

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

DM790: Proposal Research and Writing Syllabus - Draft #2
hours

June 14-18 2021/3 credit

Instructor: Angela Cowser

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Location: Synchronous Zoom

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

This course will explore the theoretical and practical contours of qualitative research methods with an emphasis on completing a full draft of the students' Research Project Proposals. Course readings, lectures, and student presenters will focus on the theological and theoretical and practical aspects of writing and completing their Research Proposals.

Learning Goals

Knowing

- How to do scholarly research and writing in service of qualitative research design and execution
- To increase vocabulary and knowledge of qualitative research methods and to incorporate that learning into research proposals and research project papers

Being

- To gain an identity as a scholar of the church with the skills to continue conducting research as a part of their lifelong vocation as pastors, chaplains, and administrators
- To incorporate research into the daily work of ministry, and to know that doing research can provide hope for people that things can get better

Doing

- Doing several iterations of writing and revision, so that the students become accustomed to revising their work, coming to understand that revisions are part of producing their best work
- Feeling the accomplishment of finishing a research project proposal and the satisfaction that comes with that and the launching of their research projects.

Course Objectives:

1/Students will have completed a full 1st draft of their Research Project Proposal [see elements of the Proposal on page 2], develop critical thinking skills, scholarly writing skills and qualitative research abilities while developing their individual research project proposals.

2/Class meetings will feature review of select chapters in Creswell/Baez, including relevant theoretical and practical concepts, and intensive, constructive discussion and revision of elements of each student's research proposal, from research design, methodology, protocols, bibliography, timeline to graduate, and project report chapter outlines.

3/In order to have a completed proposal draft by the end of class on June 18, students must have conceived, written, and researched before class begins on June 14 the following elements:

- Working Title:
- Problem in Ministry (A single question you are proposing to answer through your project)
- Ministry Site(s) in which the research project will be administered
- Research Purpose
- Research Question(s)
- Working Hypothesis/Thesis
- Key Biblical and Theological Concepts
- Literature Review and Bibliography
- Proposed Learning Goals: for yourself, the ministry site(s), and the wider church

Course Textbook

- **John W. Creswell and Johanna Creswell Baez, 30 Essential Skills for the Qualitative Researcher, Second Edition. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, 2021**

Course Handouts

- The GETS DMin Handbook 2018 [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]
- Course textbook: 30 Essential Skills for the Qualitative Researcher, 2nd edition, John W. Creswell and Johanna Creswell Baez, Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, 2021
- DMin At-A-Glance Sheet [See Honorio Morales for the last iteration, 4.2021] [review w/ your advisor]
- GETS Proposal Submission Form for Approval by the D.Min. Committee [review with your advisor]
- Human Subjects Review Application Form [review with your advisor]
- Admission to Candidacy Form [review with your advisor]
- Graduation Form [review with your advisor]
- Research in Ministry (RIM) Submission Form
- Rev. Dr. Curtis Brown's Research Project Proposal

Pre-Course Work

1/If you have not already, meet with your Advisor before June 14, 2021 to thoroughly review the following documents:

- DMin At A Glance Sheet and become thoroughly familiar with it as there are groups that must be formed - OSAT, FACT - in the Coursework and Candidacy phases - that will be integral to your successful completion of the doctoral program
- First Meeting of the On-Site Advisory Team (OSAT) Form, the OSAT Review Form

2/Attend via Zoom the Pre-Class Meetings Below

April 30	Denise Pickett, Vondel Smith-Sloan, and Dwight Ford	Creswell/Baez, C1 Creswell/Baez, C2 Proposal Elements 1-7 Schedule a 2nd pre-class session
May 4	Andrea Wright and Eugene Cowan	Creswell/Baez, C1 Creswell/Baez, C2 Proposal Elements 1-7

		Schedule a 2nd pre-class session
May 10	Keyon Payton and James Bailey	Creswell/Baez, C1 Creswell/Baez, C2 Proposal Elements 1-7 Schedule a 2nd pre-class session

Course Organization and Schedule

Reading assignments are listed for each session. Please make sure you have completed the reading for that day, prior to the class session.

