

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 880

RESEARCH AND WRITING OF THE THESIS PROJECT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the thesis writing process and how ministry is enhanced using current electronic resources. Students will be introduced to all phases of the d.min thesis writing process, including the thesis timeline, research, writing the thesis, and the finished product, including the abstract and the vita. Students will become familiar with the Thesis Manual and with resources available to them through the library and the Liberty University Writing Center. Use of electronic databases for ministry research and Turabian Formatting will be introduced.

RATIONALE

DMIN 880 sits at the critical juncture between course completion and thesis project research and writing. The course design guides Doctor of Ministry students through the dissertation process and provides direction regarding appropriate research methods culminating in a final written product.

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

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES¹

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

- A. Develop a thesis project Title, Topic, and Abstract as you familiarize yourself with the *Thesis Project Handbook*.
- B. Complete a draft of the five key components to the thesis project Introduction as outlined in the *Thesis Project Handbook*.

- C. Retrieve relevant information from digital resources employing acceptable library research methods.
- D. Complete an acceptable application to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval of your thesis project.
- E. Write at an advanced graduate research level using appropriate citation conventions set out in Turabian 8th edition and the *Thesis Project Handbook*.
- F. Explain the biblical basis for a Christian appreciation of acceptable research protocols and the pursuit of Truth.

Measurable Learning Outcomes tied to Program Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 4, and 6.

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 (4)
Discussion Boards are collaborative learning experiences. The student is required to create a thread in response to the instructor provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 300 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to one other classmates' thread. The reply must be at least 200 words. MLO: A, C
- D. Memo to Myself
After reviewing the *Introduction to Research from Christian Perspective* presentation, the student will write a one page single-spaced "Memo to Myself" about the importance of research within a biblical-theological tradition. The student will consult Swinton and Mowat, *Practical Theology and Qualitative Research* to complete this assignment. MLO: A, F
- E. Thesis Title, Topic, and Abstract
The student will follow the directions for developing a thesis Title, Topic, and Abstract set out in the *Thesis Project Handbook*. He/She will consult Kibbe, *From Topic to Thesis* to complete this assignment. MLO: A, E
- F. Thesis Project: Introduction
The student will submit a draft of his/her thesis project Introduction comprising five (5) sections as set out in the *Thesis Project Handbook*. The sections will be completed across five (5) modules. The Introduction serves as the prospectus or proposal for the student's thesis project and explains what he/she plans to do to carry out the study. Therefore, the student will write the entire Introduction in the future tense. Length and content guidelines for this assignment are in the *Thesis Project Handbook* and the student must follow its guidelines when preparing the Introduction for submission. He/She will consult, Sensing, *Qualitative Research* as he/she completes this assignment. MLO: B, E

G. Institutional Review Board (IRB) Application

This assignment serves as a means for becoming familiar with IRB requirements and expectations. Consult Sensing, *Qualitative Research* (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2) as you complete this assignment. It will be submitted in two parts.
MLO: D

IRB Application – Draft

The student will complete the IRB Application provided in Blackboard.

IRB Application – Corrected

The student will address all of the instructor’s feedback from the IRB Application Draft, before submitting the corrected version to Blackboard.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Memo to Myself	100
Thesis Project: Title, Topic, and Abstract	150
Thesis Project: Introduction (5 at 70 pts ea)	350
Institutional Review Board (IRB) Application	
IRB Application - Draft	100
IRB Application - Corrected	100
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. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LUSD Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

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

E. Course Changes

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

F. 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 880

Textbooks: Kibbe, *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research* (2016).

Sensing, *Qualitative Research: A Multi-Methods Approach to Projects for Doctor of Ministry Theses* (2011).

Swinton & Mowat, *Practical Theology and Qualitative Research* (2011).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Kibbe: chs. 1–5 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Thread Memo to Myself	10 0 25 100
2	Swinton & Mowat: chs. 1–3 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Reply Thesis Project: Title, Topic, and Abstract	25 150
3	Sensing: chs. 1–2 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Thread Thesis Project: Introduction - Part 1	25 70
4	Swinton & Mowat: chs. 4–5 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Reply Thesis Project: Introduction - Part 2 IRB Application - Draft	25 70 100
5	Sensing: chs. 34 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Thread Thesis Project: Introduction - Part 3	25 70
6	Swinton & Mowat: chs. 6–7 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Reply Thesis Project: Introduction - Part 4	25 70
7	Sensing: chs. 5–6 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 4 Thread Thesis Project: Introduction - Part 5	25 70
8	Sensing: chs. 7–8 Swinton & Mowat: ch. 8 2 presentations	DB Forum 4 Reply IRB Application - Corrected	25 100
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**.