

Introduction to Advanced Graduate Studies and Scholarship

Details	<p>This course introduces students to the principal elements of research and scholarly writing. Learners explore approaches to synthesizing literature and the application of the major components of APA form and style, and learn to coordinate literature searches. Furthermore, they learn how to discern principal arguments, analyze research questions, and clearly identify the key scholarly attributes to journal articles and other sources of scholarly data. This course also introduces learners to the University's overarching values and beliefs regarding research and the responsibility scholars have in continuing a tradition of contributing to an ever-growing body of knowledge.</p>
Credit Hours	3.0
PreRequisites	
coRequisites	
Course Add-Ons	<p>Additional Material</p> <p>Textbook Find Your Purpose: The Path to a Successful Doctoral Experience DiVincenzo, A. (Ed.). (2014). Find your purpose: The path to a successful doctoral experience. Phoenix, AZ: Grand Canyon University.</p> <p>http://lc.gcumedia.com/res811/find-your-purpose-the-path-to-a-successful-doctoral-experience/v1.1/</p> <p>Other Discussion Forum Philosophy Review "Discussion Forum Philosophy" and use it to guide the completion of your participation in the Main Forum.</p> <p>Other Library Resources for Doctoral Learners If you have not done so already, view the "Library Resources for Doctoral Learners" tutorial.</p> <p>http://lc.gcumedia.com/zwebassets/courseMaterialPages/res811_libraryTutorial.php</p> <p>Other DC Network Beginning in the third course of your program, you will be able to use the DC to: &bull; Locate dissertation forms and templates. &bull; Discuss dissertation topics and resources. &bull; Connect to the scholarly community.</p>

<http://dc.gcu.edu>

Other

Suggestions for Further Reading and Inquiry
This document contains items that may be of personal or research interest but are not required for successful completion of this course. Some items may not be available in the GCU Library.

Other

Empirical Research Checklist
Use this as a resource to determine if an article is empirical research.

Electronic Resource

Interactive Doctoral Glossary
Use this interactive glossary to familiarize yourself with the terms and definitions employed in doctoral study.

http://lc.gcumedia.com/zwebassets/courseMaterialPages/res850_doctoral-glossary-and-flash-card-v1.1.php

Topics

Topic 1: The Doctoral Identity

Duration: 7 days

Description:

Objectives:

1. Analyze impending changes to identity and mindset.
2. Articulate expectations for doctoral learners.

Topic Material:

Textbook

1. Find Your Purpose: The Path to a Successful Doctoral Experience
Review chapters 1 and 2. Read chapter 3.

Other

3. Optional: LitAssist
LitAssist is referenced in your course textbook. You can register for a free version of LitAssist using the software key shown below. Please be sure to use your gcu.edu email address. RTy9lQmzU+Hn+RC5eSL/xYDGRjqU+RXHXnsXF96uNE= Note: Access and use of LitAssist is not required for successful completion of this course.

Lecture Note

4. Topic 1 Overview
Read Topic 1 Overview.

Topic 2: Effective Research

Duration: 7 days

Description:

Objectives:

1. Apply information literacy skills to locate and interpret academic literature.
2. Differentiate among forms of academic literature.

Topic Material:

Textbook

1. Find Your Purpose: The Path to a Successful Doctoral Experience
Read chapter 4.

Electronic Resource

5. Finding Empirical Research Articles
View: Finding Empirical Research Articles.

Lecture Note

6. Topic 2 Overview
Read Topic 2 Overview.

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
Assignment	<p>Annotated Bibliography: Doctoral Identity</p> <p>Annotations are descriptive and critical assessments of literature that help researchers to evaluate texts and determine relevancy in relation to a particular research project. Ultimately, they are a note-taking tool that fosters critical thinking, demonstrates understanding, and evaluates the source material for possible later use. In this assignment, you will read and annotate three articles.</p> <p>General Requirements:</p> <p>Locate the articles by Baker and Pifer (2011), Gardner (2009), and Smith and Hatmaker (2014).</p> <p>This assignment uses a rubric. Review the rubric prior to beginning the assignment to become familiar with the expectations for successful completion. Doctoral learners are required to use APA style for their writing assignments. Review the GCU APA Style Guide for Writing located in the Student Success Center. Note: A title page is required for this assignment, but a reference page is not required since the references are included with the annotations.</p>	150.0

Refer to the resource, "Preparing Annotated Bibliographies" located in the Student Success Center, for additional guidance on completing this assignment in the appropriate style. Use "Sample APA Annotated Bibliography" example in this resource. You are required to submit this assignment to Turnitin. Refer to the directions in the Student Success Center.

