

SYLLABUS -- CRD 260 THESIS SEMINAR

Time: Wednesdays 1:40-3:30
Room: Hunt 132
Course Number: 52810

DESCRIPTION

This class is intended to help masters students in Community Development and similar programs finalize thesis proposals and complete theses. Different students will be in different places in their process, but that's ok. We will collaboratively assist all participants at whatever point they find themselves.

Revised class format:

- We'll begin each class with a quick check-in from each participant on how their work is going that week, noting any issues that they'd like to come back to later, and soliciting quick advice from other class members.
- We'll then spend a few minutes discussing any questions or comments in response to the readings.
- For the remainder of the time, we'll either workshop student materials, or have work time.

If you'd like to upload materials to be workshopped, put them in the folder by that name under Files on the Canvas site by noon the day before class. Use a format such as LASTNAME - CH 1 - 10-9-23 REVIEW. **Please plan to review your classmates' materials the day before so as to be able to provide constructive comments.**

Office hours are Wednesday mornings 10-12, or by appointment. There will be a sign-up for 30-minute appointments on Calendly, at <https://calendly.com/smwheeler/office-hours-prof-wheeler>. If Wed mornings don't work, email the instructor.

REQUIRED READING

Creswell, John. W. (2023) *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Sixth Edition. Los Angeles: Sage.

Silverman, Robert Mark and Kelly L. Patterson. (2022) *Qualitative Research Methods for Community Development*, Second Edition. New York: Routledge.

Hess-Beber, Sharlene Nagy, ed. (2014) *Feminist Research Practice: A Primer*. 2nd Ed. Los Angeles: Sage. Available online through the Canvas Bookshelf tab (2 wk free trial) or vitalsource.com.

GRADING (letter graded)

Short Proposal: 10%
Abstract: 10%

Final Product (Thesis Proposal plus Outline, Abstract, Intro, Lit Review, Methods section, or other parts): 50%
Participation: 30%

CLASS SCHEDULE

- Class 1
Wed Sept 27 **Course Introduction & Student Suggestions**
Initial Check-ins
Brainstorm: Challenges to Completing Our Theses (+ Discussion)
Exercise: Understanding and Reflecting Back Each Other's Concepts
- Class 2
Wed Oct 4 **Discussion:** Skim Creswell Chapters 1-4 (Research Approach; Review of the Literature; The Use of Theory; Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations)
- Short Thesis Proposals** (Quite likely these will be condensed versions of proposals you already have. Include Name, Title, 3 sentences on background and need, Research Question, Theory, Method, Expected Findings, Outline w/ 3-6 sections. Even if you're further along, it can help to do this step again. **Please upload to Canvas Assignment 1 by noon Tues 10/3**)
- Class 3
Wed Oct 11 **Discussion:** S & P Chapters 1 and 2 (Qualitative Research & Analysis)
- Short Thesis Proposals (cont.)**
- Class 4
Wed Oct 18 **Discussion:** S & P Chapters 3 and 4 (Qualitative Analysis; Software)
- Abstract of your Thesis** (<200 words, including need, RQ, method, and projected findings. **Upload to Canvas Assignment 2 by Tues noon**)
- Class 5
Wed Oct 25 **Discussion:** S & P Chapters 5 and 6 (Interviewing; Focus Groups)
- Elevator Pitches** (< 30 sec. on why your thesis is interesting & useful, in a way that any lay person can understand)
- Class 6
Wed Nov 1 **Discussion:** S & P Chapters 7-9 (Online Methods; Content Analysis; Dissemination)
- Workshop Student Materials**
- Class 7
Wed Nov 8 **Discussion:** Hess-Beber, Chapters 1-3 (Feminist Research; Empiricism and Standpoint Theory; Feminist Postmodernism, Poststructuralism, & Critical Theory)
- Workshop Student Materials**
- Class 8
Wed Nov 15 **Discussion:** Hess-Beber Chapters 4-8 (Ethics and Feminist Research; What is Feminist Ethnography?; Action and Community Research; Feminist Approaches to In-Depth Interviewing; The Practice of Feminist Focus Groups)
- Workshop Student Materials**

Class 9
Wed Nov 22

Discussion: Hess-Beber, Chapters 9-13 (Feminist Media Research; Feminist Survey Research; Program Evaluation; Feminist Approaches to Mixed Methods Research; Conclusion: Putting Together Your Research Project)
Workshop Student Materials

Class 10
Wed Nov 29

Workshop Student Materials

Class 11
Wed Dec 6

Presentations (5-min presentations of proposals or research, with brief discussion)
Final proposal or draft thesis due on Canvas at beginning of class