

New York University  
The Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development  
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Resch- GE 3001.001**  
**Dissertation Proposal Seminar**  
**3 credits**

**TO BE UPDATED FOR SPRING 2016**

<b><u>Instructor:</u></b>	Elizabeth Norman PhD, Professor	<b><u>Time:</u></b>	Tuesday 4:55-6:35pm
<b><u>Contact info:</u></b>	(212) 998-5412 Elizabeth.Norman@nyu.edu	<b><u>Location:</u></b>	25 West 4 Room C-15
<b><u>Office hours:</u></b>	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.

**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 seminar workshops by posting your work and reading and commenting on other student's work.
2. Complete dissertation proposal-specific assignments.
  - a. All assignments will be posted on NYUClasses under the Forums tab.
  - b. Assignments MUST be posted by midnight Sunday evening so there is time to read them before class.
  - c. Due dates for assignments are posted on the weekly schedule.
  - d. You will meet weekly with your assigned group. You must read and comment on the NYUForum the posting of the other students in your group.
  - d. If your name appears on the weekly outline, we will be work shopping your posting in- class. Everyone must read and comment on the NYU Forum those students to be workshopped. Come to class prepared to discuss your comments.
  - e. I will read and comment on all postings.
  - f. If you name appears as the workshop leader, you will lead that weekly discussion. We will not be workshopping your paper that week but people are encouraged to post their comments on your work on the Forum.
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/> or the CITI tutorial
  - D. At the end of the semester, prepare a scheduled 25 minute oral “mini-proposal defense” presentation. No more than 20 PowerPoint slides. If you would like to invite your dissertation chairs to attend, please so.

**Required Equipment:**

A portable computer with wireless access to NYUClasses.

### **Recommended Texts:**

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

Booth, W., Colomb, G., & Williams, J. (2008). The Craft of Research. 3rd edition. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press.

Williams, J. (2012). Style: The Basic of Clarity and Grace. 4th edition. New York: Longman Publishers.

### **Steinhardt Web Sites:**

[http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies\\_doctoral/forms](http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies_doctoral/forms)

[http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies\\_doctoral/](http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies_doctoral/)

[http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies/academic\\_integrity](http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies/academic_integrity)

### **Recommended Websites:**

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/dissertations/>

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

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

### **Weekly Class Schedule**

**4:55 to 5:15** B. Norman presentation. PPTs posted under NYUClasses Resources tab.

**5:15 to 5:50** Meet in your assigned groups to talk about one another's progress and challenges. Be encouraging. You need to read and comment on your group member's postings on NYU Forums.

**5:50 to 6:35** Class reconvenes as a whole for workshopping of student postings. If you are a student leader, you will lead the conversation. If your work is being workshopped, be prepared to discuss your posting with the class. Everyone will read and comment on your posting on NYU Forums.

### **Weekly outline**

#### **1. January 27: 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. February 3: Timeline and Outline for Chapter 1 due. Post on NYUClasses ForumTab by midnight Sunday evening**

- Introductory paragraph including the purpose of the study, research question/hypothesis
- Working with your dissertation committee
- Individual progress reports-Evaluation of timelines and outlines.

Students to be workshopped:

Student leaders:

**3. February 10: Introductory paragraph including the purpose of the study, research question/hypothesis,definitions due. First 1-4 pages. Post on NYUClasses**

- Definitions, significance, and conceptual- theoretical frameworks.
- Resources for doctoral students
- Individual progress reports-Evaluation of the introductory paragraph posted on NYUClasses

Students to be workshopped: Pierce, Diamond, Rogus, Graefe

Student leaders: Grandi

**4. February 17: 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 NYUClasses

Students to be workshopped: Grandi, Ballerini, Magruder, Smith

Student leaders: Diamond, Kuntmala

**5. February 24: 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.

Students to be workshopped: Kuntmala, Lopez, Mentzer, Horvath-Plyman

Student leaders: Rogus, Magruder

**6. March 3: Draft of first 1-4 pages of literature review due**

- Literature reviews. Cont'd. Standards and criteria for literature reviews.
- Individual progress reports-evaluation of literature reviews.

Students to be workshopped: Kundu, Diamond, Rogus

Student leaders: Graefe, Mentzer

**7. March 10: Draft of literature review**

- Literature review cont'd
- Individual progress reports-evaluation of literature reviews.  
Students to be workshopped: Grandi, Ballerini, Magruder, Smith  
Student leaders: Pierce, Rogus

**8. March 17 --Spring break**

**9. March 24: Outline of Methods due**

- Human subjects application
- Individual progress reports-evaluation of literature reviews.  
Students to be workshopped: Pierce, Lopez, Mentzer, Graefe

Student leaders: Ballerini, Kundu

**10. March 31: 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 your UCAIHS application.  
Students to be workshopped: Kuntmala, Horvath-Plyman,  
Student leaders: Smith

**11. April 7. Draft of methodology pages due 1-4 pages**

- Methodology chapter. Cont'd
- How-to organize a research proposal presentation.
- Individual progress reports-evaluation of methodology chapter outline.  
Students to be workshopped: Kundu, Rogus, Diamond  
Student leaders: Horvath-Plyman

**12. April 14: Draft of methodology pages due 1-4 pages**

- Individual progress reports- Continue with what you worked on last week.  
Students to be workshopped: I will review all postings. Come prepared to discuss your own work. You only have to read your groups postings.  
Class leader: Norman

**13. April 21: Student Dissertation Proposal Presentations. Five students will present each week (Overview of research questions, definitions, hypotheses, significance and conceptual- theoretical frameworks, methods proposed for dissertation).**

**14. April 28: Student Dissertation Proposal Presentations (cont'd)**

**15. May 5: Student Dissertation Proposal Presentations (cont'd)**

**1/15: EN**