EDME 533: APPLIED RESEARCH: THESIS/PROJECT AND SEMINAR

Professor: Dr. Jan Dormer

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Office and Phone: Boyer 411, 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.

Curriculum Map
The fundamental educational task of Messiah College is to promote successful and meaningful learning and to help students attain the College-Wide Graduate Educational Objectives (CWGEOs), the Graduate Program in Education Program Objectives, and the objectives for each course in a student’s program.

The college and program objectives are measured through an assessment plan that allows the graduate faculty and college administrators to routinely evaluate and maintain the Graduate Program in Education’s effectiveness in meeting the required objectives. Student work samples are collected in accordance with the assessment plan and are anonymously evaluated using the assessment plan rubrics. You are invited and encouraged to read the objectives and assessment plan in the linked attachments.

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](http://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:**

Helpful APA Site: [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch09_s1-0002.html](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch09_s1-0002.html)

**Recommended:**


**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.

Research Certification
For this course you are required to complete the NIH Web-Based Training Program research certificate. You will create a login, then take the web-based course. It takes about two hours. A certificate is generated, which you must then send to Ruth Nutt in the Provost’s Office. Here is the link for the training: [http://apps.messiah.edu/portal/redirect.asp?id=InstitutionalReviewBoard](http://apps.messiah.edu/portal/redirect.asp?id=InstitutionalReviewBoard)

Grading

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drafts of Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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
My feedback on your written work is designed to help you develop in your thinking and writing. For this development to take place, it is important for you to understand the difference between feedback and editing. Feedback alerts you to the kinds of errors you are making; editing would correct those errors. For example, if you have errors in punctuating plurals and possessives, feedback will tell you that you have errors in this area, and editing would correct those errors for you. As another example, if you have a sentence that is unclear, feedback will tell you that a sentence is unclear; editing would change the sentence for you to make it clearer. My role as your instructor is to provide you with feedback, not edit your work. I will try to provide helpful feedback to you so that you can improve the quality of your papers, rather than repeating the same errors. It is your responsibility to find and use the resources you
need to improve your writing. I suggest the “Purdue Owl” website as an excellent writing resource, and have a link to this site on our Canvas course home page.

It is your responsibility to look carefully at your returned papers, make sure you can see my comments (you will find my comments on your corrected papers, in Canvas), and initiate dialogue with me if anything is unclear. I welcome student questions or comments following up on my comments on your papers!

COURSE POLICIES

Extra Credit
Generally extra credit points are not awarded in this course.

Late Assignments
All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the due date assigned. A 10% deduction in the points available for each assignment will occur for each day an assignment is late (unexcused). Failure to complete any assignment by the end of the course could result in the student failing the whole course.

Returned Assignments
Assignments will be returned to the student for review of the assigned grade. The assignment will include comments from the professor and an indication of the basis for the grade assigned. If students have questions about the grade assigned it is up to the student to contact the professor and set up a time to discuss the grade. Students may also ask for clarification about a grade through email to the professor within three days of receiving the grade for any assignment. All assignments will be reviewed, graded, and grades posted in the grade book a maximum of one week after the due date.

Academic Integrity
All work submitted for a grade must be the student’s own original, independent work, unless the instructor permits collaboration, use of sources, or outside assistance. (UC Davis, 2006)

The Academic Integrity Policy for Graduate Students is found in the graduate student handbook. Primary responsibility for knowledge of and compliance with this policy rests with the student.

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 (717) 796-5382.

Library and Librarian Assistance
The Library is an obvious source of information for research, presentations and projects. Beth Mark is the specific library liaison assigned to the education graduate programs. 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. Contact her directly at bmark@messiah.edu or by calling (717) 796-1800, ext. 3590 OR (717) 418-9584 (cell).
Writing Center
The Writing Center is available to any graduate student who has a desire to improve his/her writing. The role of the center is to provide feedback (not editing) on written work. Feedback alerts you to the kinds of errors you are making, lets you know when something is not clear, and suggests that you have not fully supported an argument. Feedback does NOT correct your grammatical errors, rewrite your sentences, or provide you with the specific points to support your argument. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to find and use the resources you need to improve your writing but connecting with our Writing Center, either online or face-to-face, is a good place to start.

Hardware and Software Recommendations
Student technology recommendations are found on the Information Technology Services website. These guidelines have been put in place to best equip you to have an optimal technological experience in our online programs.

Technical Support for Students
Technological support is available to all students during the days and times listed on the Information Technology Services homepage. Students also have access to technical support (i.e. tutorials, help functions, etc.) through the College’s portal, MCSquare, and through the College’s Learning Management System.

Statement of Copyright Protection
The materials in this Messiah College course are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be further disseminated.

Statement of Confidentiality
Students may be asked to post written work and to engage in written dialog with other class members within an LMS. 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.

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## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments Due for Thesis</th>
<th>Assignments Due for Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wk 1</td>
<td>Intro to course</td>
<td>Read all documents</td>
<td>Read all documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 2</td>
<td>Intro to course and research process</td>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>Project Proposal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YOU MAY NOT PROCEDE WITH ANY OF YOUR RESEARCH UNTIL YOUR PROPOSAL HAS BEEN APPROVED BY YOUR ADVISOR.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 3</th>
<th>Writing the Literature Review</th>
<th>Turn in lit review outline</th>
<th>Report on progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wk 4</td>
<td>Writing the Literature Review</td>
<td>Literature Review : draft</td>
<td>Literature Review: draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 5</td>
<td>Writing the Literature Review</td>
<td>Literature Review : final</td>
<td>Literature Review: final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 6</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>Methodology Chapter: draft</td>
<td>Methodology Chapter: draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 7</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>Methodology Chapter: final</td>
<td>Methodology Chapter: final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 7</td>
<td>Data Collection or Project Writing</td>
<td>Report on progress</td>
<td>Report on progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 8</td>
<td>Data Collection or Project Writing</td>
<td>Report on progress</td>
<td>Report on progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 9</td>
<td>Describing the findings or Project Writing</td>
<td>Findings Chapter: draft</td>
<td>Report on progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 10</td>
<td>Describing the findings or Project Writing</td>
<td>Findings Chapter: final</td>
<td>Report on progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 11</td>
<td>Describing implications of Findings or Project Writing</td>
<td>Implications Chapter: draft</td>
<td>Project: draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 12</td>
<td>Describing implications of Findings or Project Writing</td>
<td>Implications Chapter: final</td>
<td>Project: final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK 13</td>
<td>Introduction and Conclusion</td>
<td>Introduction and Conclusion: draft</td>
<td>Introduction and Conclusion: draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 14</td>
<td>Introduction and Conclusion</td>
<td>Introduction and Conclusion: final</td>
<td>Introduction and Conclusion: final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 15</td>
<td>Final editing</td>
<td>Submit thesis</td>
<td>Submit project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 16</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Presentation of thesis (optional)</td>
<td>Presentation of project (required)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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