New York University  
Steinhardt School of Education  

E10.3001 Dissertation Proposal Seminar  
3 credits: 30 hours  

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Advisement: By Appointment

Course Overview: This seminar focuses on the preparation of a research proposal required before beginning data collection and dissertation writing. Each student will develop an original research proposal for his/her doctoral dissertation. The goal for this course is that each student will complete a dissertation proposal. Classes are structured for maximum participation and feedback. The components of dissertation proposals are discussed as well as the development process. Students are assisted in establishing timelines, overcoming barriers, identifying resources, creating support networks, and enhancing their research skills. This course is offered on a pass/fail basis. To receive a pass grade, the student must submit a dissertation proposal approved by the dissertation committee.

Pre-requisite: a course in general or specialized research methods. Open only to doctoral students.

Objectives: By the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. describe the components of a dissertation proposal.
2. explain concisely, in writing and orally, the dissertation research question
3. delineate the steps in completing the dissertation process
4. construct a personal plan for completion of the doctoral dissertation

Course Topics:

- Selecting a Dissertation Topic
- Finding a Research Problem
- Selecting and Working with a Dissertation Committee
- Preparing the Proposal
- Reviewing the Literature
- Choosing a Methodology
- The Writing Process
- Managing Dissertation Activities
- Computer Resources
- Problem Solving
- Proposal Review Process
- The Human Subjects Committee
Completing the Dissertation
Final Oral Defense

Required Reference:

Students are required to have a style manual appropriate for their discipline, preferably the most recent edition. It should be selected in consultation with the candidate’s dissertation committee. Some commonly used style manuals are listed below.


Suggested References

Students will select references, based on individual needs, to facilitate completion of the dissertation proposal. A variety of books about the dissertation process are included in this listing.


**Grading:**

This course is offered on a pass/fail basis. Students will receive an incomplete grade until the candidate’s dissertation committee approves the proposal. To receive a grade for the course, the student should submit a copy of the approved dissertation proposal with all committee signatures.

**Office Address:**

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