

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

CLED 730

RESEARCH METHODS FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP I

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As the first of six sequenced research courses, this course provides an overview of the dissertation research and writing process. Students develop the foundational knowledge, skills, and disposition necessary for critical inquiry, research design, dissertation preparation, data analysis, data interpretation, and the evaluation of research results. The course focuses on the critical evaluation of research quality. Students learn to deconstruct dissertations as a way to understand the process.

RATIONALE

Critical thinking and reflection processes are crucial to both evaluating and creating research. The purpose of this first of six research courses is to guide the student in selecting, critically evaluating, and interpreting research. By studying good and bad research and by deconstructing dissertations, students will take the first step in the process of creating a dissertation worthy study and developing the skills of a researcher.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Word
- E. APA Style Central:
<http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=http://APAStyleCENTRAL.apa.org>

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Gain a foundational understanding and overview of the dissertation research and writing process by deconstructing example dissertations.
- B. Critically evaluate educational and leadership research studies as a discerning consumer of research findings.
- C. Gain foundational knowledge, skills, and disposition necessary for critical inquiry, research design, dissertation preparation, data analysis, data interpretation, and the evaluation of research results.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (8)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to the threads of at least 2 classmates. Each reply must be at least 200 words.

- D. Research Application Assignments (4)

The student will complete 4 research application assignments. The 4 assignments are a personal research SWOT assessment, research paradigms and profiles, research database resource search, and a dissertation review. Each assignment will vary in length, depending on the assignment requirements, and must be written in in current APA format.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

- A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (8 at 50 pts ea)	400
Research Application Assignments (4 at 150 pts ea)	600
Total	1010

- B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

D. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

E. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

CLED 730

Textbooks: Creswell, *Research Design* (2013).
Roberts, *The Dissertation Journey* (2010).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Roberts: ch. 1 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 50
2	2 presentations 1 article	DB Forum 2 Research Application Assignment 1	50 150
3	Creswell: chs. 1–3 3 presentations 1 article 1 dissertation	DB Forum 3	50
4	2 presentations 1 dissertation	DB Forum 4 Research Application Assignment 2	50 150
5	Roberts: ch. 2 Dissertation Readings 2 presentations 1 PDF	DB Forum 5	50
6	Creswell: ch. 2 Roberts: chs. 4, 8–9 2 presentations 1 article 1 website	DB Forum 6 Research Application Assignment 3	50 150
7	Creswell: ch. 4 Roberts: chs. 3, 10 2 presentations	DB Forum 7	50
8	Roberts: chs. 5–7 2 presentations	DB Forum 8 Research Application Assignment 4	50 150
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Modules/Weeks 1–7 begin on Monday and end at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday.
Module/Week 8 begins on Monday and ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.