EDLD 671
The Dissertation Process I
Course Syllabus

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required:

Student selected based on methodology.

Course Description

This course serves as an introductory course in the dissertation methodology writing process. The focus of the course is the further development of the student's dissertation proposal of the first three chapters of the traditional doctoral dissertation and completion of the IRB application. The core objective of this course is to provide guidance and motivation to the doctoral student so that Chapter 3, the methodology, is completed and the entire prospectus is approved by the student's dissertation committee. Prerequisite: EDAD 692 and admission to candidacy.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Design and conduct an original research project in order to answer your research questions.
2. Design a discipline specific research methodology.
3. Apply humanities/social science/scientific writing skills (APA)
4. Participate in the peer review process
5. Analyze research and other topics with academics in your field

Course Requirements

Instructional / Methods / Activities / Assessments

This web-enhanced course relies heavily on written responses, interaction, and discussion. It is problem-based and inquiry oriented. Learning in this course will take place as a result of online discussion boards, lectures, power-point presentations, readings and concentrated study, and participation in intensive group and individual projects in online venues.

Assignments include written responses to readings and online discussions. The readings cannot be neglected. It is important that you set aside time to read and digest the readings before you write or participate in discussion boards.

A wide variety of instructional methods will be used to provide students with meaningful learning experiences. Some of these may include focused discussions, written reflections, group and individual projects, and direct teaching.

Course Assignments and Assessments

All written work shall be typed or computer printed in a print or font that is easy to read. Written work shall be scored for content, spelling, correctness of grammar, style and syntax, proper crediting of sources and overall appearance. Additionally, work should show a proper degree of originality, creativity, and effective presentation. All work is expected to be handed in on time (failure to comply may result in point reduction) and conform to APA Writing Style Guidelines.

Methodologies will vary greatly among dissertations and these guidelines are generic. Your format will be determined by your methodology and your chair.

Methodology Deliverable One (100 Points): This is a paper covering the following elements of Chapter 3 and is graded on completion:

> Introduction
> Methodology & Design
> > Quantitative or Qualitative
> > What type of quantitative or qualitative
> > Citation from primary source research supporting your choice
> Phenomenon/Variables
> > Phenomenon-qualitative, for each research question
> > Variables-Quantitative, for each research question

Methodology Deliverable Two (100 Points): This is a paper covering the following elements of Chapter 3 and is graded on completion:

> Introduction--Corrected
> Methodology & Design--Corrected
> Phenomenon/Variables-Corrected
> Problem Statement/Section
> > It is not known how or why…(qualitative)
> > It is not known if or to what extent…(quantitative)
> Purpose of the Study

        The purpose of this study is to….
Sample
        Location
        Population
        Sample Size
        Sampling Method

Methodology Deliverable Three (100 Points): This is a paper covering the following elements of Chapter 3 and is graded on completion:

Introduction--Corrected
Methodology & Design--Corrected
Phenomenon/Variables-Corrected
Problem Statement/Section-Corrected
Purpose of the Study-Corrected
Sample-Corrected

Data Collection Plan
        Who-how will you access participants?
        How will you collect data?
        What instruments will you use?
        Cover all data collection for all research questions
Data Analysis Plan
        How will you analyze your data?
        Specific method (not just "statistics" or "I will analyze it")
        For each research question

Final Chapter Three (200 points): This is the final draft of Chapter Three. This is to be of publishable quality and should be corrected based on all previous drafts. All papers that receive 180/200 points or better will be sent to the dissertation committee for review. The final approval of this chapter is based on committee review, not the grade.

Course Schedule

TBD

Grading

The grading scale listed below is a guide. The instructor reserves the right to evaluate and assign the final course grade.

90% - 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
Below 60%	F

NOTE: This syllabus represents a relationship between the two of us regarding the evaluative measures and the content included in EDAD 641. The instructor reserves the right to amend, revise, or change the content of the syllabus as deemed necessary.

XI. LIBRARY RESOURCES

TBD

XII. STUDENT PARTICIPATION

a. Participation Policy

- o Place: Asynchronous Sessions
- o Day: Online
- o Dates: See course schedule

- ➢ Attend class as determined by university calendar & course activities. Notify in advance if to be absent.
- ➢ Participate in class discussions and comprehension activities as assigned
- ➢ Complete all assignments.
- ➢ Complete assignments to demonstrate proficiency in the doctoral level studies.
- ➢ Students absent one period: required to DEMONSTRATE concepts missed, or average lowered by one grade

b. Course Etiquette: Students are expected to be professional while interacting online with the instructor and/or other classmates. Derogatory, rude, or offensive conduct will not be tolerated. This kind of behavior can result in failure of the course.

c. Discussion Board Standards: Questions will be posted on Blackboard regarding instructional leadership after each class meeting. Each student is responsible for posting an original thread and required to comment on the post of at least two other class members. Students will have one week per Discussion Board to complete this activity. Any posts made after midnight on Sunday of the week assigned will receive no credit.

