

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Research Design and Methodology

Course #: 80-702x

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Course Description: In an effort to provide students with the necessary tools to complete the DMin Final Proposal and Project, this course includes basic elements of research design, including research questions, experimental and quasi-experimental methods, reliability and validity, data collection, data analysis, and ethics.

Course Objectives:

In the area of knowing...

- Students will be expected to be able to understand basic research concepts such as validity, reliability, variables, direct and indirect measures, unobtrusive measures, qualitative vs. quantitative methods, and begin to understand how to apply them in their research.
- Students will be expected to outline specifics of their proposed methodology and to identify texts and other resources that help guide their methodology and assessment of data.

In the area of being...

- Students will be expected to discern their position as researcher/facilitator in the DMin project process, and to name how he/she will intentionally involve best practices in that role.

In the area of doing...

- Students will be expected to begin a literature review on their topic of interest, identifying texts, articles, and other resources that inform their direction of research.
- Students will be expected to focus their research project question.
- Students will complete a rough draft of their Final Research Proposal.

Our Learning Community: Our online sessions will focus on course readings, short lectures, and various group activities connected to the DMin research process. The activities and readings are designed to help you understand and integrate the material from the course into your own thoughts and practices, so please participate with your own questions and insights to help inform our time together. Lack of engagement within the class will impoverish all of us. **Arrange your life so you can be fully present.**

Grading

As a Pass/Fail type of course, it will consist of online lectures, class peer review, small group discussion, individual consultations, and guided library research. To pass the course, students must read all required texts, view all lectures, participate fully in discussions, and produce written work as dictated by the assignments. Failure to complete every task above will result in failing the course. The faculty member covenants to ensure that no assignment is a “surprise,” and that you will be given the tools to succeed.

Technology Notes

Given the lack of on-campus contact during the course, you will need to be certain you have sufficient technological ability to access and participate in this course. **It is the student's responsibility to have sufficient technology to access and participate in the course.**

The instructor will assume this, and is not obligated to take technological difficulties into account when assessing the student's work.

Minimum technological requirements:

- Web Browser – You will need the latest version of the web browser you are using (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Google Chrome, etc.). Note that not all browsers work equally well with Moodle, so you may need to experiment with them if you have difficulty using all the functions on the site.
- Operating System – In order to use the latest browser, you will need to have an operating system (Windows, Mac OS, etc.) that is up-to-date enough to handle it. Please be certain you have such an operating system.
- Internet Connection – You will need a high-speed internet connection that is sufficient to run streaming video with no difficulty. Usually cable and dsl connections can do this. Dial up cannot. If your home internet connection is not sufficient to provide this kind of connection, you will need to find access to a computer that does have this connection.
- Hardware – Bear in mind that you will need sufficient computing power in terms of memory, speed, audio, and video for the different aspects of this course to work well. Make certain that you have all of these in place so that you can run the necessary software and fully participate on-line.

Assignments

Required Texts (to be read in full by the assigned dates)

Badke, William. *Research Strategies*. 5th ed. Bloomington: iUniverse, 2014. (ISBN 13: 978-1-4917-2233-6)

Doctor of Ministry Handbook, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Herr, Kathryn, and Anderson, Gary L. *The Action Research Dissertation*. 2nd ed. Los Angeles: SAGE, 2015. (ISBN 13: 978-1-4833-3310-6)

Fowler, Jr., Floyd J. *Survey Research Methods*. 5th ed. Los Angeles: SAGE, 2014. (ISBN 13: 978-1-4522-5900-0)

Seidman, Irving. *Interviewing as Qualitative Research*. 4th ed. New York: Teachers College Press, 2013. (ISBN 13: 978-0-8077-5404-7)

Sensing, Tim. *Qualitative Research: A Multi-Methods Approach to Projects for Doctor of Ministry Theses*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2011. (ISBN 13: 978-1-61097-276-5)

You will also have journal articles to search for: There are 200-300 pages of reading in this course that are not on the required reading list. These will be found via online journal searches and other library methods, and they reflect your specific research topic. When we work through the section on “Forming the Literature Review” please give yourself enough time to complete these tasks!

