SYLLABUS -- CRD 260 THESIS SEMINA

Time: Wednesdays 1:10-3
Room: Hunt 166
Course Number: 53091

DESCRIPTION

This class is intended to help masters students in Community Development and similar programs finalize thesis proposals and complete theses. Different students will be in different places in their process. We will collaboratively assist all participants at whatever point they find themselves.

We’ll review the class format during our first meeting. But usually we begin each class with a quick check-in from each participant on how their work is going that week, noting any issues that they’d like to come back to later. We’ll then spend 20-30 minutes discussing readings and topics of student interest. After a brief 5-minute break we’ll reconvene to workshop materials from one or more students in greater depth, or to do a class exercise.

We’ll schedule times for each class member to get feedback from the group. If you’ll be presenting in this way, please upload your work to the Materials to be Workshopped folder under Files on the Canvas site by noon Tuesday before class. Use a format such as LASTNAME - CH 1 - 10-9-22 REVIEW. Please plan to review your classmates’ materials on Tues night so as to be able to provide constructive comments on Wed.

To provide additional background, we’ll review research approaches & methods, and will discuss feminist approaches to research and strategies to coordinate research with stakeholders and policy, two topics of frequent interest to CD students.

Office hours are Wednesday mornings 9-12, or by appointment. There will be a sign-up for 30-minute appointments on Calendy, at https://calendly.com/smwheeler/office-hours-prof-wheeler. If Wed mornings don’t work, email the instructor.

REQUIRED READING


+ chapters on Canvas from

GRADING (letter graded)

Short Proposal: 10%
Abstract: 10%
Final Product (Thesis Proposal plus Outline, Abstract, Intro, Lit Review, Methods section, or other parts): 50%
Participation: 30%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class 1       Course Introduction
Wed Sept 21   Initial Check-ins
              Brainstorm: Challenges to Completing Our Theses (+ Discussion)
              Exercise: Understanding and Reflecting Back Each Other’s Concepts

Class 2       Discussion: Creswell Chapters 1-4 (Research Approach; Review of the Literature; The Use of Theory; Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations)
Wed Sept 28   Short Thesis Proposals (Name, Title, 3 sentences on background and need, Research Question, Theory, Method, Expected Findings, Outline w/ 3-6 sections. Even if you’re further along, it can help to do this step again. Please upload to Canvas Assignment 1 by noon Tues 9/27)

Class 3       Discussion: S & P Chapters 1 and 2 (Qualitative Research & Analysis)
Wed Oct 5     Short Thesis Proposals (cont.)

Class 4       Discussion: S & P Chapters 3 and 4 (Qualitative Analysis; Software)
Wed Oct 12    Abstract of your Thesis (<200 words, including need, RQ, method, and projected findings. Upload to Canvas Assignment 2 by Tues noon)

Class 5       Discussion: S & P Chapters 5 and 6 (Interviewing; Focus Groups)
Wed Oct 19    Elevator Pitches (< 30 sec. on why your thesis is interesting & useful, in a way that any lay person can understand)

Class 6       Discussion: S & P Chapters 7-9 (Online Methods; Content Analysis; Dissemination)
Wed Oct 26    Workshop Student Materials

Class 7       Discussion: Hess-Beber, Chapters 1-3 (Feminist Research; Empiricism and Standpoint Theory; Feminist Postmodernism, Poststructuralism, & Critical Theory)
Wed Nov 2     Workshop Student Materials
Class 8 Wed Nov 9  
**Discussion:** Hess-Beber Chapters 4-8 (Ethics and Feminist Research; What is Feminist Ethnography?; Action and Community Research; Feminist Approaches to In-Depth Interviewing; The Practice of Feminist Focus Groups)

**Workshop Student Materials**

Class 9 Wed Nov 16  
**Discussion:** Hess-Beber, Chapters 9-13 (Feminist Media Research; Feminist Survey Research; Program Evaluation; Feminist Approaches to Mixed Methods Research; Conclusion: Putting Together Your Research Project)

**Workshop Student Materials**

Class 10 Wed Nov 23  
**Discussion:** Majchrzak and Markus, Chapter 7 (Reflect on the Policy Research Voyage)

**Workshop Student Materials**

Class 11 Wed Nov 30  
**Presentations** (5-min presentations of proposals or research, with brief discussion)

**Final proposal or draft thesis due on Canvas at beginning of class**