

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
DM790 – Proposal Research and Writing
Fall 2024

Dr. Reggie Blount
E-mail – rblount@garrett.edu
847-736-8771

Office Hours: By appointment.

Class Hours: September 12th, October 10th, November 14th; 4:00 – 6:00 pm CST

Course Description:

This course helps students integrate skills and insights in project design and research methodology and track concentration in drafting a research proposal. Course readings and class engagement will focus on the structural, theoretical, and practical aspects of developing and writing the significant components of their project proposals.

Course Outcomes:

As the student fulfills the requirements of this course, the student will learn to...

1. Develop familiarity with the program requirements for the project proposal and thesis's structure, style, and content.
2. Formulate a research question(s), project purpose, thesis statement, and project outcomes, and select the appropriate research approach(es), data collection method(s), and method of data analysis for their proposal.
3. Practice skills of a reflective practical theologian who thinks critically, theologically, and practically about ministry.
4. Draft a scholarly research project proposal indicative of their critical theological and practical assessment of a ministry context.

Required Texts: (Prices listed reflect the original publisher's price)

GINWRIGHT, Shawn A. *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves*, North Atlantic Books (January 25, 2022)

LeBlanc, Paul *Broken: How Our Social Systems are Failing Us and How We Can Fix Them*, Matt Holt (September 27, 2022)

Secondary Texts (provided digitally)

1. The GETS DMin Handbook 2023-2024 [pay attention to the sections: Mid-Program Phase, Candidacy Phase including Program Output, Process from Defense through Graduation, and the Rubric for Assessing the Project Paper]
2. Human Subjects Review Application Form
3. GETS Proposal Submission Form for Approval by the D.Min. Committee
4. Admission to Candidacy Form
5. Graduation Form
6. Research in Ministry (RIM) Submission Form

Course Organization and Schedule

September 12th: Review of Mid-Program Phase Requirements; Exploring Proposed Problematic

Readings: “2023-2024 DMin Handbook: pg. 24-26”

October 10th: Ministry Setting, Proposed Learning Goals, Biblical and Theological Concept,
Readings: “*The Four Pivots*”

November 14th: Research Methodology and Human Subjects Review

Readings: “*Broken*” and *Human Subjects Review Procedure*

December 2nd - 6th: Individual Appointments

Final Project

Completion of Project Proposal and Human Subjects Review Application

Selected Bibliography (for reference):

- Adler, Emily Stier and Roger Clark. *An Invitation to Social Research: How It's Done*. Stamford: Cengage Learning, 2015.
- Ammerman, Nancy T., Jackson W. Carroll, Carl S. Dudley, and William McKinney. *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.
- Creswell, John W., and J. David Creswell, eds., *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Los Angeles: SAGE, 2018.
- Creswell, John W. and Cheryl N. Poth, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches*. Los Angeles: SAGE, 2018.
- DeWalt, Kathleen M., and Billie R. DeWalt, *Participant Observation: A Guide for Fieldworkers*, 2nd edition. Lanham: AltaMira Press, 2011.
- Galvan, Jose L. and Melisa C. Galvan, *Writing Literature Reviews: A Guide for Students of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. New York: Routledge, 2017.
- Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein and Russel Durst, *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing with Readings*, 3rd edition. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2014.
- Hesse-Biber, Sharlene Nagy and Patricia Leavy (editors), *Handbook of Emergent Methods*. New York: The Guilford Press, 2010.
- Lipson, Charles, *Cite Right: A Quick Guide to Citation Styles - MLA, APA, Chicago, the Sciences, Professions, and More*, 3rd edition. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018.
- Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean and Terry Dwain Robertson, *Quality Research Papers: For Students of Religion and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2020.