MB 800 Research Methods in Missiology

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Course Description
This course introduces students to various approaches to research design, research methods and dissertation writing for doctoral students in missiology and intercultural studies. Methods are the link between questions and answers. The problem is finding the appropriate methods that discover data that shed light on the problem at hand. A well designed research project should provide a door for the researcher to enter the stream of literature being produced about a particular topic. The goal of this course is to introduce students to a variety of research strategies and tools so that the student will be able to contribute to the disciplines within missiology.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course participants will be able to:
1. Understand and Apply Research Paradigms ~ Describe the four dominant approaches to research -- quantitative, qualitative, historical and critical -- in ways that account for their differences and allow the researcher to choose appropriate paradigms for varying types of research questions.
2. Develop a Specific Research Design ~ Locate their own research questions within at least one of the dominant traditions.
3. Develop Bibliographic Control ~ Demonstrate how antecedent theoretical and bibliographic literatures support, clarify and contextualize their own missiological research concerns.
4. Create a Defendable Research Design ~ Develop a research design process that can be applied in a productive manner to most research concerns in missiology.
5. Develop a Strategic and Tactical Research Plan ~ Explain in detail, using their own missiological concern as the organizing feature, both the stage-by-stage process as well as the stage-specific procedures which would lead to satisfying their own research questions.
6. Present Defendable Exemplars of Doctoral Quality Writing ~ Develop a sample project that offers reviewers a critical, normative, representative and relevant demonstration of doctoral research competence.

Required Reading
And the ESJ Handout: Academic Writing.
Recommended Reading

Course Schedule
Courses occur in three interrelated phases: pre-session, in-session and post-session. Reading, interaction and assignments are configured to produce specific developmental growth objectives as well as to integrate with the doctoral program's overall objectives. Note: Several of the assignments are founded on the assumption that each person in the doctoral program arrived with some idea of researchable problems in missiology and mission, although they may not have settled on one. The course design helps participants come to a decision about these problems. Through a process of pre-reading, problem-posing (questions list), developing draft chapters, locating preliminary bibliographic resources and in-session “defenses” of these proposals, peers will engage, in miniature, each stage of the research design process. A generic model of a research proposal will be offered, but it should not stifle the creativity of the researcher.

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<td><strong>Pre-Session</strong></td>
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<td>Pre-Reading</td>
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<td>100 Questions List</td>
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<td>Top 40 Resources List</td>
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<td>Mock Chapters 1 and 4</td>
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ASSIGNMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION FOR GRADING
The course begins 3 weeks before the first day of the in-session seminar. The course lasts until 70 days after the first day of the in-session seminar. The course ends with a two day wrap-up session. See Appendices for course assignments.

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRE-SESSION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft One ~ Chapters 1 (Problem) and 4 (Design)</td>
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<td>100 Questions List (Problem Posing)</td>
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<td>Top 10 Resources List (Preliminary Literature Review)</td>
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Course Grading
The unit of credit is a semester hour, which is defined as one hour of classroom work per week for one semester, or its equivalent. The 4.00 point system is used to compute grade point standing. The grading system is:

- **A** 4.00 Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives.
- **B** 3.00 Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives.
- **C** 2.00 Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives.
- **D** 1.00 Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives.
- **F** 0 Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives.

Incomplete Work
The official end of each term is 4:00 p.m. on the last day of the examination schedule. This hour is the deadline for handing in all course work. Each instructor may set an earlier deadline for submission of any or all course work. The student must petition the faculty person involved and the student’s advisor for permission to receive an “I” at the end of the semester.

A grade of “I” denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as “F.”

Incomplete grades shall be removed one calendar month prior to the close of the following semester unless an earlier date is designated by the Office of the Chief Academic Officer on the individual petition. If the work is not completed by the time designated, the “I” shall be changed to an “F” unless a passing grade can be given based on work already completed or unless special permission is granted by the Chief Academic Officer.

Professors are required to give either a grade or a “I,” if approved, to each student registered for credit in a course. Students with Incompletes in two or more classes will not be allowed to enroll in a new semester or term without permission from their Dean.

Office Hours
Pre-session office hours will be posted on instructors’ doors. It is best to make an appointment in advance, but you may check during hours to see if others have not taken a time slot. Our offices are side by side in the ESJ School on the third floor of the McPheeters Center.

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