

# Dissertation Design in Texts & Technology

ENG 6005 – 0001

Dr. Mel Stanfill

Fall 2019

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or via Webcourses

Tuesdays 6-8:50pm

TCH 0102

3 Units

## 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.

## 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.

- 100 points**    **Dissertation Pre-Proposal**    **October 8**  
 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.
- 300 points**    **Funding Application**    **October 22**  
 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.
- 150 points**    **Methods Presentation**    **November 5-19**  
 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. Students will read throughout the semester and then each present on the method/lead discussion for 1 hour of class time in Week 11, 12, or 13.
- 300 points**    **Methods section of prospectus**    **December 10**  
 Students will write a draft of the methods section of their prospectus in accordance with the requirements listed in the T&T handbook for clearly articulating the method, data, and analysis.
- 1000 points Total**

### Schedule

**Week 1 - August 27: Who's afraid of the big, bad diss?**

Davis, Parker, and Straub Ch 2 and 3

Miller Ch 1

**Identify the dissertation you will read in week 2 and compile your custom methods reading list**

**Week 2 - September 3: What is a dissertation?**

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

**No class meeting**

**Week 3 - September 10: 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 17: 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 24: 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](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. 2011. Dr. Karen's Foolproof Grant Template <https://theprofessorisin.com/2011/07/05/dr-karens-foolproof-grant-template/>

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

Week 6 - October 1: Prospectus

Cassuto, Leonard. 2011. "Demystifying the Dissertation Proposal." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Demystifying-the-Dissertation/128916>.

Cassuto, Leonard. "On the Dissertation: How to Write the Introduction." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 2018. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/On-the-Dissertation-How-to/243507>.

Davis, Parker, and Straub Ch 8 and Appendix B

+ more TBD

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

Week 7 - October 8: 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 15: Analyzing data

Foss and Waters Ch 7

+ more TBD

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

Week 9 - October 22: Project management

Davis et al Ch 9 and 11

Miller 4 and 5

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

**Grant application due**

Week 10 - October 29: Writing

Hedge, Stephanie. "Surviving the Dissertation: Tips from Someone Who Mostly Has," 2013. <https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/surviving-dissertation-tips-someone-who-mostly-has>.

Miller Ch 6

Single Ch 8

Thomson, Pat. "Three Thesis Writing Modes." Patter (blog), 2019. <https://patthomson.net/2019/08/12/three-writing-modes-for-the-thesis/>.

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

Week 11 - November 5: Methods Presentations

Week 12 - November 12: Methods Presentations

Week 13 - November 19: Methods Presentations

Week 14 - November 26: Self-care

Foss and Waters Ch 12

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

Miller Ch 2

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 3: Summing up

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

Reading TBD

Week 16 - December 10

**Methods section due**