

**Introduction**

This course aims to give students a full understanding of the dissertation process: How to select and refine your topic, develop your proposal, review the literature, develop your methods, collect and analyze the data, present and discuss the results, and get published.

On completion of the course, students should demonstrate an ability to define terms; state and write important principles; describe a variety of explanatory frameworks and apply sound principles to the planning, design or evaluation of settings for human occupants. They should be able to do this in relation to:

**Class Procedures**

This class will combine discussion and reading. The class has weekly readings listed below and a set of small projects building up to a research proposal (your final project)

**Required Reading**

Cone, J. D., & Foster, S. (2006) *Dissertations and Theses from Start to Finish: Psychology and Related Fields*. American Psychological Association. APA.

Belcher, W.L. (2009). *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks*. Sage.

**Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in the classroom. Plagiarism is passing off as one's own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. You are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even with the permission of that person. Any instances of academic misconduct will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (University Rule 3335-5-487).

**Disability Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Additionally, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter, so your disability can be properly accommodated.

## Evaluation

Grades will relate to student performance in meeting the above course objectives. Instructor will evaluate your performance in four ways for a total of 100 points:

- 1) Participation in readings and class discussion (10 points).
- 2) Get reviewer guidelines for journal of interest (10 points). Due Jan. 23 start of class
- 3) Preliminary research proposal (20 points). Due Feb 27 start of class.
- 4) Student reviews of preliminary proposals (20 points) Due March 13 start of class.
- 5) Final Proposal (40 points). Due Wed. April 24, Noon

## Lateness

It is important that you hand work in on time at the start of class. If you hand it in after the start of class your grade will drop as follows:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Up to 24 hours late     | grade drops one letter grade (e.g., from A to B) |
| More than 24 hours late | grade drops to an E                              |

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Wed. Jan. 9 Introduction to class, procedures, and student interests

Select journal of interest to get guidelines for reviewers from editor for Jan. 23

### Mon. Jan. 16 Background

Cone Ch. 1 What are theses and dissertations & why write a book about them?

Cone Ch. 2 Starting out: Assessing your preparation for the task ahead

Cone Ch. 3 Time and trouble management

### Wed. Jan. 23 Getting and refining your topic

Cone Ch. 4 Finding topics and faculty collaborators.

Belcher, Week 1 Designing your plan for writing (and complete boxes)

*DUE: Reviewer guidelines from journals of interest (for in-class discussion)*

### Wed. Jan. 30 Building the proposal

Cone Ch. 5 Formulating and communicating your plans: An overview of the proposal

Belcher, Week 2 Starting your article

*DUE: On your own, do four daily writing tasks listed in Belcher Week 1 pg. 1, and explained (pp. 11-19, pp. 19-40)*

### Wed. Feb. 6 Reviewing the literature

Belcher, Week 3 Advancing your argument

*DUE: On your own, do four daily writing tasks listed in Belcher Week 2 pg. 43 and described on pp. 60-64.*

**Wed. Feb. 13 Dealing with journals**

Belcher Week 4 Selecting a journal

*DUE: On your own, do four daily writing tasks listed Belcher Week 3, pg. 67 and described on pp. 93-96.*

**Wed. Feb.20 Reviewing the literature**

Belcher, Week 5 Reviewing the Related Literature

Cone, Ch. 6 Reviewing the literature

*DUE: On your own, do four daily writing tasks listed in Belcher Week 4 pg. 99 and described on pp. 112-136*

**Wed. Feb 27 Structure**

Belcher, Week 6 Strengthening your structure

*DUE: Submit preliminary research proposal (oral summary and written)*

*On your own, do four daily writing tasks listed on Belcher week 5 pg. 139 and described on pp. 163-168.*

**Wed. March 6 Methods**

Cone Ch. 7 Research methodology and ethics

Cone Ch. 8 Measurement

*DUE: On your own, do four daily writing tasks listed in Belcher Week 6 pg. 171 and described on pp. 185-186.*

**SPRING BREAK**

Mon. March 11 – Friday March 15

**Wed. March 20 Data collection, statistics, analysis**

Cone Ch. 9 Selecting the appropriate statistics

Cone Ch. 10 Collecting, managing, and analyzing the data

*DUE: Student reviews of preliminary proposals (written and discussion)*

**Wed. March 27 Presenting and discussing your results**

Cone Ch. 11 Presenting the results

Belcher, Week 7 Presenting your evidence

**Wed. April 3 Managing your committee, improving your thesis**

Cone Ch. 12 Discussing the results

Cone Ch. 13 Managing committee meetings: Proposal and oral defense

Belcher Week 8 Opening and closing your article

*DUE: On your own, do four daily writing tasks listed in Belcher Week 7 pg. 189 and described on pp. 199.*

**Wed. April 10 Getting feedback and final editing**

Belcher Week 9 Giving, Getting, and Using Others' Feedback

Belcher Week 10 Editing your sentences

*DUE: On your own, do four daily writing tasks listed on pg. 201 and described on pp. 209-218.*

**Wed. April 17 Presenting & publishing your research, job interviews, publishing, the job**

Cone Ch. 14 Presenting your project to the world

Belcher, Week 11 Wrapping up your article

Belcher, Week 12 Sending your article

Belcher, Week X Responding to journal decisions

*DUE: On your own, do four daily writing tasks listed on pg. 235 and described on pp. 252-256.*

**Wed. April 24 Final Literature Review DUE (Noon)**

*On your own, do four daily writing tasks listed on pg. 267 and described on pp. 268 for the final draft.*