

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis
ELPA 940: Dissertation Seminar
Summer 2008
May 27-August 12, Tuesdays, 3:45-7:00 p.m., Room 1158

Instructor:

Professor Carolyn Kelley
1282J Educational Sciences
1025 West Johnson Street
Madison, WI 53706
608-263-5733 (phone)
608-265-3135 (fax)
kelley@education.wisc.edu

Secretary:

Aaron Smeaton
1190 Educational Sciences
1025 West Johnson Street
Madison, WI 53706
608-263-6784 (phone)
608-265-3135 (fax)
ajsmeaton@education.wisc.edu

Office Hours:

For this course, I plan to establish weekly or biweekly meeting times with each student. If you would like to contact me between these meetings, I am available to meet in person or by phone by appointment. I am also happy to work through email. The best way to reach me to schedule an appointment is by email; I will do my best to check email daily during the weekdays. I check my voicemail infrequently, so you should contact me by email if possible.

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to advance your dissertation research. We will set a goal for the summer, and work to achieve that goal. Dissertation research requires significant commitment and initiative on the part of the student to achieve research and writing goals. It is a marathon. Be prepared to commit yourself to 2-3 hours per day to advance the work. I will do my best to provide prompt feedback and other supports that you might need to make significant progress on your work.

Pending University approval, I am planning to go on sabbatical during the 2009-2010 academic year and will be unavailable during that time. Thus, this summer will provide a unique opportunity to advance your research goals so that we can work together to ensure that my absence does not unnecessarily prolong your academic program. I will work with you to establish realistic benchmarks for completion with your personal goals in mind.

Course Requirements:

I will meet with each student individually to establish productivity goals for the summer, and will work with you to achieve those goals. Course grades will be based on progress toward and successful completion of established goals and your commitment to and investment in making progress toward those goals.

Accommodations:

Students move through the process of identifying and developing a research proposal at different paces, and with uniquely different obstacles and opportunities throughout the process. Consequently, I try to recognize and accommodate individual student circumstances in assessing student performance in this course. My expectation is that students will commit themselves to successful completion of course goals in a timely manner, while recognizing the need for flexibility to accommodate individual circumstances.

Recommended Texts:

- American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
- Conrad, C.F. & Serlin, R.C. (Eds.). (2006). *The Sage Handbook for Research in Education: Engaging Ideas and Enriching Inquiry*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Green, J.L., Camilli, G. & Elmore, P.B. (Eds.). (2005). *Handbook of Complementary Methods in Education Research*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Locke, L.F., Spirduso, F.F. & Silverman, S.J. (2007). *Proposals that Work: A Guide for Planning Dissertations and Grant Proposals (Fifth Edition)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Course Plan:

May 27: Whole group meeting/open house. We will meet at 3:45 to set goals for the summer, arrange meeting times, and discuss group and individual support needs. If you are unable to attend this session, please contact me by email in advance of the session to make alternative arrangements for this meeting.

June 3-July 1: Work on individual research and meet weekly or biweekly with professor. Whole group meetings will be scheduled as needed to address group support needs. I will be out of town June 15-23, but will be available via email or phone to answer questions or provide feedback during that time.

July 8: Weather permitting, we will meet as a whole group at the Memorial Union Terrace to celebrate successes, share advice, and hold one another accountable for continued progress and success. Mid-course evaluation.

July 15 – August 5: Work on individual research and meet weekly or biweekly with professor. Whole group meetings will be scheduled as needed to address group support needs.

August 12: Final meeting and celebration, details to be announced.