

## AUBURN UNIVERSITY SYLLABUS

1. **Course Number:** HIED 8950

**Instructor:** Dr. David DiRamio

**Course Title**: Dissertation Seminar in Higher Education

**Credit Hours:** 3 semester hours

**Class Meetings:** Thursdays, 5:00 - 7:45 pm, Haley Center Room 1454

**Canvas site:** https://auburn.instructure.com/login

**Office:** Haley Center 4096, phone (334) 844-3065

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1:30 to 3:45 or other days/times by appointment

**E-mail:** [diramio@auburn.edu](mailto:diramio@auburn.edu)

**Prerequisites:** Dissertation topic and advisor permission

**Corequisite:** ADED Dissertation Seminar

1. **Date Syllabus Prepared:** May 18, 2017 **(updated 5/25/17)**
2. **Suggested Texts:** Joyner, R. L., Rouse, W., & Glatthorn, A. A. (2012). *Writing*

*the winning dissertation: A step-by-step guide* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press. ISBN: 978-1452258782

1. **Course Description:** In addition to drafting a dissertation proposal, this course is dedicated to the craft of writing. While focusing on improving writing, students will become acquainted with the process of conceptualizing, proposing, and conducting a dissertation.
2. **Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, students will have:
   1. Continued building research support networks among cohort and faculty;
   2. Practiced and sharpened writing skills in anticipation of proposal;
   3. Refined the dissertation topic;
   4. Identified resources for conducting dissertation;
   5. Reviewed key dates and administrative processes for doctoral program; and
   6. Established areas of interest for ongoing doctoral journey.

# Course Content:

* 1. **Writing**
     1. Introduction and basics
     2. Enticing the reader
     3. Developing and using transitions
     4. Synthesis
     5. Brevity
     6. Basics
     7. “Top 20 errors by doc students”
     8. Practice
  2. **Conceptualizing, Proposing, and Conducting a Dissertation**
     1. Groundwork: Strategy
     2. Topic: Something worth studying?
     3. Research problem
     4. Capturing the literature: “Nomological net”
     5. Methodology and design
     6. Technology
     7. Stats and results
     8. Chapter Five
     9. References
  3. **"Pulling it all together" (Writing and the Dissertation)**
     1. Your committee
     2. Proposal defense
     3. The “Crate”
     4. Proselytizer vs. Researcher
     5. Human subject and the IRB
     6. A learning process throughout
     7. Key dates and timeline for doctoral studies
     8. Technology helps
     9. Defense

## Course Requirements:

* 1. **Regular attendance and class participation** are essential for successful completion of the course. Active and mature participation includes asking questions, sharing experiences, and contributing to the class community. You are part of a classroom community and the total learning environment depends upon the contributions of each individual. Absence must be handled like it would be in a professional position on campus: Communicated and planned for in advance. Since our class meets only once weekly, excessive absences (more than one, during short summer semester) may result in a lower grade for the course. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis, especially if negotiated ahead of time.

A successful HIED 8950 student demonstrates initiative in the area of participation. You are responsible for adding to the knowledge base during class by discussing input prepared and gained from your readings and coursework. The quality (not the quantity) of participation is important.

Students who come to class unprepared to discuss course material will be downgraded accordingly. All student voices are important, so please do not monopolize classroom discussion.

**Weekly:** Post a short commentary in Canvas about the assigned reading. Assigned readings are posted weekly by the instructor. Instructor may use your posting for discussion in class. You may also be directed by the instructor to react to another student’s posting.

**Weekly:** Bring to class information about a scholarly article or other “worthy” (non-peer reviewed) item related to your research topic. Be prepared to share the article with the class using structured inquiry, professional dialogue, and reflective thinking. Add the article reference and abstract to a document, week by week, in order to build an annotated bibliography (used to support your research topic and proposal).

## Dissertation Proposal.

Prepare a dissertation outline, a.k.a. the “proposal” including Chapters One (full text), Chapter Two (outline), and Chapter Three (outline), in accordance with information supplied in class meetings. This will include, but not limited to a research problem(s) to be addressed, preliminary literature review, identified conceptual framework(s) for studying your topic, proposed methodology and limitations.

Proposal shall be prepared according to the *APA Style Manual* (6th ed.)

## Grading and Evaluation Procedures:

The final grade for the course will be based on the following: Participation in

Discussion/Class Meetings

One-page reflections CITI / IRB Training

Annotated bibliography………..... 400 pts. Dissertation proposal …….………. 600 pts.

Total……………………… 1000 points

The following grading scale will be used: 900 - 1000 = A

800 - 899 = B

700 - 799 = C

600 - 699 = D

Below 600 = F

## Class Policy Statements:

1. Students are expected to attend all class meetings and participate in all classroom exercises (Tiger Cub, p. 73). Should students need to be absent for any reasons, please contact the course instructor before missing that class meeting.
2. Students are responsible for initiating arrangements for missed work due to excused absences (Tiger Cub, p. 74)
3. Students who need special accommodations should make an appointment to discuss the Accommodation Memo during office hours as soon as possible. If you do not have an Accommodations Memo, contact the Program for Students with Disabilities, in 1224 Haley Center as soon as possible. Telephone: 334-844-5943 (Voice T/O)
4. All portions of the Auburn University Honesty Code can be found in the Tiger Cub (Title XII) will apply in this class.
5. A grade of incomplete will not be given except under extreme circumstances as determined by the instructor.

## Important Dates & Deadlines

May 18 – Overview of Syllabus and Course Expectations

May 25 - No Class – Global Conference on Education and Research

June 1 - Dissertation Dissections

June 8 – Chapter 1: Introduction

Selection of a Topic / Guidelines Research Problem Statements

June 15 – Library Visit w/Mr. Todd Shipman –Lobby5:00p.m. June 22 – Graduate School Guidelines and Deadlines

Plan of Study – Degree Works

Preliminary Pages - Departmental Style of Writing Research Problem Statements (continued)

June 29 – Chapter 2: Review of Literature

DEADLINE: Preliminary Pages & Chapter 1: Introduction Due July 6 - Research and Study – No Class Meeting - Work on class requirements

July 13 – Chapter 3: Methods

DEADLINE: Chapter 2 Review of Literature Outline Due

July 20 - The IRB Process- Nikki Johnson, Office of Research Compliance DEADLINE: Chapter 3 Methods Outline Due

July 27– Chapter 4-5: Findings and Conclusions/Recommendations

Sarah Beckum - Graduate School Items and Resources

DEADLINE: Preliminary Pages, Chapter 1, Outline of Chapters 2 & 3,

CITI Tng Completed and Plan of Study.

**HIED 8950: Special Topics Dissertation Seminar Student Needs Assessment**

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail:

Area of Emphasis: (Circle One)

K-12 Higher Ed. (General) Student Affairs Community Colleges Leadership Technology

Other

# Courses Taken toward Doctorate:

Research Courses Taken (Instructor):

Who is your chair?

Who are your other committee members?

What is the topic area for your dissertation?

What method(s) will you use?

Are you familiar with the library system?

Have you begun work on your lit review?

If so, at what stage are you?

Have you completed/ Are you familiar with the necessary human subjects paperwork?

Have you selected the sample for your study?

If so, what is it?

Have you gained site access?

Have you started to collect data?

If so, at what stage are you?

Have you taken or plan to take your comps next year? When?

What is the expected date for dissertation completion?

What do you want to get out of this class?

Questions?