

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

DMIN 820

RESEARCH AND THESIS DEVELOPMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course prepares the DMin candidate for an understanding and completion of the groundwork elements required to begin writing their DMin proposal. The course is designed to help students identify researchable DMin thesis projects, build sound arguments for a thesis through literature and biblical evaluation, and develop competent research skills to complete the thesis project.

RATIONALE

It is helpful to write in stages when preparing a DMin thesis with a solid thesis statement, sound research, verifiable conclusions, and a grounded biblical basis. These various skills are best learned in a scaffolding model where each is built upon one another. Once students grasp the elemental pieces of a DMin thesis project, they can then move into the actual writing and explication of those elements. This course begins with the basics components of a good thesis and quickly advances to thesis development using library tools for creating a thesis framework.

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 Office, Adobe Flash
- E. School of Divinity Writing Guide:
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Critically analyze biblical and academic literature related to his/her area of research.

- B. Formulate his/her DMIN project thesis statement.
- C. Present an understanding of the elements of a complete DMIN thesis project.
- D. Demonstrate a working knowledge of library research skills.

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 (2)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 300 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 200 words.

- D. Kuhne's Seven Questions

The student will reply to 7 research questions in at least 1 paragraph each that is related to his/her research project.

- E. Quiz

The quiz will cover the DMIN Handbook material. The quiz will be open-book/open-notes, may contain multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions, and has a 1-hour time limit.

- F. Literature Matrix (4)

The student will create four literature matrices, building upon the previous module/week's submission, adding 5 source related to the proposed topic per module/week.

- G. Revised Problem, Purpose, Thesis Statements

The student will resubmit the original problem statement but with revisions per instructor feedback.

- H. Self-selected Bibliographies

The student will read 2 books related to his/her proposed thesis topic and will report the bibliographic information on each.

- I. My Learning Journal (2)

The student will respond to a prompt and will complete a reflective journal based upon it.

- J. Review of Literature Analysis
The student will analyze a typical review of literature sample and analyze the content and structure.
- K. PPT and Review of Literature Draft
The student will submit his/her Problem, Purpose, and Thesis statements along with his/her initial Review of Literature draft based upon his/her Literature Matrix findings.
- L. Review of Literature
Utilizing feedback from the instructor, the student will revise and polish his/her Review of Literature for his/her proposal.
- M. Self-selected Annotated Bibliography
The student will compose an annotated bibliography of the two books he/she self-selected for this course and for his/her research topic.
- N. Memo to Myself
The student will evaluate and reflect upon his/her understanding of the requirement for completing a DMIN thesis project.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (1 @ 30 & 1 @ 50 pts)	80
Kuhn’s 7 Questions	70
Quiz	50
Revised Problem, Purpose, Thesis Statement	25
Self-selected Bibliography	25
Literature Matrix 5 Sources	50
Literature Matrix 10 Sources	50
Literature Matrix 15 Sources	50
Literature Matrix 20 Sources	50
Review of Literature Analysis	50
PPT & Review of Literature Draft	50
My Learning Journal (2 @ 50 pts ea)	100
Review of Literature	150
Self-selected Annotated Bibliography	150
Memo to Myself	50
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. 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

DMIN 820

Textbooks: Sensing, *Qualitative Research* (2011).
Kibbe, *From Topic to Thesis* (2016).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Sensing: Ch. 1 Self-selected Book 1: 1/3 DMIN Handbook 3 presentations 2 videos	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1	30
		Kuhne's Seven Questions	70
		Quiz	50
2	Kibbe Intro Self-selected Book 1: 2/3 2 presentations 2 videos	Literature Matrix 5 Sources	50
		Revised PPT Statements	25
		Self-selected Bibliographies	25
		My Learning Journal 1	50
3	Kibbe: Ch. 1 Self-selected Book 1: complete 1 presentation 2 videos	Literature Matrix 10 Sources	50
4	Sensing: Ch. 2 Self-selected Book 2: 1/3 1 video	DB Forum 2	50
		Literature Matrix 15 Sources	50
5	Kibbe: Ch. 3 Self-selected Book 2: 2/3 1 presentation	Review of Literature Analysis	50
		Literature Matrix 20 Sources	50
6	Kibbe: Ch. 4 Self-selected Book 2: complete 2 videos	PPT and Review of Literature Draft	50
		My Learning Journal 2	50
7	1 video	Review of Literature	150
		Self-selected Annotated Bibliography	150
8	1 video	Memo to Myself	50
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.