EDME 533: Applied Research: Thesis/Project and Seminar
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Professor: Dr. Jan Dormer   **Course Dates: Aug. 25-Dec. 21, 2013**
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                                                              717-796-1800, ext. 7053
Faculty Availability: via forum, email and phone

Course Description
In addition to satisfactory completion of course work, the thesis or project will be a capstone experience for the Master of Education degree with a specialization in TESOL. Students enrolled in the thesis/project will be enrolled in a concurrent seminar. The faculty member for this seminar will broadly guide the students' research efforts and facilitate peer review, collaborative problem solving, and integration of program objectives into the students' research questions, methods, and discussions.

Program Objectives
1. Locate, evaluate, and apply appropriate educational research.
2. Reflect on current practice and adapt as needed.
3. Apply relevant research-based learning theories to educational contexts.
4. Analyze, evaluate, and respond to current trends and issues in education.
5. Conduct quality research to address issues in student learning.

THESIS OPTION: The thesis is an individual research paper which should meet the general requirements of a scientific publication. It allows for the treatment of empirical as well as purely theoretical or normative issues. The student will be fully responsible for deciding the topic/problem for discussion and method of investigation and for undertaking the research. The topic should lie within the area of concentration for those pursuing the master's only. Research can involve empirical data that may take some time to gather, analyze and document.

The thesis is supervised by a thesis advisor selected by the student from the core faculty in consultation with the academic advisor. The thesis advisor and the student choose one or two additional readers from the Messiah College Ranked Faculty. For research involving human subjects, the student must get approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to data gathering. Information about and forms for the IRB can be found at the following location: www.messiah.edu/academics/**irb**. Students who have not completed the thesis by the end of the term continue until completion by taking EDME 533 for 1 credit in subsequent terms.

Course Objectives:
1. Identify a topic to examine within the field of TESOL;
2. Apply scientifically sound, thorough and precise thought to the topic for given period of time;
3. Complete the different stages in the research process;
4. Consider how one's faith commitments inform choice of research topic, research methods, and discussion of findings.

PROJECT OPTION: The project should address a practical problem in the field of TESOL and present a solution to the problem. In contrast to an academic thesis, the project may, for example, take the form of

a curriculum plan for a specific course or a short article about teaching techniques for a teaching publication.

The project is supervised by a project advisor selected by the student from the core faculty in consultation with the academic advisor. The project advisor and the student choose one or two additional readers from the Messiah College Ranked Faculty. For research involving human subjects, the student must get approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to data gathering. Information about and forms for the IRB can be found at the following location: www.messiah.edu/academics/**irb**. Students who have not completed the project by the end of the term continue until completion by taking EDME 533 for 1 credit in subsequent terms.

Course Objectives:
1. Articulate a relevant problem to examine;
2. Conduct a literature review to illuminate the problem;
3. Apply research methods to collect data on the problem and its potential solutions;
4. Consider how one's faith commitments inform choice of research topic, research methods, and discussion of findings.

Textbook and Other Course Materials
Required:
American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Helpful APA Site: http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch09_s1-0002.html

Recommended:

Strauss, A. & Corbin, J. (1998). *Basics of qualitative research*. Sage Publications, Inc.

Wiersma, W. (2008). *Research methods in education: An introduction*. (9th ed.) F.E. Peacock Pub, Inc.

Sagor, R. (2000). Guiding School Improvement with Action Research, ISBN-13:978-0-87120-375-5

Course Requirements

The primary assignment in this course will be the completion of the research project or thesis paper. Within this broad task, students will be submitting multiple drafts of each chapter, and communicating very frequently with the thesis advisor. The advisor and student should meet face to face or via real-time video chat, or by phone, several times throughout the semester. Though a timeline for completing the various portions of the thesis is suggested below, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to plan the thesis or project work, ensuring that it is completed at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester, allowing time for final review and presentation of findings. A formal presentation of the work completed is required with a project, but is also encouraged with a thesis.

