Dissertation Research

I. Course Description

The course is designed to assist the students in writing a draft of the three-chapter (introduction, review of literature, method) research proposal that may become the basis for a doctoral dissertation. Prerequisites: EDLD 6333, EDLD 6384, EDLD 6335, EDLD 6392.

II. Rationale

Students must be knowledgeable and competent in the methodology of educational research in order to complete a doctoral dissertation. This course provides the student with the opportunity to synthesize knowledge, understanding, and application of research design, instrumentation, sampling, and data analysis to write a research proposal that, if approved by the student’s dissertation committee, will become the basis for a doctoral dissertation.

III. State Adopted Proficiencies for Teachers and/or Administrators/Counselors - NA

IV. TExES Competencies - NA

V. Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This is the last of the five research methods and statistics courses in the doctoral program in Educational Leadership. As such, the major objective of the course is to assist the student in writing and orally presenting the first draft of the doctoral dissertation proposal. Additionally, all students are expected to complete the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) application form, which must be approved by TAMUCC’s IRB Committee in advance of the initiation of the research investigation.

VI. Course Topics

1. Mixed methods research models
2. Ethics in research with human participants
3. Institutional review board
4. Dissertation proposal preparation and presentation
VII. Instructional Methods and Activities

1. Lecture/discussion
2. Student presentations
3. Practice problems
4. One-on-one consultation sessions
5. Work on developing dissertation proposal

VIII. Evaluation and Grade Assignment

Chapter I, Introduction 30%
Due: __________________________
Chapter II, Review of Literature 30%
Due: __________________________
Chapter III, Methods 30%
Due: __________________________
IRB Application 5%
Due: __________________________
Proposal Presentation 5%
Due: __________________________

Grading Scale:
90 – 100 A
80 - 89 B
70 - 79 C
60 - 69 D
< 60 F

Incomplete, I. “An incomplete notation may be given to a student who is passing but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control other than lack of time.”

IX. Course Schedule and Policies

1. Course schedule follows the course topics (see VI).
2. Late assignments are not accepted except in extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the instructor. Students who find that they are unable to be at an examination session because of illness or extenuating circumstances should contact the instructor as soon as the condition becomes apparent to arrange fair and practical extensions.
3. The instructor expects complete honesty in the completion assignments. Plagiarism, “the act of taking the work/writings of another person and passing them off as one’s own,” is not tolerated.
4. During the class, cell phones must be off; text messaging is not allowed, and no food consumption.
X. Textbook


XI. Bibliography and Online Sources


XII.  Grade Appeals

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamu.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

XIII.  Disability Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.