Directions:

Read the articles by Baker & Pifer (2011), Gardner (2009), and Smith & Hatmaker (2014). These articles and the persistent links to them are located in the Course Materials for Topic 2. Provide an annotated bibliography (750-900 words total, excluding the reference notes) of the articles. Including the following for each article:

A reference note formatted according to APA style guidelines. The reference note is not included in the total word count.

An annotation (250-300 words) of the article. Annotations are descriptive and critical assessments of peer reviewed articles. Annotations summarize the key concepts and evaluate the article for its strengths and weaknesses. Why was the study conducted? What was the population studied? What did the researcher(s) conclude? What other information about this study do you believe is unique or important to recall? Are there specific statements made by the author you wish to retain?

Discussion Question

Module 2 DQ 2

6.0

Research is connected and personal and it is important for learners to recognize their subject position, in order to critically evaluate data, as well as communicate their subject position within a research study to

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
	<p>minimize bias. Grand Canyon University supports academic and spiritual growth with the belief that the combination of the two will make a positive impact on scholarship and the individual.</p> <p>How might worldview influence the role as a scholar and researcher?</p> <p>How can a worldview, Christian or otherwise, enrich research through a union of faith and academics? How might one handle perspectives, topics, and research that may challenge his or her worldview?</p>	
Discussion Question	<p>Module 2 DQ 1</p> <p>Doctoral learners must become information-literate individuals who are able to locate, identify, evaluate, and organize research. In Topic 8, you are required to find five empirical research studies from peer reviewed journals on your dissertation research interests. Discuss your process for conducting a search. What resources will you use to explore the literature in your field and how will you evaluate the quality of the articles selected?</p>	6.0
Participation		18.0

Topic 3: Scholarly Communication: Process and Style

Duration: 7 days

Description:

Objectives:

1. Support the necessity of applying the writing process to scholarly communication.
2. Assess the utility of a style guide in scholarly communication.

Topic Material:

Textbook

1. Find Your Purpose: The Path to a Successful Doctoral Experience

Read the following sections of chapter 7: Introduction The Writing Process Using a Style Guide Building Blocks of a Paper Read the following sections of chapter 8: Introduction Proofreading and Editing Turnitin and Plagiarism

Website

6. GCU Learning Lounge

Explore the Learning Lounge website.

Other

7. Synthesis Worksheet

Use this to complete the Synthesis Worksheet assignment.

Lecture Note

8. Topic 3 Overview

Read Topic 3 Overview.

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
Assignment	<p data-bbox="416 387 1166 875">Synthesis Worksheet: Doctoral Identity Synthesis is the act of creating something new from multiple existing entities. Synthesis of research, then, is creating a new idea from existing ideas. This assignment is designed to help you identify how themes can emerge from reading literature and how you can synthesize this information in a way that creates new knowledge. You will use your understandings of the Topic 2 readings to complete a synthesis worksheet.</p> <p data-bbox="416 887 815 916">General Requirements:</p> <p data-bbox="416 960 1150 1066">This assignment will be used as a pre-writing activity for the synthesis paper in Topic 5.</p> <p data-bbox="416 1077 1110 1182">Locate and download "Synthesis Worksheet" from the Course Materials for this topic.</p> <p data-bbox="416 1193 1166 1335">Review the articles by Baker & Pifer (2011), Gardner (2009), and Smith & Hatmaker (2014) located in the Course Materials for this topic.</p> <p data-bbox="416 1346 1166 1487">This assignment uses a rubric. Review the rubric prior to beginning the assignment to become familiar with the expectations for successful completion.</p> <p data-bbox="416 1498 1134 1682">Doctoral learners are required to use APA style for their writing assignments. Review the GCU APA Style Guide for Writing located in the Student Success Center.</p> <p data-bbox="416 1727 624 1756">Directions:</p> <p data-bbox="416 1767 1110 1984">Complete the Synthesis Worksheet for the articles by Baker & Pifer (2011), Gardner (2009), and Smith & Hatmaker (2014). The completed worksheet will include the following sections:</p> <p data-bbox="416 2029 1086 2098">An Introduction that introduces and provides context for the topic,</p>	150.0

