)**

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

**Being a Successful Student**

What Makes a Successful Online Student

Self-Evaluation for Potential Online Students

Readiness for Education at a Distance Indicator (READI)

Login Information: Login = tamuc; password = online

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**Grading**

**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 203 - 290

Unsatisfactory Score 202 and Below

Please Note: While students may receive numerical grades for various assignments listed in the syllabus based on the criteria provided by the professor 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 professor in making an assessment of student work. The final grade awarded for the course, however, will be at the sole discretion of the professor and will be based on several factors, including but not limited to the rubric provided (see Rubric for Course Grade attached).

Communication and Support

I will communicate with you through:

- Personal and Group Emails
- eCollege Announcements

Interaction with Professor Statement

Email is the primary mode of communication that will be used in this course. I will attempt to answer emails within 24 hours. Please be sure that the email you have listed with TAMUC is the one you wish to use. Ecollege uses the MyLeo email that was provided to you upon admittance to the University, unless you have changed your primary email through the system.

eCollege Student Technical Support

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…)

### University Specific Procedures

**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
Student Disability Resources & Services

  - [StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

**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 Specific Procedures:**

Please contact me during the first week of class regarding any disability
you may have. I will be happy to accommodate you.

**Citizenship:**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency

And acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.


**Late work:**

Due to the brevity of the semester, **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 work submitted must be original and created by the scholar uniquely for this 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 professor. Doctoral work is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate or masters’ levels.

**Courtesy regarding Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:**

If you carry a communication device/cell phone with you to a face to face class session, please be sure it is turned off. If you are involved in a crisis situation and need to be available via your cell phone, please talk with the professor about the situation prior to the start of class. Your cooperation and your respect for our learning time are appreciated. All of this is true for
online courses also. Particularly when we are working with face video,, turn your electronic devices off.

**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.

**Incomplete Grades:**

Per university policy, you must visit with the professor, develop, and sign "A Plan for Completing the Grade of X" before you may receive an incomplete for the course. The reason for such requests is limited to "circumstances beyond students control which prevented student from attending classes during Finals Week or the preceding three weeks" (Policy A 122.07, EDAD 671 Online Course Syllabus – MacDonald - 6/5/2010 1998). You are notified that the deadline date for all plans is not to exceed one semester. Failure to fulfill plan requirements within the specified time will result in a course grade of F.

**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."
Plagiarism:

See Academic Honesty above.

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 in or for this or another course.
- Using information from online information services without proper citations.

Again, all papers, reports, etc. will be submitted for review by the online library service "Turnitin". To be on the safe side, you may wish to do likewise.
## Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments and Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online-Week of</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>• Read complete syllabus.</td>
<td>Discussion Board Reflection Questions as supplied in Syllabus under Discussion Board Thread.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>Syllabus Review</td>
<td>• Read and familiarize yourself with the APA 6th edition Table of Contents.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>APA Overview</td>
<td>• Take free APA tutorial available at <a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/">http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/</a></td>
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<td>• Student-selected Chapter 1 Dissertation from Gee Library, or other, Dissertation Database.</td>
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<td>• View video and read article in Doc Sharing about selecting Dissertation Topics.</td>
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- Complete Dissertation Evaluation Assignment using the Dissertation Rubric found in Doc Sharing.
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Week of September 3, Labor Day</td>
<td>• Doctoral Dissertation, Chapter 1 Components of the Week:</td>
<td>• Per course shell.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Statement of the Problem</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Purpose of the Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>All Assignments and Readings Due:</strong></td>
<td><strong>All Other Assignments and Readings Due:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Create draft of Chapter 1 Introduction, Statement of the Problem, and Purpose of the Study. Insert it in the dropbox and Doc Sharing by Monday, September 10.</td>
<td>Create draft of Chapter 1 Introduction, Statement of the Problem, and Purpose of the Study. Insert it in the dropbox and Doc Sharing by Monday, September 10.</td>
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<td>Discussion Threads, if assigned, in Discussion Tab.</td>
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<td>All Assignments and Readings Due:</td>
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<td><strong>Dissertation Review</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dissertation Topic</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dissertation Topic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overview of Library and Writing Center Resources</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Complete the free Library databases and tutorials at:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complete the free Library databases and tutorials at:</strong></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/library">http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/library</a></td>
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### Week 3

| Online Week of September 10 | • Doctoral Dissertation, Chapter 1 *Components of the Week:*  
  • Research Questions  
  • Hypotheses  
  • Significance of the Study | • Per course shell.  
Create draft of Chapter 1 Research Questions and Hypotheses, and the Significance of the Study.  
Insert in the dropbox and Doc Sharing by Monday, September 17.  
Discussion Threads, if assigned, in the Discussion Tab.  
*All Other Assignments and Readings Due: September 17.* |

### Week 4

| Online Week of September 17 | • Doctoral Dissertation, Chapter 1 *Components of the Week:*  
  • Methodology & Data Analysis | • Per course shell.  
Create draft of Chapter 1 Methodology & Data Analysis.  
Insert in the dropbox and Doc Sharing by Monday, September 24. |
**Week 5**

| Online week of September 24 | • Doctoral Dissertation, Chapter 1 *Components of the Week:*  
|                            | • Definition of Terms  
|                            | • Limitations  
|                            | • Delimitations  
|                            | • Assumptions  
|                            | • Organization of the Dissertation Chapters  
|                            | • Per course shell.  

- Create draft of Chapter 1 Definition of Terms, Limitations, Delimitations, Assumptions, Organization of the Dissertation Chapters.  
- Insert in the Per course shell and Doc Sharing by Monday, October 1.  

**All Assignments Due:**

September 24

(This is my birthday, so make them GOOD!)
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Week 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Online Week of October 1</td>
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</table>
| - Doctoral Dissertation, Chapter 1 *Components of the Week:*
| - Final Chapter 1 Dissertation Writing |
| - Per course shell. |
| All Other Assignments and Readings Due: No later than Wednesday, October 10. |

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<th>Week 7</th>
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<tr>
<td>Online Week of October 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Doctoral Dissertation, Chapter 1 - The Final Synthesis and Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Per course shell.</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Other Assignments and Readings Due: No later than Wednesday, October 10.</td>
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