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# BB 820 Dissertation Writing and Field Research Methods

Leslie A. Andrews

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## **BB820 - DISSERTATION WRITING AND FIELD RESEARCH METHODS**

Doctor of Ministry Program, Asbury Theological Seminary

January 5-9, 1998

Instructor: Leslie A. Andrews, Ph.D

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### **PURPOSE**

BB820 is designed to orient the student to library and field research methodologies in preparation for writing a project/dissertation. Instruction will focus on writing the proposal, including a statement of the problem, review of related literature, the theoretical framework, an extensive outline, and a justification for the study. Course requirements assume that the student and mentor will actively interact in developing the proposal. Credit/No Credit only.

### **COURSE GOALS**

By the end of the course, the student should be able to . . .

1. Understand the process of developing the project/dissertation from the proposal.
2. Select and formulate a researchable problem.
3. Develop a purpose statement.
4. Identify a possible dissertation research model.
5. Develop bibliography through effective library research methods.
6. Formulate a preliminary research model.
7. Specify probable means of data collection consistent with the research design.
8. Explain several ways in which data are analyzed and interpreted.
9. Develop a complete draft of the project/dissertation proposal.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Campbell, William Giles, Ballou, Steven Vaughan, and Slade, Carole. Form and Style: Theses, Reports, Term Papers. 9th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990.

Leedy, P. D. Practical Research: Planning and Design. 4th ed. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company.

Fink, Arlene, and Jacqueline Kosecoff. How to Conduct Surveys: A Step-by-Step Guide. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, 1985.

Yin, Robert K. Case Study Research. Most recent ed. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications

## RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- Andranovich, Gregory D., and Riposa, Gerry. Doing Urban Research. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, 1993.
- Barzun, J., & Graff, H. F. The Modern Researcher. 4th ed. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1985.
- Copeland, Anne P., and White, Kathleen M. Studying Families. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, Inc., 1991.
- Davies, R. E. Handbook for Doctor of Ministry Projects: An Approach to Structured Observation of Ministry. New York: University Press of America, 1984.
- DeVellis, Robert F. Scale Development: Theory and Applications. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, Inc., 1991.
- Fowler, Floyd J., Jr., and Mangione, Thomas W. Standardized Survey Interviewing: Minimizing Interviewer-Related Error. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, 1990.
- Harrison, Michael L. Diagnosing Organizations: Methods, Models, and Processes. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, 1987.
- Josselson, Ruthellen, and Lieblich, Amia, eds. The Narrative Study of Lives. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, 1993.
- Miller, Delbert C. Handbook of Research Design and Social Measurement. 5th ed. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, Inc., 1991.
- Morgan, David L., ed. Successful Focus Groups: Advancing the State of the Art. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, 1993.
- Morgan, David L. Focus Groups as Qualitative Research. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, 1988.
- Sieber, Joan E. Planning Ethically Responsible Research: A Guide for Students and Internal Review Boards. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, 1992.
- Vogt, W. Paul. Dictionary of Statistics and Methodology: A Nontechnical Guide for the Social Sciences. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, 1993.
- Yin, Robert K. Applications of Case Study Research. Newbury Park: SAGE Publications, 1993.

## ASSIGNMENTS

### 1. Pre-Course: "First Draft" Proposal

Bring to the first class session a "first draft" proposal, following the guidelines of the attached "Dissertation Chapters." Focus particularly on the development of

Chapters 1 and 2. The more thorough your review of the literature, the better able you will be to develop Chapter 1.

All aspects of the proposal (e.g., parenthetical references, Works Cited, margins, chapter title pages, TABLE OF CONTENTS, etc.) must conform to the 8th edition of Campbell, Ballou, and Slade (C/B/S). Note particularly pages 90 and 100-104 for parenthetical reference format.

**DUE: ..... Monday, January 6, 1997**

**2. Post-Course: Project/Dissertation Proposal**

Subsequent to the course, revise your first draft proposal. Develop chapters 1 and 2 more thoroughly in light of class discussions and readings. Add Chapter 3, in complete form, and Chapter 4, in sketchy form. A thorough proposal will normally require 30-50 pages to complete, but will also mean having approximately three-fifths of the dissertation completed.

If you are in conversation with your mentor from the time you commence development of your "first draft" proposal to the completion of this proposal, you should be well on your way to being ready to defend a "best draft" proposal. Your mentor is crucial at this stage, however, if you hope to complete the actual project/dissertation proposal in tandem with this course assignment.

**DUE: ..... Friday, March 14, 1997**

**RETURNED PAPERS**

If you wish your paper to be returned to you prior to the next D.Min. term when you are on campus (July), you must submit with your proposal a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the paper can be mailed to you.

**GRADING**

While "Dissertation Writing" is a credit/no credit course, you may expect to receive a detailed critique of your work to be used for refining future proposals. In the event the proposal lacks adequate thought and development, it will be returned to you for further work before you receive credit for the course.