

EDLD 8950
Doctoral Seminar II

Fall 2011

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By Appointment

EFLT
College of Education

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



Competent

equipped with the knowledge, skills
and technological expertise to help
all individuals learn and develop

Committed

dedicated to the ethical practices and collaboration
that serve as the foundation of a diverse
and intellectually vibrant society

Reflective

devoted to analyzing their own past practices
in ways that fuel ongoing learning
and improve future practices

A Keystone in Building a Better Future for All



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EDLD 8950
Doctoral Seminar II
Auburn University - College of Education
Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology Department
Fall 2011

Class Time: This class is designed to meet your individual needs related to developing your dissertation literature review/proposal. We will have a few full-class meetings. You will be responsible for scheduling and attending regular meetings with me and your dissertation chair.

We will meet as a whole class from 8am – 4pm on Saturday, August 20 (Haley Center, 4th Floor Conference Room) and from 1pm – 5pm on Sunday, August 21 (my house: 213 Kimberly Drive, Auburn, AL) to introduce the dissertation process here at Auburn University.

Location: Meeting locations will include my office (4002 Haley Center), my home (213 Kimberly Drive, Auburn, AL), Skype, and TBD

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Kensler
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Office Hours: **By** appointment

1. **Course Number:** EDLD 8950

Course Title: Doctoral Seminar II

Credit Hours: 3 semester hours

Prerequisites: Admission to AESG or ASCG Doctoral Program

2. **Syllabus Revised:** August 2011

3. **Texts:**

Roberts, C. M. (2010). *The Dissertation Journey*. New York: Corwin Press.
ISBN: 978-1-4129-7798-2

Machi, L. A. & McEvoy, B. T. *The Literature Review*. New York: Corwin Press.
ISBN: 978-1-4129-6135-6

4. **Course Description:** Doctoral Seminar II is designed to facilitate and support your development and near completion of your dissertation research proposal, including Chapters 1, 2, and 3. You will focus on chapter 2 with some attention given to chapters 1 and 3.
5. **Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, students will:
 - Be familiar with the university required process and products related to the successful completion of their dissertation.
 - Be familiar with both the traditional and non-traditional dissertation formats and have selected, in consultation with their dissertation chair, the appropriate format for their dissertation.
 - Complete a near complete rough draft of their dissertation research proposal including at least their literature review and detailed outline of their methods.

6. **Course Content and Schedule:**

Date	Time	Content and Assignments Due
August 20	8am – 4:00pm Haley Center 4 th Floor Conference Room	Digging into Dissertating (an all day seminar – see the day's agenda – separate handout) In preparation, please review your two texts and the following Auburn University website (Guide to Preparation and Submission of Theses and Dissertations): http://www.grad.auburn.edu/etd_guide.html
August 21	1pm – 5:00pm Kensler Home 213 Kimberly Dr Auburn, AL	Please bring: • Completed Student Information Sheet (see end of syllabus) • Your calendar – we need to develop a schedule for additional meetings • Your laptop, if you wish. I have wireless. • Your texts • Notes and questions from yesterday's Digging into Dissertating session • A rough action plan for your semester's work (see format later in the syllabus) • Your specific ideas related to the support you believe you will need to complete your dissertation research proposal (literature review, method). Questions to consider: How often do you need to meet with me in person? Would you like email/skype check-ins? How often? How will you hold yourself accountable for short term goals? How might I help you? In this session, we will co-develop individualized plans for the semester that include your personal goals and benchmarks as well as a schedule for individual meetings and check-ins with me and your Dissertation Chair.
October 1	Mid-term presentation: Oct 1 (9am – 1pm), Auburn Board of Ed (no add'l whole class meeting)	We will meet as a whole class at least two additional times during the semester – one mid-semester and one late-semester – for you to present your progress to your peers. You will also develop a schedule of individual and/or small group meetings with me. These meetings may be face-to-face, phone, and/or Skype.

8. Course Requirements/Assignments

This course has one primary product – Your dissertation research proposal including a near complete and final literature review and a detailed outline of your proposed method.

You will complete your Introduction and finalize your Method chapter in consultation with your dissertation Chair, in preparation for your oral defense. You will schedule your oral defense with your Dissertation Chair and Committee. This course supports your preparation for the oral defense, but your grade in this class is entirely unrelated to your Chair's assessment of your readiness for your oral defense. For example, you may be able to earn an A in this class and yet not be ready for your oral defense OR, you may earn a C in this course and yet be prepared for your oral defense.