Date	Reading/Assignments	Work Products Due in Class Homework
Monday, June 14 9.15pm - 2.30pm CST	C6: Using Philosophy + Theory in Qualitative Research C30: Selecting a Qualitative Design C7: Anticipating Ethical Issues	Methodology section Revise Methodology section
Tuesday, June 15 9.15pm - 2.30pm CST	Review Methodology homework C13: Understanding the Process of Qualitative Data Collection C14: Conducting a Good Observation	Protocols Revise Protocols [put research question in your header]
Wednesday, June 16 9.15pm - 2.30pm CST	Review Protocols C15: Designing + Administering an Interview Protocol C16: Collecting Data w/ Marginalized Populations	Protocols Revise Protocols
Thursday, June 17 9.15pm - 2.30pm CST	Review Protocols C24: Writing in a Scholarly Way C25: Writing Reflexively	Timeline/Calendar to Graduate Project Report Chapter Outline Revise Timeline and Chapter Outline
Friday, June 18 9.15pm - 2.30pm CST	Review Timelines/Calendars Review Full Proposals Each student will have 30 mins to present their proposals	Research Project Proposal
Thursday, June 30	FULL RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE, 11:59pm, CST	Front Matter Proposal Appendix

Grading

The contract grading system below has been implemented in order to facilitate an environment that aligns with democratic, emancipatory models of education. This system should foster (even) more collaborative interactions and ease tensions about “making the grade.” Based upon your individual learning goals, each student can choose how much work to do for this course and expect a grade within the range displayed below.

Individual assignments will be graded on a basis of

- R [Re-do or Rewrite]

- S [Satisfactory]
- E [Excellent]

Regarding class participation, students will only be graded on the basis of S and E.

For the final assignment, there is no chance for an R. Unsatisfactory work will result in no credit. Every student must complete ALL assignments to the standard of S in order for that assignment to count.

C Level Work [C+, C, or C-]

- Active participation in class and group discussions
- Student will have met with his/her/their faculty advisor and will be familiar with all relevant GETS documents
- Students skim the textbook

B Level Work [B+, B, or B-]

- All homework is turned in on time
- All required readings are done, and the student demonstrates knowledge of key concepts by incorporating those concepts into their proposal
- Students turn in their completed Proposal to the Course Instructor, Faculty Advisor, and OSAT Chair on June 30, 2021.

A Level Work [A or A-]

- All of the requirements of the previous level
- Final assignment turned in on time with all research proposal elements [including the chapter outline] completed and thoroughly proofread by the Writing Center [documentation needed].
- Students will turn in their completed Proposal to the Course Instructor, their Faculty Advisor, and OSAT Chair at the end of class, June 18, 2021.

Bibliography

Adler, Emily Stier and Roger Clark. *An Invitation to Social Research: How Its 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.

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.

Research Project Proposal Elements [between 10-15 pages, single-spaced in length, excluding appendix and should be submitted to the OSAT and FACT for their review and approval.]

Front Matter

- Research Project Proposal Draft #
- Matriculation Date
- Projected Defense Date:
- Projected Graduation Date:
- Track:
- Advisor:
- OSAT Members:
- FACT Members:
- Pending Coursework as of July, 2021 [list name of course and semester when the course will be completed]

Research Proposal

- Working Title:
- Problem in Ministry (A single question you are proposing to answer through your project)
- Ministry Site(s) in which the research project will be administered
- Research Purpose
- Research Question(s)
- Working Hypothesis/Thesis
- Key Biblical and Theological Concepts
- Literature Review and Bibliography
- Proposed Learning Goals: for yourself, the ministry site(s), and the wider church
- Methodology

Appendix

- Timeline/Calendar to Graduation
- Protocols
- Project Report Chapter Outline

