

MB561 / 661 INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH DESIGN (4 units)

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DESCRIPTION:

This course is available to all who are interested in missiological research, but is designed primarily to equip doctoral candidates to prepare, critique, and implement a missiological Program Design appropriate for doctoral studies. Missiology is multidisciplinary and integrative of the cognate disciplines within the field broadly including theology, history, and the social sciences. This course introduces students to research design appropriate for missiological study. It also serves as an introduction to the School of Intercultural Studies (SIS) doctoral program, focusing on the structure, relationships, and objectives of the program: developing a research design that is both flexible and focused while providing a tool for communicating effectively with a student's mentor and guidance committee. Benefits include understanding how to search and critique the literature, methodological approaches, and proposal writing.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Gain an understanding of the research design process and the rationale behind it.
- Be able to apply this understanding to writing a defensible Program Design.
- Utilize the resulting Program Design to accomplish the research and writing appropriate for a Doctoral Studies program.

COURSE FORMAT:

The class will meet on the Internet using a 10-week lesson schedule aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each week students and the instructor will interact with course material and each other's work through journaling, threaded discussions, and web-based research. Sessions during the course will facilitate learning and encourage interaction with potential mentors and guidance committee members.

REQUIRED READING:

- Booth, C. W., G.G. Colomb, and J.M. Williams, *The Craft of Research*. U. Chicago, 1995 (Pre-course)
- Clinton, J. Robert. *Reading on the Run*. Altadena, CA: Barnabas Publishers, 1999.
- Elliston, E. J., *Introduction to Missiological Research*. Unpub. mss. Hope Univ. 1997 (Pre-course)
- Madsen, D., *Successful Dissertations and Theses: A Guide to Graduate Student Research from Proposal to Completion*. Jossey-Bass. 1992 or latest edition.
- Thomas, N., "SIS Writing Manual," Latest edition, FTS/SIS, 2003.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Babbie, E. *The Practice of Social Research*. Wadsworth, 1997
- Isaac and Michael, *Handbook in Research and Evaluation*. Edits Publishers, 1995 or latest edition.

ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments will emphasize the building of skills and thinking through a research design that will enable students to fulfill the requirements of a doctoral studies program. Further, assignments during the course will consist of processing the steps necessary to acquire research design skills, and presentation of a design for potential research. These presentations will be peer critiqued.

1. Prompt submission of drafts and other assignments (10%).
2. Reading (up to 3000 pages) – Book reviews, critiques and reading log (25%).
3. Mechanics – Format and style, library/internet searches and reporting, and Peer Critique (15%).
4. A final twenty-page (5000-6000 words) paper, not counting the bibliography, will emphasize a student's ability to apply course skills to research and writing in the SIS doctoral program (50%).

PREREQUISITE: None.

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM:

Elective for M.A./Th.M students. Required for all SIS Doctoral students. This course is not a specific research methods course and thus may not be used to meet "research methods" requirements in the doctoral studies program. *NO AUDITORS*.

FINAL EXAMINATION: None.