TD7900 DIRECTED DISSERTATION SEMINAR
Tuesdays, 5:10-6:50

Dr. Raechele L. Pope *Mondays, 3:00 - 4:30 pm
203B Main Hall *Tuesdays, 2:30 - 4:30 pm
(212)678-3750 Other times by appointment only
rlp12@columbia.edu

* These are open office hours and no appointment is necessary so please feel free to just drop-in to see me. However, during these hours I would like to be available to as many students as possible, therefore, these times are reserved for discussions which can be handled in about 10 or 15 minutes. When additional time is needed, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me. Generally, I am available on Monday afternoons for appointments. To make an appointment, contact the department secretary, Ms. Marilyn Audain (or one of her assistants) at (212) 678-3750 and an appointment will be arranged for you. For those of you who commute long distances, if it would be more convenient for you to schedule telephone appointments, I will be happy to accommodate you. Telephone appointments also are scheduled through Ms. Audain. Also for those of you with access to E-Mail, feel free to address questions and advising issues via E-mail.

REQUIRED TEXT


RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Balian, E. S. (1988). How to design, analyze, and write doctoral or master's research (2nd ed.).


Light, R. J., Singer, J. D., & Willett, J. B. (1990). By design: Planning research on higher education.
Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press

COURSE COMPETENCIES

At the close of TD7900 you will be able to:

1. Identify your strengths and areas for improvement in terms of the dissertation process.

2. Establish realistic goals for the development and writing of a dissertation proposal.
3. Describe and discuss the components of an effective dissertation proposal.

4. Write an effective problem statement and purpose statement for your proposal.

5. Know the components of a thorough and well-organized literature review.

6. Know the components of a soundly designed and thorough methods section.

7. Discuss your proposed dissertation study in a cogent and concise manner.

8. Discuss and critique your own work as well as the work of your colleagues.

9. Establish realistic goals for the completion of the dissertation process.

10. Identify dissertation committee members and meet with them individually to discuss your topic and goals.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING

A grade of P will be submitted for those students who: 1) attend all class sessions, 2) complete all class assignments, 3) establish appropriate personal goals toward the completions of a dissertation proposal, and 4) demonstrate reasonable progress toward meeting those goals.

A grade of F will be submitted for those students who: 1) do not attend all class sessions, or 2) do not demonstrate reasonable progress toward the completion of goals.

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

09/13/94 Overview of course and goal setting - introductions, review syllabus, and expectations. Brief review of the main steps in conducting educational research studies, ethical principles, outline of a research proposal (and dissertation). Also, discuss goals and proposal ideas.

For next class bring two written copies of your personal goals (one page) for the course and ideas for your proposal.

09/20/94 Goal setting discussion - share and critique semester goals. Identify obstacles and barriers that can prevent you from reaching your goals. Generate ideas and strategies to overcome barriers.
09/27/94 Preparing a research proposal, Part 1 - outline of Chapter 1.

* Small group session share topics and proposal focus

10/04/94 Framing your study - writing problem statements, research purposes, significance of study, and research questions.

*Small group session

For next class bring a written draft of your statement of the problem, purpose of the study, and the significance of the study.

10/11/94 Group working session - reviewing, critiquing, and re-writing assignment.

10/18/94 Individual Assignment

For next class complete literature review assignment.

Also, completed draft of Chapter 1 due next week.

10/25/94 Preparing a research proposal - Outline of Chapter 2.

10/31/94 Group working session - critique Chapter 1.

11/01/94 Group working session - critique Chapter 1 continued.

Prior to next class conduct comprehensive literature search (particularly, but not limited to, a computer search of ERIC and Dissertation Abstracts International). Bring to class hardcopies of all computer print-outs of searches and copies of completed (and submitted) forms necessary for inter-library loan materials.

Also, individual goal and Timeline check-in meetings with Professor Pope. Bring appropriate materials for this meeting.

11/08/94 Group working session - discuss literature searches completed draft of Chapter 2 due next week.

11/15/94 Group working session - critique Chapter 2
11/22/94 Individual Assignment

11/29/94 Preparing a research proposal - Outline of Chapter 3.

Group working session: discuss tentative research method for your study (including: proposed sample, instrumentation, design, procedures, timelines, data collection, editing, and analyses).

12/06/94 Group working session - critique Chapter 2.

Completed draft of Chapter 3 due next week.

12/13/94 Presentation of work

12/20/94 Presentation of work