BB 820 Dissertation Writing and Field Research Methods

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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

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

RECOMMENDED TEXTS


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 your receive credit for the course.