EME 7938 - IT Research Design Seminar  
Course Syllabus

Course Description
Provides Instructional Technology advanced graduate students with the opportunity to conduct an in-depth examination of the processes and procedures in applied IT research, specifically as related to the dissertation process. Students explore how to determine appropriate topics for IT research, format and style for research publications, strategies for conducting literature reviews, hypotheses, a research design, and appropriate statistical application.

Purpose of the Course
Students in this course will acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to conduct a dissertation research project, including selecting a topic, determining strategies for completing a dissertation, and building a framework for a dissertation.

Major Goals/Topics
Upon completion of this course, the empowered person and professional will have a conceptual framework that they can apply for a future dissertation or other research project.

Topic: Instructional Technology and Research
A. Analyze the components of IT Research Projects
B. Evaluate research topics for appropriateness and applicability to the field
C. Determine significance of research studies
D. Analyze potential research projects to develop strategies for conducting future research

Topic: Creating a Framework for Research Studies
A. Evaluate topics for dissertation work
B. Develop strategies for starting and completing a dissertation

Topic: Creating a Research Agenda
A. Create a framework for a continuing research agenda
B. Develop a preliminary proposal document that meets required elements of a future proposal

Course Assignments
Class Activities/Participation/Professionalism: Class sessions and materials will be presented both traditionally and at a distance. Class participation is critical for success of seminar classes. Students should be prepared for class and actively participate in discussions. (25%)
Dissertation Review: Each student will review at least two IT dissertations and will evaluate each dissertation in a written (1) and oral (1) review. The review, should, at a minimum, evaluate the study's:

- significance
- research questions
- hypotheses
- literature review
- research design
- data analysis
- procedures
- conclusions
- future study recommendations

Students should evaluate other elements of study that they deem appropriate and suggest improvements and provide general comments and suggestions of the study for discussion by others. (25%)

Proposal Draft: Students will create a draft prospectus that may provide the basis for their final proposal. Final topics and work must be approved by the student's doctoral chair. Students should work closely with their dissertation chair, in addition to the class instructor, to ensure that the area of study is appropriate for future work. Students must be aware that this draft is a preliminary draft of work and is NOT considered their prospectus. A final proposal will require additional revisions and approvals from committees when students actually write their prospectus, upon successful completion of preliminary examinations. (50%)

Evaluation and Feedback
Evaluation of all written and class work is based upon the instructor's judgment and knowledge of facts and conventions, legitimacy of reasoning, and rational processes used by students. Grade requirement minimum acceptable level includes, but is not limited to: thought processes, accuracy of knowledge presented, and quality of expression. Pluses and minuses will be given at the discretion of the instructor.

Grading
90-100 A/A- 80-89 (B+/B/B-) 70-79 (C+/C/C-) 65-69 (D)

Textbooks
Online Resources and Assigned Readings

# ISBN-10: 1433805618
*make sure you purchase the 2nd printing.
# ISBN-10: 0321081897  
*8th ed. is available but 7th is fine for this course.

# ISBN-10: 1412916798  
*earlier edition is ok here too.