**DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH**

**Dissertation Research Coaching Seminars**

Saybrook University is pleased to announce that this summer we will be offering two Dissertation Research Coaching Seminars. These seminars are for students who would like to work on their proposal and/or dissertation over the summer but do not have access/oversight from their dissertation Chair/committee. These are NOT new courses but rather seminars designed to provide support over the summer while students continue to work in the dissertation course in which they are currently enrolled.

These 8-week, 3-credit programs are designed to support students at any stage of their dissertation research. The Dissertation Research Coaching Seminars will consist of 8 videoconference sessions (up to three hours each) that are divided into the three parts.

**Part 1** of each session will include a presentation by the instructor followed by a Q & A session. The following is a list of tentative topics to be covered:

Seminar I

* Dissertation topic, purpose statement, and research question
* Reviewing literature and writing a literature review
* Decisions about methodology, method and design
* IRB

Seminar II

* Data collection
* Data analysis
* Writing the dissertation
* Oral defense

**Part 2** of each session will consist of a check-in and coaching, as needed, with a focus on student goals. For students who will be collecting data under an approved IRB, this will satisfy the Federal requirements for faculty supervision during data collection with human subjects.

**Part 3** will consist of a guided exercise where students will have the opportunity to present their current conceptualization of their research and receive in-depth feedback on their work from the instructor and group.

Finally, students will have the opportunity to submit samples of their written work and receive feedback. A Canvas resource shell will be available with reference readings and videos and students are expected to attend all sessions.

In order to participate, students must complete the **Registration Form**, answer response questions, and create a timeline including goals with their Dissertation Chair. The questions, timeline, and goals will determine what the student will work on during the class.

\*\*The work that is produced does not necessarily mean that the student’s dissertation committee will approve it, hence the need for the student and Chair to develop specific goals.

**Dissertation Research Seminar I:**

From Formulating a Research Question to Writing Your Proposal and Navigating the IRB

This seminar is designed to support students at the beginning stages of their dissertation research. We will explore dissertation topic selection, creating a purpose statement, formulating a research question, conducting a critical review of the literature, decisions around methodology, method and design, and completing an Institutional Review Board Application. The seminar will also highlight the skills of graduate level writing, the use of APA style, searching libraries and databases, and critical thinking.

**Dissertation Research Seminar II:**

From Collecting Data to Completing Your Dissertation Defense

This seminar is designed to support students at the later stages of their dissertation research. We will explore issues related to data collection, data analysis, writing the dissertation and completing the oral defense. The seminar will also highlight the skills of graduate level writing, the use of APA style, and critical thinking.

Prerequisites: Referral from the student’s Dissertation Chair, Registration form with approvals, response questions, and timeline with goals.

**Dissertation Research Coaching Seminars**

**Registration Instructions**

1. Students can initiate the registration process if they feel the seminar will benefit them or a Dissertation Chair can suggest it to a student.

2. The Chair and student will discuss the student’s participation in the seminar.

3. If it is mutually agreed upon that the seminar would be of benefit, the student will need to read the article **The Research Roadmap: A primer to the Approach and Process** in preparation for filling out the form and answering the questions.

Burian, P. E., Rogerson, L., & Francis, R. (2010). The research roadmap: A primer to the approach and process. *Contemporary Issues in Education Research*, *3*(8), 43.

It can be access here: <https://www.cluteinstitute.com/ojs/index.php/CIER/article/view/226>.

4. Then the student will complete the Registration and Response Questions, Timeline, and Goals Form (below) with the guidance of their Chair. The Chair and student will sign the form below (Please keep in mind that this is an eight-week seminar so the student’s goals should be realistic).

5. The student will submit the completed response questions and timeline with goals to the Department of Research ([Research@Saybrook.edu](mailto:Research@Saybrook.edu)) by the end of the spring semester.

6. The Department of Research will review the form, contact the student and/or Chair if there are any questions, and then forward the form to the Program Director who will forward this information to the Registrar.

6. A student will only be registered in the Dissertation Research course for the Summer semester/term after approvals from the Dissertation Chair, Department of Research, and Program Director.

**Dissertation Research Coaching Seminar**

**Registration Form**

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Program:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tentative Title of Dissertation Research: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Course (check one):

Dissertation I: ☐ Dissertation II: ☐

Please provide the following:

1. A 1-2 sentence response to each of the response questions.
2. Create a timeline for the 8-week course and identify specific goals[[1]](#footnote-1) the student would like to reach including the specific kinds of feedback, coaching, support, etc. that the student and Chair are requesting[[2]](#footnote-2).
3. One to two paragraphs explaining the kinds of difficulties, if any, the student is experiencing.

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Dissertation Chair Approval** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Office of Research Approval**/**Instructors**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Program Director**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Dissertation Research Coaching Seminar**

**Response Questions, Timeline, and Goals**

Please make sure you have read the article *The Research Roadmap: A primer to the Approach and Process* by Burian, P. E., Rogerson, L., & Francis, R. (2010) in preparation for filling out the form and answering the questions.

1. Questions – Using the article, briefly answer the following questions in 1-2 sentences:

1. Denote your status within overall process of completing your dissertation (i.e. beginning proposal, collecting data, analyzing data, etc).
2. What is your current research topic?
3. What is your purpose statement for your research topic?
4. State your current research question(s).
5. Describe the status of your literature review and the focus (main topics) of your literature review.
6. Describe your chosen methodology and design (i.e. case study, ethnography, classic grounded theory).
7. Identify the tools and techniques you will be using through the research process (i.e. interviews, surveys, observations).
8. Explain how you plan to conduct the analysis process of data?

2. Identify 2 specific goals you would like to reach and create a timeline for the 8-week course describing how you will accomplish those goals.

3. In a few sentences explaining any difficulties, if any, you are experiencing and the specific kinds of feedback, coaching, support, etc. that may be helpful.

Example of sample goals and timeline:

Goals:

Design my literature search strategy, and search and retrieve the relevant literature.

Work on summarizing and critiquing the literature in my topic area.

Timeline:

Week 1: Develop literature search strategy

Week 2: Contact Saybrook librarian for support in literature search

Week 3: Search and retrieve the relevant literature (goal at least 10 articles)

Week 4: Review articles retrieved found last week. Summarize and critique relevant articles. Locate at least 10 additional articles.

Week 5: Review articles retrieved found last week. Summarize and critique relevant articles. Locate at least 10 additional articles.

Week 6: Continue finding and reviewing articles. Begin creating thematic table to organize literature.

Week 7: Continue entering articles into thematic table, identify holes and seek additional literature.

Week 8: Create a first draft of an outline for literature review.

Other Sample Goals

Write a draft of my literature review.

Select a data collection method for my study.

Understand how to implement the data collection method I’ve selected.

Select a data analysis method for my study.

Work on writing chapter one (introduction) of my dissertation proposal.

Work on writing chapter two (literature review chapter) of my dissertation proposal.

Work on writing chapter three (methods chapter) of my dissertation proposal.

Finish the first draft of my dissertation proposal and have it ready to send to my Chair for the Fall semester.

Work on my data collection.

Work on my data analysis.

Work on writing up my results for chapter four of my dissertation.

Work on writing chapter 5 (discussion chapter) of my dissertation.

Edit chapters one-three of my proposal for my dissertation.

1. Please keep in mind that this is an eight-week seminar so the student’s goals should be realistic. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The instructors of the Dissertation Research Coaching Seminar are available to support the student in carrying out the work planned with their committee. They cannot approve of changes to their overall plan. If students would like to change or modify their approved dissertation proposal, they must do so with their Chair/committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)