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
	<p>presents three common themes that emerged from the readings, and provides organization for the paper with a thesis statement.</p> <p>A description of the evidence to support three common themes that emerged from the articles. Since this is likely your first experience with this depth of synthesis, we have provided two of the themes found in the articles. Your task is to identify a third theme and to provide evidence from each article for all three common themes.</p> <p>A conclusion where you will return to your thesis and provide evidence showing you successfully addressed your thesis statement. Discuss the connections that you made from the evidence and how each theme emerged from the central topic of doctoral identity.</p>	
<p>Discussion Question</p>	<p>Module 3 DQ 1</p> <p>The primary method professors use to evaluate your ability to absorb and synthesize content is for you to write papers that demonstrate your understanding of various research topics, concepts, and frameworks. Doctoral level writing is distinct from other forms of communication you may have encountered. This shift in process and style helps learners to develop a doctoral identity that will foster productive relationships with faculty and committee members and, ultimately, contribute to a completed dissertation. Discuss how writing process and style help form a doctoral identity. What specific strategies and resources can you use to improve your academic writing?</p>	<p>6.0</p>
<p>Discussion Question</p>	<p>Module 3 DQ 2</p> <p>A prepared student is a successful student. Usually, it starts with time management, organization, and dedication to the writing process, but also includes the successful execution of format and style. Applying APA style and formatting is the last step in the writing process, but is</p>	<p>6.0</p>

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
	seems to be a source of great stress and anxiety for learners. APA style is not the research but rather the documentation of the research. What is the purpose of a style guide in scholarly communication? How can APA style enhance your communication with readers? What specific strategies and resources can you use to improve your skill in using APA style?	
Participation		18.0

Topic 4: Scholarly Communication: Expression

Duration: 7 days

Description:

Objectives:

1. Apply appropriate voice in academic writing.
2. Apply appropriate tone in academic writing.

Topic Material:

Textbook

1. Find Your Purpose: The Path to a Successful Doctoral Experience

Read the following sections of chapter 7: • Voice • Tone

Lecture Note

3. Topic 4 Overview

Read Topic 4 Overview.

Topic 5: Critical Thinking: The Means to Inquire

Duration: 7 days

Description:

Objectives:

1. Analyze the skills of comparison, contrast, and synthesis.
2. Affirm the necessity of preparing an outline before writing.

Topic Material:

Textbook

1. Find Your Purpose: The Path to a Successful Doctoral Experience

Read chapter 6.

Electronic Resource

2. Critical Thinking in E-Learning Environments

Read: Saade, R. G., Morin, D., & Thomas, J. D. E. (2012). Critical thinking in e-learning environments. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 28(5), 1608-1617.

Other

6. Synthesis Paper Template

Use this to complete the Synthesis Paper assignment.

Lecture Note

7. Topic 5 Overview

Read Topic 5 Overview.

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
Assignment	<p data-bbox="416 387 1169 1182">Synthesis Paper: Doctoral Identity In Topic 2, you were asked to read three articles on the topic of doctoral identity and to complete an annotated bibliography to demonstrate their understanding of the material. In Topic 3, you were asked to take this process a step further and identify themes found in the three articles and to complete a synthesis worksheet where the themes were supported by evidence from each article. In this assignment, you will build on your worksheet efforts and write a paper about the three themes. The narrative will not only present the evidence from the articles to support the identified themes, but also will provide an analysis for each theme by synthesizing the information collected. General Requirements:</p> <p data-bbox="416 1227 1169 2058">Locate the Synthesis Worksheet you completed in Topic 3. Locate and download "Synthesis Paper Template" from the Course Materials for this topic. Review the articles by Baker & Pifer (2011), Gardner (2009), and Smith & Hatmaker (2014) located in the Course Materials for this topic. This assignment uses a rubric. Review the rubric prior to beginning the assignment to become familiar with the expectations for successful completion. Doctoral learners are required to use APA style for their writing assignments. Review the GCU APA Style Guide for Writing located in the Student Success Center. You are required to submit this assignment to Turnitin. Refer to the directions in the Student Success Center.</p>	200.0

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
	<p>Directions:</p> <p>Using the Synthesis Worksheet you completed in Topic 3 and considering the themes you developed and the feedback provided by your instructor, write a paper (1,000-1,250 words) that synthesizes the three articles. Your paper should include the following:</p> <p>An introduction that introduces and provides context for the topic. This includes giving a brief description of each article and its purpose, identifying the three themes that emerged from your reading, describing how they will be discussed in the paper, and presenting a clear thesis statement.</p> <p>Support for your identified themes with evidence from each article. Provide analysis of these findings to strengthen your narrative.</p> <p>A discussion of the conclusions that can be drawn when the articles are taken together as a single entity. What is the overall message of the group of articles?</p>	
<p>Discussion Question</p>	<p>Module 5 DQ 2</p> <p>Saade, Morin, and Thomas. (2012) describe critical thinking as the mental processes of discernment, analysis, and evaluation applied to information in order to achieve a logical final understanding and/or judgment. Describe your approach to breaking down information into component parts to better understand the characteristics of a statement, concept, or problem. How might outlining help to develop understanding? How do you know when to reach beyond previous experience and seek out other sources of information to enhance your understanding of the work in front of you?</p>	<p>6.0</p>
<p>Discussion Question</p>	<p>Module 5 DQ 1</p> <p>Critical thinking is one of many vital skills that learners must develop in order to successfully examine research, analyze data, and complete a dissertation. Consider</p>	<p>6.0</p>

