Instructor: Dr. Dan Morris
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Office Hrs:
W: 1-4PM;  
7-8PM  
TH: 1-4PM

Other times available by appointment.

COURSE NUMBER: EDF 7482  
SECTION:  
COURSE TITLE: Advanced Educational Research  
DAY/TIME: TH/4:20-7:00PM

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
An in-depth analysis of descriptive and experimental research designs that are appropriate for specific educational problems. An original research report will be produced by the student.

II. TEXTBOOK:

III. COURSE OVERVIEW:
This course is an advanced seminar with a large portion of course time and resources devoted to individual and group consultation with students on their research plans.

The principal course requirement is a research proposal. The topic will be selected by the student with advice and approval of the instructor. In the case of a doctoral student planning a dissertation proposal, advice and consent of the student's doctoral committee is also required. Research methodological content will be included that is specific to each student’s needs.

IV. GUIDELINES USED IN DEVELOPING COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- The objectives listed here were developed in line with the principles of measurement and statistics established by the National Council on Measurement in Education, and the American Educational Research Association.

V. EXPECTED OUTCOMES (COURSE OBJECTIVES):
After completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. Present a completed CITI certificate.
2. Submit a complete research proposal, typically chapters 1-3 of the dissertation.

VI. EVALUATION AND GRADE ASSIGNMENT:

In this advanced seminar, both requirements are typically dichotomously scored. The CITI certificate is scored as successful or not on the Web and must be presented as successful.

The proposal must meet typical standards of quality research design and will be submitted, critiqued and resubmitted until this criteria is attained. Thus, students can expect to get an “A,” “I,” or “F.” The “F” grade is extremely rare.

VII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND MATERIALS

Blackboard

We will use Blackboard (http://blackboard.fau.edu) for parts of this course. By enrollment in the course, you are issued a Blackboard Username and Password. Both the Username and Password are a function of your name and SS#; the specifics are explained on the Blackboard site above.

In addition, Blackboard creates an email distribution list for all students registered in the course; I will use this distribution list, as well as other Blackboard vehicles to communicate with you. This list, as well as your Usernames and Passwords, are created at the beginning of the term from the Registrar's records. So it is important, and your responsibility, to check to make sure that you have a working Blackboard Username and Password, and to check the email address that is entered for you.

I ask that each of you, through Blackboard email, send a copy of your proposal, or parts of your proposal, as it evolves (as an attachment) to me and all of the students in the class. Then I ask that each student, make comments on the submitted document through the Discussion Board. Conversation about comments can then take place as we wish. You can then resend a revised proposal for more consideration. In this way the proposal can be refined, and re-refined, both through Blackboard and through class meetings. The advantage of the Blackboard forum will be the easy distribution of proposals or parts of proposals, and the written record of comments. I will consult via Blackboard, class meetings, and through individual meetings.

When you do submit a comment on a proposal, draft, or part of a proposal, use the folder for that student; each student will have a separate folder in Blackboard. You should always be cordial; when critical comments are needed, make them in a helpful spirit, but do not hesitate to provide criticism.

Microsoft Word

I think that the most widely available format for attachments is Microsoft Word. So please try to use it. If I am commenting on your written work individually, turn on the Review function within Word (View/Toolbars/Reviewing) as you will not be able to see my comments otherwise when I comment and return the document.

VIII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. CITI Certificate (see https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp)
2. Completed Proposal (chapters 1-3, per below)

The approximate format for the complete research paper is below. The proposal is generally considered to be the first three chapters of the entire dissertation, research product.

Research Paper Outline

Chapter One
   Introduction: General description of area - "set the stage."
   Problem - felt need
   Purpose: Specific question(s) of relationship between two or more variables.
Chapter Two -- Literature Review

Literature Review: Structure the review and orient the reader to that structure.
Summary of LR: Set the stage for what is not known.

Chapter Three -- Method
Subjects -- Demographics, sampling method, etc., think replicability
Procedures -- Specifics depend on the study, think replicability.
Instrumentation -- Type, description, reliability, validity,
Scoring method, scores to be used, etc.
Statistical Techniques - In a quantitative study, briefly outline how the variables derived from scores from Instrumentation will be analyzed to address the Hypotheses, and state the significance level. Be sure to be specific how each variable will be used in analysis. You should also specifically address power and indices of effect size that you plan to employ.

Chapter Four -- Results
A presentation of the results, especially as they relate to the hypotheses and problem statement introduced in chapter one. In a quantitative study, statistical results should be introduced to support your decisions concerning the hypotheses.

Chapter Five -- Conclusions
The results should be integrated with the theoretical framework introduced in chapter two. Any unresolved questions from the literature should be addressed, as well; agreement and disagreement with that literature should be discussed. In addition, likely reasons for any discrepancies with the findings of former studies and anomalies internal to your study should be explored. Finally, suggestions for further research based on your synthesis, discrepancies, or other rationale should be offered. Depending on the clarity of the results, it may also be possible to make suggestions about application of the findings to appropriate settings.

References -- Use APA style throughout the paper. Include only references that were actually cited in the text.
An additional course requirement is that you successfully complete the Protection of Human Subjects certification offered by NIH (http://cme.nci.nih.gov).

Attendance Policy
According to Florida Atlantic University policy, “Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University Classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor.” Attendance includes meaningful, active involvement in all class sessions, class discussions, and class activities as well as professional conduct in class.
Every member of this class is an integral part of the group. As such, it is important to attend each class session on time. Students are requested to notify the professor if they will be arriving late to class or missing class. Students missing class are still responsible for all materials covered in that class.
And please, cell phones must be turned off during class.

Accommodation for Disabilities
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. The purpose of the Office for Students with Disabilities “is to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities.”
If you need any disability-related classroom accommodations or support services, please discuss these with me, at your convenience, and in privacy-or anonymity if you like--so that I can help you.

Academic Integrity
Each of us will publicly and privately uphold the ethical standards of our profession. Any evidence of plagiarism submitted in course assignments will be dealt with harshly with a failing grade for the course and a recommendation to university officials for the expulsion of the offender.