9. Grading

Assignment	Points Possible	Due Date
Dissertation Proposal including near complete literature review and detailed outline of methods Lit Review = 95 points (see rubric) Methods = 5 points	100	December 8, 2011
TOTAL POINTS	100	

Grading Scale:

A = 91-100

B = 80-90

C = 70-79

D = 69-60

F = Below 60 Points

In general, grades** will reflect the following:

- A = Lit Review (lit review >50 pages well organized, APA, few errors) and detailed outline of Methods (>6 pages)
- B = Lit Review only, no Methods (lit review >35 pages well organized, APA, few errors)
- C = Developing Lit Review, may or may not have outline of Methods (lit review 30-50 pages, not yet well organized, not APA, and/or many errors)
- F = Very little writing progress made during the course (<30 pages, poorly written/organized)

****Please see the literature review rubric at the end of this syllabus for more detailed literature review evaluation criteria. Use this rubric as a guide, not an absolute rule. Your chair will work with you to define your specific criteria**

10. Class Policy Statements:

A. Class Attendance/Absences: Class attendance and punctuality are expected and required. If class and/or assignments are missed, only University-approved excuses as outlined in the Tiger Cub (<http://www.auburn.edu/tigercub/handbook.html>) will be allowed (student illness or family member's serious illness documented with doctor's verification; immediate family member's death with appropriate verification; religious holidays with written request; subpoena for court appearance; AU sponsored trips with pre-approval; professor-approved). Arrangement to make-up the work must be initiated by the student and *whenever possible, made in advance*. If assignments are missed due to illness, a doctor's statement for verification of sickness should be given to the instructor within one week of the missed assignment. Other unavoidable absences from campus and class must be documented and cleared with the instructor **in advance**. For approved absences, an alternative assignment will be administered to the student in order to assess comprehension of the material which was missed during the absence/s. The alternate assignment will count up to the full worth of the participation points. Unexcused absences will result in missed opportunities to earn participation points and submit assignments.

B. Students are responsible for initiating arrangements for missed work due to excused absences. If arrangements for makeup work are not made prior to the student's absence, then the student must contact the professor to make arrangements within a week from the student's absence. Neglecting to contact the professor within a week to makeup missed work may result in a zero for the missed work. See <http://education.auburn.edu/files/file1610.pdf> for additional guidelines for which you are responsible.

C. Make-up exams will be given only for University-approved excuses as outlined in the Tiger Cub. Arrangements with the professor must be made in advance. Unavoidable absences for class must be documented and cleared with the instructor in advance. You may call my cell phone at 484-554-2524 even minutes before class to report your unavoidable absence. See <http://education.auburn.edu/files/file1610.pdf> for additional guidelines for which you are responsible.

D. Late work: Work for this class should be turned in on time. Without prior permission from the instructor to turn an assignment in late and/or a university approved excuse, no credit will be given for late work. With permission to submit late work (granted on very rare occasions), up to five points per day late may be deducted from the total points for that assignment. Your final project/paper must be turned in on time, as I have a limited time period to complete grading and submit final grades. Submitting your final

project/paper late without contacting me first is like not showing up for your final exam and may result in a zero for your final project/paper.

E. Accommodations: Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternative time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail at lisakensler@auburn.edu. Bring a copy of your Accommodation Memo and an Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Program for Students with Disabilities at 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

F. Honesty Code: All portions of the Auburn University Honesty Code and the Tiger Cub Rules and Regulations pertaining to Cheating will apply to this class. I will report all academic honesty violations or alleged violations to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee. *Please note that copying and/or pasting other individuals' work and then presenting it as your own (intentional or unintentional) is considered plagiarism and is in direct violation of the Honesty Code. Violations of the Honesty Code may result in a zero for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, suspension and/or expulsion from the university.*

Please note: I expect you to produce original work for this class. You may not submit work for this class that you have previously completed for a different class. If you have any questions, please see me prior to submitting your assignment. You will receive a zero for work that is reflective of another course's work.

Please see <http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/story.html?1149111436000133> and <http://www.auburn.edu/tigercub/handbook.html> for additional information for which you are responsible.

