SYLLABUS (DRAFT)
CRD 298 THESIS SEMINAR
WINTER 2018

Time: Wednesdays 10-11:50
Room: Hunt 166
2 Units
Course Number: 48440

DESCRIPTION

This class is intended to help masters students in Community Development finalize thesis proposals and complete their thesis. For background we will briefly review research methods as well as common issues related to thesis preparation. Different students will be in different places in their process and that’s fine. We will cooperatively assist all at whatever point they are at.

During the first half of each class we will discuss readings from the course texts as well as other issues of student interest. The main text will be Creswell’s Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches (Fourth Edition)—a widely used textbook. Will also discuss feminist approaches to research and strategies to coordinate research with stakeholders and policy.

During the second half of each class we will have brief check-ins from students. Come prepared to give a one minute status report of your progress. Then we will workshop materials from one or more students in greater depth. If you would like feedback during a given class period, please try to upload new versions of your materials to the Canvas site in advance of the class so your classmates may look at them. At the end of the quarter we will schedule final presentations from all participants.

REQUIRED READING


**GRADING**

Participation: 30%
Final Product (Thesis Proposal/Draft Thesis): 70%

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>Wed Jan 10</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Students Introductions &amp; Initial Check-in on Research Status</td>
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<td>Class 2</td>
<td>Wed Jan 17</td>
<td><strong>Discussion: Creswell Chapters 1-4</strong></td>
<td>Check-In: Present 1-2 page Thesis Proposal Outline (Title, 1 paragraph on background and need, RQ, Method, Theory, Hypotheses, Outline, Committee)</td>
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<td>Class 3</td>
<td>Wed Jan 24</td>
<td><strong>Discussion: Creswell Chapters 5-7</strong></td>
<td>Check-In: Present Abstract of your Thesis (&lt;200 words, including need, RQ, method, and projected findings)</td>
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<td>Class 4</td>
<td>Wed Jan 31</td>
<td><strong>Discussion: Creswell Chapters 8-10</strong></td>
<td>Check-In: Elevator Pitches (&lt; 30 sec.; why your thesis is interesting &amp; useful in a way that any lay person can understand)</td>
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<td>Class 5</td>
<td>Wed Feb 7</td>
<td><strong>Discussion: Hess-Beber, Chapters 1-3</strong></td>
<td>Check-In and Workshop</td>
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<td>Class 6</td>
<td>Wed Feb 14</td>
<td><strong>Discussion: Hess-Beber Chapters 4-8</strong></td>
<td>Check-In and Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 7</td>
<td>Wed Feb 21</td>
<td><strong>Discussion: Hess-Beber, Chapters 9-13</strong></td>
<td>Check-In and Workshop</td>
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*Reading:*

Creswell, Part 1: Preliminary Considerations (The Selection of a Research Approach; Review of the Literature; The Use of Theory; Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations)

Creswell, Part II, Chapters 5-7 (The Introduction; The Purpose Statement; Research Questions and Hypotheses)

Creswell, Part II, Chapters 8-10 (Quantitative Methods, Qualitative Methods, Mixed Methods Procedures)

Hess-Beber, Chapters 1-3 (A Re-Invitation to Feminist Research; Feminist Empiricism and Standpoint Theory; Feminist Postmodernism, Poststructuralism, and Critical Theory)

Hess-Beber, Chapters 4-8 (Ethics and Feminist Research; What is Feminist Ethnography?; Feminist Practice of Action and Community Research; Feminist Approaches to In-Depth Interviewing; The Practice of Feminist Focus Groups)
### Reading:
Hess-Beber, Chapters 9-13 (Feminist Media Research; Feminist Survey Research; The Feminist Practice of Program Evaluation; Feminist Approaches to Mixed Methods Research; Conclusion: Putting Together Your Research Project)

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<th>Class 8</th>
<th><strong>Discussion:</strong> Majchrzak and Markus, Chapters 1-3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 28</td>
<td><strong>Check-In and Workshop</strong></td>
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<td>Majchrzak and Markus, Chapters 1-3 (Make a Difference with Policy Research; Launch the Policy Research Process, Synthesize Existing Evidence)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Class 9</th>
<th><strong>Discussion:</strong> Majchrzak and Markus, Chapters 4-7</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Mar 7</td>
<td><strong>Check-In and Workshop</strong></td>
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<td>Majchrzak and Markus, Chapters 4-7 (Design Policy Recommendations; Expand Stakeholder Engagement; Reflect on the Policy Research Voyage)</td>
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<th>Class 10</th>
<th><strong>Presentations</strong> (5-min presentations of proposals or research, with brief discussion)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Mar 14</td>
<td><strong>Final proposal or draft thesis due on Canvas at beginning of class</strong></td>
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