Lectures

There will be video/power point lectures posted that relate to each session. You are expected to engage with these prior to completing the written assignment for that session.

Writing Assignments

See the Course Schedule below for details on all assignments. The assignments are:

- **#1 – 5-page paper on your DMin research interest**
- **#2 - 2-page paper on your position in the DMin program**
- **#3 - Research question/peer review**
- **#4 - Annotated bibliography (roughly 4 pages)**
- **#5 - 4-page paper on proposed methodology**
- **#6 - Revision of #5, plus 3 pages on proposed measurement and analysis**
- **#7 - Rough draft of DMin project proposal (roughly 15-18 pages)**

Notes on Peer Review during course

In addition to completing these, you will be placed in groups of 3-4 students within the course. This peer interaction will be dictated by the nature of the assignment. Clear instructions will be available on the course hub under each session heading.

Course Schedule

Title of Session	Assignment	Readings
<p>1. Introduction to the DMin research process</p>	<p>Writing Assignment #1: Write a 5 page (double-spaced and 12pt Times New Roman) description of the issue you want to research in your current ministerial setting. Include: a description of your setting, what role you play in the setting, how you became aware of the issue (a specific incident), why this is important to you, what you would like to change, and how you would like to make the change.</p> <p>Writing Assignment #2: Write a 2 page paper that describes: how you came to be in the DMin program, how many (and what kinds) of DMin classes have you taken, what classes are left to take, how soon you hope to graduate, and what you hope to do with the degree once graduated. Please include some discussion about the topics and substance of the final projects/assignments you have completed in your other classes. <u>This paper will be shared w/ the class.</u></p>	<p>Garrett-Evangelical DMin Handbook (all)</p> <p>Sensing – Introduction and Ch. 1-3</p> <p>Herr & Anderson – Ch. 1-2</p> <p>Seidman – Ch. 3</p>
<p>2. The all-important research question</p>	<p>Writing Assignment #3: Construct a quality research question via a process of peer review. You will post the first-draft of your research question to your teammates. You will then offer critique of your teammates research questions.</p> <p>After taking these revisions (and the suggestions of your faculty) into consideration, craft a final draft of the research question that you will focus upon for this course. (This will continue to evolve, but we will get very focused here)</p>	<p>Badke – Ch. 2 and A1.1 – A1.2</p>

<p>3. Online and In-the-flesh library research</p>	<p>Writing Assignment #4: Construct an annotated bibliography that includes at least 10 sources for your paper. Your annotation for each must be at least 50 words. <u>Include:</u> Research questions/theories, methods used, results and analysis, conclusions, and how each source relates to your own research.</p>	<p>Badke – Ch.1 & Ch. 3-7</p>
<p>4. Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed-methodologies</p>	<p>Writing Assignment #5: In a 4 page double-spaced paper, begin to discuss what methodology you think best fits your research problem. Indicate why and how you might use this methodology. More details will be available via the course hub.</p>	<p>Sensing – Ch. 4-6 Herr & Anderson – Ch. 3 & 5 Fowler – Ch. 2, 3, 5 & 6 Seidman – Ch. 1, 4, 6, & 7</p>
<p>5. Measurement and Analysis</p>	<p>Writing Assignment #6: Using the document on methodology from Assignment #5, revise and add 3 double-spaced pages pertaining to the approaches to measurement and analysis that you will take in your project. More details will be available via the course hub.</p>	<p>Sensing – Ch. 7 Herr & Anderson – Ch. 6 Fowler – Ch. 7, 9, & 10 Seidman – Ch. 8</p>

<p>6. From Proposal to Degree: How to finish your DMin</p>	<p>Writing Assignment #7: Prepare a rough draft of the DMin project proposal (roughly 15-18 pages). The expectations of this document will be discussed in the first week of class.</p>	<p>Sensing – Ch. 8 Herr & Anderson – Ch. 7 & 8</p>
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