G. Professionalism: As faculty, staff and students interact in professional settings; they are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors as defined in the College's conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are listed below:

- Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices
- Contribute to collaborative learning communities
- Demonstrate a commitment to diversity
- Model and nurture intellectual vitality

H. Course Professor and Dissertation Chair/Major Professor Relationship:

The course professor will co-develop with the student the structure and support for students to develop momentum behind their writing. Basic feedback regarding writing style and organization will come from the course professor and colleagues within the class. However, it will be each student's responsibility to stay in touch with their

Chair/Major Professor regarding the finer details of their dissertation proposal content and especially their research questions and methodology.

Each student will be required to meet at least twice during the semester with their Chair.

LITERATURE REVIEW SCORING RUBRIC

Updated August 21, 2011

Category	Criterion	0 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 9
Coverage	A. Justified criteria for inclusion and exclusion from review	Did not discuss the criteria for inclusion or exclusion	Discussed the literature included and excluded	Justified inclusion and exclusion of literature
Synthesis	B. Placed the topic in the broader scholarly literature	Topic not placed in the broader scholarly literature	Some discussion of the broader scholarly literature	Topic clearly situated in broader scholarly literature
	C. Articulated important variables and phenomena relevant to the topic	Key variables and phenomena not discussed	Reviewed relationships among key variables	Noted ambiguities in literature and proposed new relationships
	D. Distinguished what has been done in the field from what needs to be done	Did not discuss what has and has not been done	Discussed what has and has not been done	Critically examined the state of the field
	E. Synthesized and gained a new perspective on the literature	Accepted literature at face value	Some critique of the literature	Offered new perspective and/or insights
Methodology	F. Identified the main methodologies and research techniques that have been used in the field	Research methods not discussed	Research methods mentioned briefly	Brief discussion of the research methods with some level of critique
Significance	G. Rationalized the practical significance of the research problem	Practical significance of research not discussed	Practical significance discussed in obtuse or cursory manner	Practical significance discussed in abstract and concrete manner
	H. Rationalized the scholarly significance of the research problem	Scholarly significance of research not discussed	Scholarly significance discussed in obtuse or cursory manner	Scholarly significance discussed in abstract and concrete manner
Organization and Style	I. Written with a coherent, clear structure that supported the review and research questions	Poorly conceptualized, unorganized, haphazard	Some coherent structure	Well developed, coherent, organized; fully supports the research questions
	J. APA style	APA style not followed	Minor deviations from APA	APA style followed

Note: Adapted from the rubric featured in Boote, D. N. & Beile, P. (2005). Scholars before researchers: On the centrality of the dissertation literature review in research preparation. *Educational Researcher*, 34, 3-15.

Action Plan Suggestions – Please note that each of you is entering the class at a different place in your individual progress. This example is just that, an example. Please develop your own action plan that will specifically meet your needs.

Action Step	January		February				March				April				May
Identify topic and general research questions that will guide your lit review –															
MEET WITH YOUR CHAIR TO CONFIRM TOPIC/RELATIONSHIP and SHARE YOUR ACTION PLAN															
Systematically collect literature; identify important previously published reviews; sort literature by empirical/theoretical and then by variable/construct of interest; aim for 10-15 strong, empirical pieces directly related to your core interest. Certainly, you will have many more references beyond these core!															
READ, READ, READ and write annotated bibs for at least your core empirical pieces															
Clarify the purpose of your research. Begin to think about and write your core research questions – Based on the research you have read, what is the next most important research to do?															
Organize your thoughts – develop an outline for your literature review ~ approx. 3 pages															
MEET WITH YOUR CHAIR TO REVIEW YOUR LIT REVIEW OUTLINE, RESEARCH QUESTIONS and TO BEGIN CONVERSATION ABOUT METHODS															
Write your literature review															
Outline your methods															

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET (Please print, complete what you can and bring to our class meeting on Jan 24)

NAME: _____ BEST PHONE #: _____

Dissertation Chair: _____

Topic: _____

You may add to the list of goals/benchmarks. Upon completion of your action plan, please submit a final student information sheet. It is your responsibility to regularly report your progress to me – at least once/two week period.

GOAL/BENCHMARK	DATE completed	Notes
Topic, purpose and guiding research questions clearly developing		
Action plan completed and approved		
First required meeting with Dissertation Chair; shared action plan		
Annotated Bibs complete for 10-15+ core empirical pieces		
Research purpose and core research questions clear and based on reviewed literature		
Approximately 3 page outline of literature review complete		
Second required meeting with Dissertation Chair; shared lit review outline and discussed methods		
Check-ins with course professor		
1 4		
2 5		
3 6		
Lit review and outline of methods complete		