Written Work

It is important that your written work meet graduate level standards. Papers submitted digitally should meet the same criteria that hard copy papers must meet. Any paper you submit should look like you would want it to look if it were printed out. Please follow these guidelines:

- A typical page of writing is 12 pt font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Only a full page of writing counts as a page.
- Use APA style for citations and referencing.
- All papers must have your name and the name of the assignment at the top, or on a title page.
- All papers should have titles.
- Longer papers normally require headings, following APA guidelines.
- Grammar, spelling and punctuation are very important. Edit your paper well.
- Lack of clarity in writing, lack of coherence in organization or reasoning, and redundancy which extends the paper beyond its substance will all result in a lower grade. Creating and following an outline when you write can help you avoid some of these problems.

Feedback on written work

I will comment on your written assignments using the "track changes" function in Word. It is your responsibility to look at your returned papers, make sure you can see my comments, and initiate dialogue with me if anything is unclear. I welcome student questions or comments, by email, following up on my comments on your papers!

Grading

Drafts of Paper	40%
Final Paper	60%

A	93-100%	C+	77-79%
A-	90-92%	C	73-76%
B+	87-89%		
B	83-86%		
B-	80-82%		

Extra Credit – No extra credit options will be provided.

Late Assignments – Assignments are expected to be submitted on time. If you need to submit an assignment late, please notify the instructor to make arrangements.

Returned Assignments – Assignments are to be submitted via the Assignments tool in Sakai. Students will receive written feedback and grades in Sakai using the Assignments tool. Assignments will be returned with feedback within one week of the submission date.

Academic Integrity

Personal integrity is a behavioral expectation for all members of the Messiah community: administration, faculty, staff, and students. Violations of academic integrity are not consistent with the community standards of Messiah College. These violations include:

Plagiarism: Submitting as one's own work part or all of any assignment (oral or written) which is copied, paraphrased, or purchased from another source, including online sources, without the proper

acknowledgment of that source. Examples: failing to cite a reference, failing to use quotation marks where appropriate, misrepresenting another's work as your own, etc.

Cheating: Attempting to use or using unauthorized material or study aids for personal assistance in examinations or other academic work. Examples: using a cheat sheet, altering a graded exam, looking at a peer's exam.

Fabrication: Submitting altered or contrived information in any academic exercise. Examples: falsifying sources and/or data, etc.

Misrepresentation of Academic Records: Tampering with any portion of a student's record. Example: forging a signature on a registration form or change of grade form.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Helping another individual to violate this policy. Examples: working together on an assignment where collaboration is not allowed, doing work for another student, allowing one's own work to be copied.

Computer Offenses: Altering or damaging computer programs without permission. Examples: software piracy, constructing viruses, introducing viruses into a system, copying copyrighted programs, etc.

Unfair Advantage: Attempting to gain advantage over fellow students in an academic exercise. Examples: lying about the need for an extension on a paper, destroying or removing library materials, etc.

Penalties for Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy - A faculty member may exercise broad discretion when responding to violations of the Academic Integrity Policy. The range of responses may include failure of the course to a grade reduction of the given assignment. The typical consequence for violations will be failure of the assignment. Some examples of serious offenses which might necessitate the penalty of the failure of the course include cheating on an examination, plagiarism of a complete assignment, etc.

The academic integrity policy in its entirety can be found in the student handbook and should be reviewed by every student, as the primary responsibility for knowledge of and compliance with this policy rests with the student.
http://www.messiah.edu/offices/student_affairs/student_handbook/resources/0708/studenthandbook.pdf

Americans with Disabilities Act
Any student whose disability falls within ADA guidelines should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations or equipment needs necessary to complete the requirements for this course. Students must register documentation with the Office of Disability Services. Contact DisabilityServices@messiah.edu or (717) 796-5382.

