

Research Design Seminar

Sociology and Anthropology 857

Section: D100

Term: 2008 Summer

Instructor: Dr. Jane Pulkingham

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Discussion Topics: This seminar is intended to provide graduate students an opportunity to learn about the research design process through the development of their own thesis prospectus. The seminar will be taught in a participatory workshop format and will be oriented toward students using qualitative and mixed method research designs. Topics covered may include formulation of research questions; literature reviews; development and articulation of theoretical and methodological frameworks; institutional and fieldsite ethical review processes, protocols and practices; issues in the negotiation of collaborative and participatory research relationships; time management; analysis and interpretation of research data, findings and/or experiences; effective written and oral communication.

Students are expected to read required material prior to each class meeting and to be prepared to discuss the readings and their own research in class, to undertake individual research-based assignments, and to develop a final version of their thesis prospectus, ready for defense. Class participants will also work in small groups providing peer support and feedback to their group members on individual assignments that lead toward the development of the final individual thesis prospectus. Students are expected to engage their own supervisory committee in discussion and feedback on the development of their thesis prospectus over the course of the semester. Successful completion of this course requires students to successfully present (MA) or defend (PhD) their thesis prospectus, as spelled out in the Sociology/Anthropology Graduate Studies Guide.

Grading: Individual Assignments--designing your own graduate research:

Bibliographic Annotation entries: 10%

Critical Literature review: 25% (20% for written submission; 5% for class presentation)

Peer-reviewed individual assignments

(3 individual submissions @7% each and 3 sets of feedback @3% each): 30%

Final Research Prospectus: 35%

All course assignments must be completed and submitted for a final grade to be assigned. Late

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assignments will receive a grade penalty (10 percentage points per day) except where a later submission date is approved in advance by the instructor.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).

Required Texts: John Creswell. 2003. Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches. (Second Edition). London: Sage.

Jennifer Mason. 2002. Qualitative Researching. (Second Edition). London: Sage.

Locke, L

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: SA 856 or permission of instructor.

Notes: All students are expected to read and understand SFU's policies

with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.