SYLLABUS -- CRD 260 THESIS SEMINAR

Time: Wednesdays 10:00-11:50
Room: Hunt 166
Course Number: 77469

DESCRIPTION

This class is intended to help masters students in Community Development 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 probably we’ll begin each class with a 1-minute 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 6 PM Tuesday before class. Use a format such as LASTNAME - CH 1 - 1-22-19 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 start with a quick review of research approaches & methods through Creswell’s Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches (Fifth Edition). We will also discuss feminist approaches to research and strategies to coordinate research with stakeholders and policy, two topics of frequent interest to CD students.

REQUIRED READING


GRADING (letter graded)

Short Proposal: 10%
Abstract: 10%
Final Product (Thesis Proposal or Draft Thesis): 50%
Participation: 30%
CLASS SCHEDULE

Class 1
Wed Jan 8  
Course Introduction  
Initial Check-ins  
**Brainstorm:** Challenges to Completing Our Theses (+ Discussion)  
**Exercise:** Understanding and Reflecting Back Each Other’s Concepts

Class 2
Wed Jan 15  
**Discussion:** Creswell Chapters 1-4 (Research Approach; Review of the Literature; The Use of Theory; Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations)  
**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 6 PM Tues 1/14**

Class 3
Wed Jan 22  
**Discussion:** Creswell Chapters 5-7 (The Introduction; The Purpose Statement; Research Questions and Hypotheses)  
**Abstract of your Thesis** (<200 words, including need, RQ, method, and projected findings.  
**Upload to Canvas Assignment 2 by Tues 6PM**

Class 4
Wed Jan 29  
**Discussion:** Creswell Chapters 8-10 (Quantitative Methods, Qualitative Methods, Mixed Methods Procedures)  
**Elevator Pitches** (< 30 sec. on why your thesis is interesting & useful, in a way that any lay person can understand)

Class 5
Wed Feb 5  
**Discussion:** Hess-Beber, Chapters 1-3 (Feminist Research; Empiricism and Standpoint Theory; Feminist Postmodernism, Poststructuralism, & Critical Theory)  
**Workshop Student Materials**

Class 6
Wed Feb 12  
**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 7
Wed Feb 19  
**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 8
Wed Feb 26  
**Discussion:** Majchrzak and Markus, Chapters 1-3 (Make a Difference; Launch the Policy Research Process, Synthesize Existing Evidence)  
**Workshop Student Materials**

Class 9
Wed Mar 4  
**Discussion:** Majchrzak and Markus, Chapters 4-7 (Design Policy Recommendations; Expand Stakeholder Engagement; Reflect)  
**Workshop Student Materials**

Class 10
Wed Mar 11  
**Presentations** (5-min presentations of proposals or research, with brief discussion)  
**Final proposal or draft thesis due on Canvas at beginning of class**