Library and Librarian Assistance
The Library is an obvious source of information for many of your class projects. Currently, Beth Mark is the specific library liaison assigned to the education discipline. Although any librarian is trained and prepared to assist you, Beth works specifically with education and is most familiar with the resources and databases that relate to this field. Do not hesitate to contact her if you are having trouble locating specific sources for your assignments as she is more than willing to help you. For her specific work schedule, contact her directly at BMark@messiah.edu or by calling (717)796-1800, ext. 3590.
Click here for resources and databases that relate to this field

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments Due for Thesis	Assignments Due for Project
Wk 1	Intro to course	Read all documents	Read all documents
Wk 2	Intro to course and research process	Research Proposal	Project Proposal
Wk 3	Writing the Literature Review	Report on progress	Report on progress
Wk 4	Writing the Literature Review	Literature Review : draft	Literature Review: draft
Wk 5	Writing the Literature Review	Literature Review : final	Literature Review: final
Wk 6	Methodology	Methodology Chapter: draft	Methodology Chapter: draft
Wk 7	Methodology	Methodology Chapter: final	Methodology Chapter: final
Wk 7	Data Collection or Project Writing	Report on progress	Report on progress
Wk 8	Data Collection or Project Writing	Report on progress	Report on progress
Wk 9	Describing the findings or Project Writing	Findings Chapter: draft	Report on progress
Wk 10	Describing the findings or Project Writing	Findings Chapter: final	Report on progress
Wk 11	Describing implications of Findings or Project Writing	Implications Chapter: draft	Project: draft
Wk 12	Describing implications of Findings or Project Writing	Implications Chapter: final	Project: final
WK 13	Introduction and Conclusion	Introduction and Conclusion: draft	Introduction and Conclusion: draft
Wk 14	Introduction and Conclusion	Introduction and Conclusion: final	Introduction and Conclusion: final
Wk 15	Final editing	Submit thesis	Submit project
Wk 16	Presentation	Presentation of thesis (optional)	Presentation of project (required)

Statement of Confidentiality
"Students in online courses will be asked to post written work and to engage in written dialogue with other class members. The student should be aware that although confidentiality within the course environment is encouraged, it is possible that users in and outside the course may have access to course content."

Statement of Copyright Protection
"The materials on this course web site are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated."

Computer Requirements
Students who enroll in an online course must have basic computer skills including:

- A working knowledge of word processing
- Navigate the internet using different search engines
- Email (Compose, Attach, Send, Read)
- Utilize Microsoft Office programs (Word & PowerPoint)
- Copy and Paste

You must have access to a computer, the Internet, a web browser, and other software and hardware configuration as described below.

Current Messiah College students taking online courses will continue to use their established computer account.

Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements
- Internet Connection: High speed or Broadband required; Satellite Broadband not recommended due to conflicts with synchronous software; Air cards may not be used
- Browser:
    - Mozilla Firefox 3.0 or higher (required)
- Operating System Version:
    - Windows® XP (recommended), or
    - Windows® Vista, or
    - Windows® 7, or
    - MAC OS 10.4 or higher
- Processor (CPU):
    - Desktop Processor (CPU): Pentium 4 at 3.0 GHz or faster or
    - Laptop Processor (CPU): Centrino (or Centrino Duo) 1.5 GHz or faster
- Memory (RAM):
    - Windows® XP: 512 MB or more; or
    - Windows® Vista: 1024 MB or more; or
    - MAC OS: 1024 MB or more
- Hard Disk Space: 40 GB or more of free space
- CD-ROM CD-RW drive (DVD or combo drive helpful)
- Any Office Suite:
    - MS Office 2007 or newer, or
    - OpenOffice 3.1, or
    - Google Docs
- Webcam and headset (no speakers)

Computer Support
For your convenience, while you are taking an online course, "real person" assistance will be available in "real time" if a technological problem arises. Help is available 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, seven days a week, by the College's Information and Technology Services staff.

Weekdays – 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Mon. to Fri.

- Via instant messaging (IM) @ SCS5901
- By phone at (717) 796-1800, ext 5901
- Or via email at bthompso@messiah.edu or ResNet@Messiah.edu

Evenings and Weekends – 5 pm to 11 pm Mon. to Fri. and 8 am to 11 pm Sat. and Sun.

- By phone at (717) 796-1800, ext 3333

You will also have access to technical support (i.e. tutorials, help functions, etc.) through the College's portal, MCSquare, and also through the College's Learning Management System, CANVAS.