

Dissertation Design in Texts & Technology

ENG 6005 – 0001

Dr. Mel Stanfill

Fall 2020

Tuesdays 6-8:50pm
via Zoom
3 Units

Office: Trevor Colbourn Hall Room 236-D
Office Hours: via Zoom or phone by
appointment
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Webcourses

Course Description

Preparation for the initial stages of dissertation development, including planning, research question development, and methodology determination. Prerequisite(s): ENG 6812 or ENC 6720 or DIG 6825 or HIS 6159 or C.I.

Course Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Learn about what a dissertation is and isn't
- Explore organization and project management strategies for dissertation writing
- Build from previous research methods training to gain depth in a specific method
- Network with other students at the dissertation stage
- Gain basic familiarity with seeking research funding

Required Texts

Davis, Gordon B., Clyde A. Parker, and Detmar W. Straub. 2012. *Writing the Doctoral Dissertation: A Systematic Approach*. Third edition. Hauppauge, N.Y: Barron's Educational Series.

Foss, Sonja K. 2015. *Destination Dissertation: A Traveler's Guide to a Done Dissertation*. Second edition. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Miller, Alison B. 2009. *Finish Your Dissertation Once and for All!: How to Overcome Psychological Barriers, Get Results, and Move on with Your Life*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Single, Peg Boyle. 2009. *Demystifying Dissertation Writing: A Streamlined Process from Choice of Topic to Final Text*. Stylus Publishing, LLC.

Recommended:

Jensen, Joli. 2017. *Write No Matter What: Advice for Academics*. University of Chicago Press
Saldaña, Johnny. 2015. *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers Third Edition*. 3rd edition. Los Angeles; London: SAGE Publications Ltd.

Assignments

- 50 points** **Write Every day**
Students will consistently write on their dissertation topic. This can take various forms: 7 days a week or 5, formal writing or freewriting, etc. This writing will be logged in a Google Sheet linked from Webcourses.
- 100 points** **10x Weekly Questions**
In 10 weeks of their choice, students will write 3 discussion questions about the shared readings for the week. This is due 3 hours before class time to allow me to collate them.
- 50 points** **Methods Reading List** **September 1**
In consultation with their adviser and me, students will compile a custom reading list that provides a deep grounding in the research method they intend to use in their dissertation.
- 100 points** **Dissertation Pre-Proposal** **October 6**
Students will write a 1-2 page pre-proposal explaining the problem, research question, research design, categories of literature, significance, and chapter outline for their proposed dissertation.
- 200 points** **Funding Application** **October 20**
Students will locate a funding opportunity appropriate to their dissertation and prepare an application. This may be a fellowship or simply money to defray expenses such as participant incentives.
- 100 points** **Methods Presentation** **November 3-17**
Based on their custom reading list, students will present on the method/lead discussion in Week 11, 12, or 13.
- 100 points** **Annotated Bibliography** **November 17**
Students will submit an annotated bibliography of the sources on their custom reading list.
- 300 points** **Methods section of prospectus** **December 8**
Students will write a draft of the methods section of their prospectus, clearly articulating the method, data, and analysis.
- 1000 points** **Total**

Schedule

Week 1 - August 25: Who's afraid of the big, bad diss?

Davis, Parker, and Straub Ch 2 and 3

Foss and Waters Ch 1

Miller Ch 1

Single Ch 1

Identify the dissertation you will read in week 2 and work on your custom methods reading list

Week 2 - September 1: What is a dissertation?

Read the model dissertation you have selected. Pay particular attention to how it is structured and the methods.

Custom methods reading list due

Week 3 - September 8: Scope and Topic

Davis, Parker, and Straub Ch 6

Foss and Waters Ch 1 and 3

Single Ch 2

+ Read about 3 articles or 60% of a book from your methods list

Week 4 - September 15: Preproposal

Foss and Waters Ch 4

Single Ch 5 and 6

+ Read about 3 articles or 60% of a book from your methods list

Week 5 - September 22: Grant writing

Workshop: Josh Roney of the Office of Research

Bentley, Lisa Patrick. 2010. "Grant-Writing Tips for Graduate Students." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Grant-Writing-Tips-for/125301>.

Carlson, Maria. n.d. "Some Frank Advice on Submitting an Individual Research Grant Proposal in the Humanities." KU Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures.

https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/bitstream/handle/1808/4437/GrantHandout_mcarlson.pdf.

Golash-Boza, Tanya. 2015. "Getting That First Grant."

<https://chroniclevitae.com/news/968-getting-that-first-grant>.

Kelsky, Karen. 2015. The Professor Is In: The Essential Guide To Turning Your Ph.D. Into a Job. New York: Three Rivers Press. Ch 51 and 52 (PDF)

+ Read about 3 articles or 60% of a book from your methods list

Week 6 – September 29: Prospectus

Davis, Parker, and Straub Ch 8 and Appendix B

Foss and Waters Ch 6

VanBuren, Emily. 2015. "Path to the Prospectus | Inside Higher Ed." Inside Higher Ed.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/path-prospectus>.

Leonard, Leslie. 2019. "Producing a Finished Prospectus." Inside Higher Ed.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/producing-finished-prospectus>.

+ Read about 3 articles or 60% of a book from your methods list

Week 7 - October 6: Literature review

Davis et al Ch 7

Foss and Waters Ch 5

Single Ch 3 and 4

+ Read about 3 articles or 60% of a book from your methods list

Pre-proposal due

Week 8 - October 13: Analyzing data

Foss and Waters Ch 7

Saldaña, Johnny. The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers 3rd edition. Los Angeles ; London: SAGE Publications Ltd, 2015. Ch 1.

Friese, Susanne. 2017. "How to Make the Best of Codes in ATLAS.ti." ATLAS.ti (blog).

<https://atlasti.com/2017/03/16/make-best-codes-atlas-ti/>.

“NEW Updated Dedoose Support Video Tutorials! Part 1: Qualitative and Mixed Methods.” <https://www.dedoose.com/blog/new-updated-dedoose-support-video-tutorials-part-1-qualitative-and-mixed-methods>.

Getting Started with Orange 16: Text Preprocessing. n.d. Accessed January 26, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V70UwJZWkZ8>.

+ Read about 3 articles or 60% of a book from your methods list

Week 9 - October 20: Project management

Davis et al Ch 9, 11, and Appendix A

Miller 4 and 5

+ Read about 3 articles or 60% of a book from your methods list

Grant application due

Week 10 - October 27: Writing

Jensen, Joli. 2017. Write No Matter What: Advice for Academics. University of Chicago Press. Ch 4, 7, 10, 12.

Miller Ch 6

Single Ch 7, 8

+ Read about 3 articles or 60% of a book from your methods list

Week 11 - November 5: Methods Presentations

Week 12 - November 10: Methods Presentations

Week 13 - November 17: Methods Presentations

Week 14 - November 24: Self-care

Davis et al Ch 5

Foss and Waters Ch 11 and 12

MacPhail, Theresa. “The No-Fail Secret to Writing a Dissertation.” ChronicleVitaе, 2014. <https://chroniclevitaе.com/news/370-the-no-fail-secret-to-writing-a-dissertation>.

Miller Ch 3

Rockquemore, Kerry Ann. 2016. "Advice for Graduate Students Having Difficulty Finishing Their Dissertations."

<https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2016/08/03/advice-graduate-students-having-difficulty-finishing-their-dissertations-essay>.

Week 15 - December 1: Summing up

What are your concerns about the dissertation? How is that different from the beginning?

Reading TBD: What are the things about dissertation you still feel uncertain about?

Week 16 – December 8

Methods section due