Course Title: Dissertation Proposal Development and Defense Preparation

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Course Description: This course is designed to guide doctoral students in developing, refining, and defending their dissertation proposals. By the end of the course, students should have a well-structured proposal ready for defense in front of the doctoral dissertation committee.

Course Objectives:

1. Refinement of the literature review and identification of research gaps.
2. Development of a clear research question or hypothesis.
3. Formulation of a robust research methodology.
4. Preparation for the proposal defense.

Biweekly Breakdown:

Weeks 1-2: Refining the Literature Review

- Activities: Feedback sessions on the draft literature review, identification of missing key references, and structuring it according to the dissertation format.
- Deliverable: Revised literature review with a clear delineation of research gaps.

Weeks 3-4: Framing the Research Question/Hypothesis

- Activities: Discussions and brainstorming sessions around the research gaps to develop a clear and compelling research question or hypothesis.
- Deliverable: A well-defined research question or set of hypotheses.

Weeks 5-6: Designing the Research Methodology (Part 1)

- Readings: Texts and articles on research design relevant to the student's field and topic.
- Activities: Workshops or discussion sessions on potential methodologies.
- Deliverable: Initial draft of the research methodology, detailing the approach and justifying its selection.

Weeks 7-8: Designing the Research Methodology (Part 2)
• Activities: Continued refinement of the methodology, possibly including pilot testing or exploratory research.

• Deliverable: A detailed research methodology section, including data collection and analysis techniques.

Weeks 9-10: Writing the Introduction and Rationale

• Activities: Structuring the introduction to provide context and background for the research.

• Deliverable: Introduction and rationale section of the proposal, which includes the importance and potential contribution of the research.

Weeks 11-12: Preparing for the Defense

• Activities: Mock defenses, Q&A sessions, refining presentation skills, and finalizing the written proposal.

• Deliverable: Completed dissertation proposal manuscript ready for distribution to the committee.

Weeks 13-14: Final Touches and Submission

• Activities: Last-minute refinements, feedback incorporation, and submission preparations.

• Deliverable: Submission of the dissertation proposal manuscript to the committee members.

Final Week: Reflection and Feedback

• Activities: Reflect on the entire process, gather feedback from peers and instructor.

• Deliverable: A reflective journal or brief report on lessons learned, challenges faced, and strategies for the actual defense.

Important Date:

• Two weeks before scheduled defense (around 11/23/2023): Submission of the dissertation proposal manuscript to the committee members.

Resources:

1. Primary texts available at UTEP Library
2. Q1 & Q2 journal publications
3. APA Publication Manual
4. PubMed, Web of Science, EBSCO & Science Direct
5. College librarian