Resch- GE 3001.001
Dissertation Proposal Seminar
3 credits

Instructor: Elizabeth Norman PhD, Professor

Time: Tuesday 4:55-6:35pm

Contact info: (212) 998-5412

Location: Silver Room 702

Office hours: By appointment

246 Greene St, 3R

Course Description:

This course focuses on the development of the doctoral dissertation proposal. Emphasis is placed on understanding and defining the logical relations between elements in a proposal including the problem statement, conceptual/theoretical framework, literature review, research design and methodology. Teaching-learning strategies are designed to promote critical/analytical thinking and scholarly discourse.

Co-requisites: E10.2002 (Statistics for the Behavioral and Social Sciences or E10.2140 (Qualitative Field Research) or equivalent.

Course Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:

1. Developed a research proposal appropriate for doctoral study that includes a problem statement, research questions and/or hypotheses, significance of the problem, conceptual/theoretical framework, and method.
2. Refined analytical and critical skills/abilities by reviewing, synthesizing and critiquing literature relevant to candidate’s dissertation proposal and proposals presented in seminar.
3. Refined the ability to articulate in a comprehensive and succinct style the components and linkages among the parts of a research proposal.
**Teaching/Learning Strategies:** Interactive lecture, audio/visuals, student case presentations, and group discussion.

**Grading Policy:** Pass/fail

**Evaluation Methods and Policies:**

1. Participate in the weekly seminar.
2. Complete dissertation proposal-specific assignments.
   a. All assignments will be posted on Blackboard under the discussion tab.
   b. Assignments MUST be posted by 9 pm Sunday evening so there is time to read them before class.
   c. Due dates for assignments are posted on the weekly schedule.
   d. If your name appears on the weekly outline, we will be work shopping your posting in-class. Everyone must read and comments on the postings to be workshopped. Come to class prepared to discuss your comments.
   e. If we are not work shopping your posting that week, you still need to complete the assignment. I will read and comment on all postings and students are encouraged to do the same.
3. Assignments include:
   A. A detailed timeline to complete a dissertation proposal.
      1. Approval by the student's dissertation chair.
   B. Detailed outlines for Chapters 1 - 3.
   C. Weekly assignments
      1. Proposal Introduction
      2. Research question/hypothesis/definitions.
         i. Assumptions
         ii. Delimitations/limitations
      3. Need/Significance of the study --theoretical and practical impact on the student's discipline, and impact on the larger scholarly community
   4. Conceptual/Theoretical Framework-rationale
   5. Literature review
   6. Methods
      i. Research Design
      ii. Participants, access to subjects
      iii. Protection of Human Subjects
      iv. Recruitment
      v. Measures—rationale and psychometrics for tools to be used
      vi. Procedure and Analytic Plan
      vii. Researchers stance and access to archives, if appropriate
   7. Completion of the human subjects tutorial- [http://www.nyu.edu/uc.aihs/tutorial/](http://www.nyu.edu/uc.aihs/tutorial/)

D. Prepare a scheduled 15 minute oral “mini-proposal defense” presentation. No more than 20 PowerPoint slides. Please invite your dissertation chairs to attend.

**Required Equipment:**
A portable computer with wireless access to Blackboard.

**Recommended Texts:**

A dictionary and thesaurus of your choice. The manual of style used by your profession.


**Steinhardt Web Sites:**

http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies_doctoral/forms

http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies_doctoral/


**Recommended Websites:**


http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Writing/

**Weekly outline**

1. **January 24: Introductions and course overview.**
   - Overview.
   - Logical links of critical elements in the dissertation proposal.
   - Preparation of a dissertation proposal timeline.
   - Assessing individual student research preparation and skills
   - Outlining

2. **January 31: Timeline and Outline for Chapter 1 due. Post on Blackboard Discussion Tab before 9 pm Sunday evening (1/29)**
   - Introductory paragraph including the purpose of the study, research question/hypothesis
   - Working with your dissertation committee
   - Individual progress reports-Evaluation of timelines and outlines.
   (Abrams,Avidar,Bordelon,Burris, S.Kim, Page, Willig)

Student leaders 1: Anderson, Gottlieb, G. Kim
3. February 7: **Introductory paragraph including the purpose of the study, research question/hypothesis, definitions due. Post on Blackboard**

- Definitions, significance, and conceptual-theoretical frameworks.
- Resources for doctoral students
- Individual progress reports-Evaluation of the introductory paragraph posted on Blackboard (Anderson, Barton, Gottlieb, Hobart, G. Kim, Klevan, Rosenberg.)

  Student leaders 2: Abrams, Bordelon, Page,

4. February 14: **Need for the study (significance), and conceptual-theoretical frameworks due.**

- Individual progress reports-Individual progress reports-Evaluation of significance, definitions, significance and conceptual-theoretical framework posted on Blackboard (Abrams, Avidar, Bordelon, Burris, S. Kim, Page, Willig).

  Student leaders 3: Barton, Hobart, Klevan, Rosenberg

5. February 21: **Outline of literature review chapter due**

- Literature reviews. Standards and criteria for literature reviews--using meta-analysis, electronic databases, and electronic bibliographic software.
- Emphasis on synthesizing and gaining a perspective with a literature.
- Individual progress reports-Evaluation of outline for literature reviews. (Anderson, Barton, Gottlieb, Hobart, G. Kim, Klevan, Rosenberg).

  Student leaders 4: Avidar, Burris, S. Kim, Willig

6. February 28: **Draft of first pages of literature review due**

- Literature reviews. Cont'd. Standards and criteria for literature reviews.
- Individual progress reports-evaluation of literature reviews. (Abrams, Avidar, Bordelon, Burris, S. Kim, Page, Willig,).

  Student leaders 1: Anderson, Gottlieb, G. Kim

7. March 6: **Draft of first pages of literature review due**

- Literature reviews. Cont’d
- Individual progress reports-evaluation of literature reviews. (Anderson, Barton, Gottlieb, Hobart, G. Kim, Klevan, Rosenberg).

  Student leaders 2: Abrams, Bordelon, Page

8. March 13 --Spring break

9. March 20: **Outline of Methods due**

- Human subjects application
- Individual progress reports-evaluation of literature reviews. (Abrams, Avidar, Bordelon, Burris, S. Kim, Page, Willig).

  Student leaders 3: Barton, Hobart, Klevan, Rosenberg

10. March 27: **Human subjects tutorial/draft of application due**
• Methodology chapter- human subjects, data collection methods, (research question), measurement tools, statistical tests, qualitative analysis.
• Individual progress reports-evaluation of UCAIHS application. (Anderson,Barton, Gottlieb,Hobart, G.Kim, Klevan,Rosenberg).
Student leaders 4:Avidar,Burris,S.Kim,Willig

11. April 3. Draft of methodology chapter due
• Methodology chapter. Cont’d
• Individual progress reports-evaluation of methodology chapter outline. (Abrams,Avidar,Bordelon,Burris, S.Kim, Page, Willig
• Student leaders 1: Anderson, Gottlieb, G. Kim

12. April 10: Draft of methodology pages due
• Individual progress reports-evaluation of methodology chapter. (Anderson,Barton, Gottlieb,Hobart, G.Kim, Klevan,Rosenberg).
Student leaders 2: Abrams, Bordelon, Page, Yang


14. April 24: Student Dissertation Proposal Presentations (cont’d)

15. May 1: Student Dissertation Proposal Presentations (cont’d)

1/12: EN