XIII. DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

XIV. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of

materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of 'F' in the course and/or disciplinary actions.

a. CHEATING

All written work submitted for a grade in this course must be the product of your own composition. Papers and assignments written by previous students in the class can be tracked, and use of them by another student is considered cheating. Ideas generated due to reading and group discussion may provide the inspiration for your work but should not be the sole ideas represented. With collaborative projects, of course, ideas should be representative of the group's work.

b. PLAGIARISM

The act of presenting as your own work another individual's ideas, words, data, or research material. The concept applies equally to written, spoken, or electronic texts, published or unpublished. All ideas and quotations that you borrow from any source must be acknowledged; at a minimum, you should give the name of your author, the title of the text cited, and the page number(s) of the citation. The only exception to this requirement would involve what is familiar and commonly held (e.g. the fact that the earth is round).

XV. A&M-TEXARKANA EMAIL ADDRESS

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

XVI. DROP POLICY

To drop this course after the census date, a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website (http://tamut.edu/Student-Support/Registrar/Dropping.html) or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed

properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

Web-enhanced and online courses.

XVII.   CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are responsible for beginning their participation on the FIRST CLASS DAY by logging on and completing assignments according to the COURSE CALENDAR. Failure to submit online assignments between the first day of classes and the University census date (according to the University schedule) will result in an ADMINISTRATIVE DROP from the course.

XVIII. STUDENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and web courses are found at this link: http://www.tamut.edu/Training/Student%20Training/index.html

- If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a support request detailing your specific problem here: http://www.tamut.edu/techde/support.htm

- Blackboard Helpdesk contacts (office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p)

  Julia Allen (main contact) 903-223-3154 julia.allen@tamut.edu

  Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu

  Jayson Ferguson (alternate) 903-223-3105 jayson.ferguson@tamut.edu

XVIII. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Windows PC Requirements:

- Pentium IV 1.5GHz+ (preferred: Core Duo)

- 1 GB RAM minimum (preferred: 2 GB)

- 128MB Video Card minimum - Sound Card is required for some courses

- 56K modem minimum (Cable or DSL required for some courses)

- Windows 2000, XP, Vista or 7

- Web browser (Internet Explorer 7.0+; Firefox 3.0+)

- Microsoft Word, minimum Office 97

  Some courses will need plug-ins such as Flash player 10 +, QuickTime player 7.0+, Adobe Reader 9.0+, Java Runtime Environment (Java 1.6.0_15), Windows Media Player 10+,

RealPlayer, and Macromedia/Adobe Shockwave.

Some online courses may also require a CD ROM (8x minimum, higher recommended)

Blackboard has certified the following browsers for computers running Windows Operating Systems:

- Internet Explorer 8 or 9 (IE is not supported on Windows XP)
- Mozilla Firefox 3.6+
- Google Chrome

Minimum Apple Macintosh Requirements:

- Intel Core 2.0GHz+
- 1 GB RAM (preferred: 2 GB)
- 128MB Video Card minimum - Sound Card is required for some courses
- 56K modem minimum (Cable or DSL required for some courses)
- Web browser (Firefox 3.0+ ; Safari 3.0+)
- Microsoft Word, minimum Office 97
  Some courses will need plug-ins such as Flash player 10+, QuickTime player 7.0+, Adobe Reader 9.0+, Java Runtime Environment, RealPlayer, and Macromedia/Adobe Shockwave.
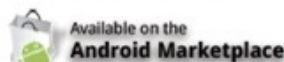
Some online courses may also require a CD ROM (8x minimum, higher recommended)

Blackboard has certified the following browsers for computers running Macintosh Operating Systems:

- Mac OS 10.2 (Jaguar): (Safari 1 is compatible)
- Mac OS 10.3 (Panther): Safari 1.2 (Firefox 1.5 is compatible)
- Mac OS 10.4 (Tiger): Safari 2 and Firefox 1.5
- Mac OS 10.5 (Leopard): (Firefox 2.0 is compatible)

I-OS and Android Devices

These devices are currently supported using the Blackboard Mobile App, available for free from your App Store or scan the code below:

To access Texas A&M University - Texarkana, there is an individual license fee of $1.99 per year or $5.99 lifetime. This fee gives you access to the university from all your (same platform) devices; it is not necessary to pay the fee for each device you own.

The Professor reserves the right to make changes to assignments, class schedule or syllabus.