E10.3001.001 Dissertation Proposal Seminar
3 credits

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Time: Wednesday 4:55 - 6:25 PM
Location: Kimball Hall
Location: 3rd floor conference room

Office hours: By appointment
246 Greene St, Room 508

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), E10.2132 (Principles of Empirical Research) and E10.2180 (Approaches to Qualitative Inquiry) 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:**

1. Participate in the weekly seminar
2. Complete dissertation proposal-specific assignments. Each assignment will be presented and critiqued in class. Assignments include:
   A. A detailed timeline to complete a dissertation proposal.
      a. Approval by the student's dissertation chair.
   B. Detailed outlines for Chapters 1 - 3.
   C. Weekly assignments
      a. Proposal Introduction
      b. Research question/hypothesis/definitions.
         i. Assumptions
         ii. Delimitations/limitations
      c. Significance of the study --theoretical and practical impact on the student's discipline, and impact on the larger scholarly community
      d. Literature review
      e. Methods
         i. Researchers stance, if appropriate
         ii. Access to subjects and archives
         iii. Completion of the human subjects tutorial-
              [http://www.nyu.edu/ucaihs/tutorial/](http://www.nyu.edu/ucaihs/tutorial/)
         iv. Rationale and psychometrics for measurement tools/interviews.
   D. Prepare a scheduled 20 minute oral “mini-proposal defense” presentation. No more than 20 PowerPoint slides. Dissertation chairs will be invited to attend.

**Recommended Texts:**

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


**Recommended Websites:**
Weekly outline

1. January 23: **Introductions and course overview.**
   - Overview and 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 30: **Timeline and Outline for Chapter 1 due**
   - Introductory paragraph including the purpose of the study, research question/hypothesis
   - Working with your dissertation committee
   - Individual progress reports-evaluation of timelines and outlines.

3. February 6: **Introductory paragraph including the purpose of the study, research question/hypothesis due**
   - Definitions, significance, and conceptual-theoretical frameworks.
   - Resources for doctoral students
   - Individual progress reports-evaluation of the introductory paragraph (including the purpose of the study, research question/hypothesis)

4. February 13: **Definitions, significance, and conceptual-theoretical frameworks due**
   - Literature reviews. Standards and criteria for literature reviews--using meta-analysis, electronic databases, and electronic bibliographic software.
   - Individual progress reports-evaluation of definitions, significance and conceptual-theoretical framework.

5. February 20: **Outline of literature review chapter due**
   - Literature reviews. Cont'd. Emphasis on synthesizing and gaining a perspective with a literature.
   - Individual progress reports-evaluation of outline for literature reviews.

6. February 27: **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.

7. March 5: **Draft of literature review due**
• Literature reviews. Cont’d
• Individual progress reports-evaluation of literature reviews.

8. March 12: Draft of literature review due
• Human subjects application
• Individual progress reports-evaluation of literature reviews.

9. March 19th --Spring break

10. March 26: 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.

11. April 2: Outline for methodology chapter due
• Methodology chapter. Cont’d
• Individual progress reports-evaluation of methodology chapter outline.

12. April 9 Draft of methodology pages due
• Individual progress reports-evaluation of methodology chapter.


14. April 23: Student Dissertation Proposal Presentations

15. April 30: Student Dissertation Proposal Presentations

1/08: EN