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
	the characteristics and practices associated with the skill of critical thinking. Which of these are more or less beneficial or important than others? How does synthesis integrate into your view of critical thinking? (This response does not require research support.)	
Participation		18.0

Topic 6: The Nature of Inquiry

Duration: 7 days

Description:

Objectives:

1. Assess the importance of questioning/scientific inquiry.
2. Analyze the nature of scholarly research.

Topic Material:

Textbook

1. Find Your Purpose: The Path to a Successful Doctoral Experience
Read chapter 5.

Electronic Resource

3. Initial Course Survey

In an effort for continuous improvement, Grand Canyon University would like you to take this opportunity to provide feedback about your experience with the university. Your participation is appreciated. Click on the link to begin the survey.

Lecture Note

4. Topic 6 Overview

Read Topic 6 Overview.

Topic 7: Academic Integrity and Originality

Duration: 7 days

Description:

Objectives:

1. Connect the concepts of paraphrasing, original thought, and academic integrity.
2. Apply tools to assess the originality of academic writing.

Topic Material:

Textbook

1. Find Your Purpose: The Path to a Successful Doctoral Experience

Read the following section of chapter 7: Paraphrasing vs. Quoting Read the following section of chapter 8: Turnitin and Plagiarism

Other

6. Enhanced Synthesis Paper Template

Use this to complete the Enhanced Synthesis Paper assignment.

Other

7. Enhanced Synthesis Paper Resources

Use this to assist with the Enhanced Synthesis Paper assignment.

Lecture Note

8. Topic 7 Overview

Read Topic 7 Overview.

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
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Assignment	<p>Enhanced Synthesis Paper: Doctoral Identity</p> <p>Synthesis is the act of creating something new from multiple existing entities. Synthesis of research, then, is creating a new idea from existing ideas. Synthesis of research is not a single innate skill. Rather, it is a process learned through time and practice. At the doctoral level, writing is a continual process of revision as learners improve skills and build subject matter expertise.</p> <p>In Topic 5, you submitted a Synthesis Paper and received both feedback from your instructor and a grade for your work. In this assignment, you will expand upon your original paper with additional research from outside sources, incorporate feedback from your instructor, and provide a reflection section addressing your revision process.</p> <p>General Requirements:</p> <p>Locate the Synthesis Paper you completed in Topic 5.</p> <p>Locate and download "Enhanced Synthesis Paper Template" from the Course Materials for this topic.</p> <p>Locate and download "Enhanced Synthesis Paper Resources" from the Course Materials for this topic.</p> <p>Review the articles by Baker and Pifer (2011), Gardner (2009), and Smith and Hatmaker (2014) located in the Course Materials for this topic.</p> <p>This assignment uses a rubric. Review the rubric prior to beginning the assignment to become familiar with the expectations for successful completion.</p>	210.0
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Doctoral learners are required to use APA style for their writing assignments. Review the GCU APA Style Guide for Writing located in the Student Success Center.

You are required to submit this assignment to Turnitin. Refer to the directions in the Student Success Center.

Directions:

Select and read two articles from the Enhanced Synthesis Paper Resources list located in the Course Materials for this topic.

Locate the Synthesis Paper you completed in Topic 5. Using the feedback provided by your instructor and information from the two additional articles you selected, write an Enhanced Synthesis Paper with Reflection (1,250-1,800 words). Include the following in your paper:

A Reflection (250-300 words) that discusses your revision process and how you incorporated your instructor's feedback into the revised version. Similar to the format of an abstract, this section will receive its own page following the title page and preceding the Introduction.

An introduction that includes a brief description of each article and its purpose, identifies the three themes that emerged from your reading, describes how they will be discussed in the paper, and presents a clear thesis statement.

Support for your identified themes with evidence from each article.

Provide analysis of these findings to strengthen your narrative.

A discussion of the conclusions that can be drawn when the articles are taken together as a single entity. What is the overall message of the group of articles?

Discussion
Question

Module 7 DQ 1

6.0

Doctoral learners becoming researcher/scholars must be able to produce

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
	original, written academic works and to evaluate the calibre and originality of their writing and the writing of others. At the same time, all research has its foundation in other research. How can you as a doctoral level researcher balance producing your own original research with recognizing and crediting the works you use as your research foundation?	
Discussion Question	Module 7 DQ 2 GCU places great importance on academic integrity based in the Christian worldview. How will you go about utilizing sound habits and behaviors to prevent plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, in your coursework, doctoral writing, and ultimately your dissertation research? What temptations might doctoral students encounter that would challenge their ethics? How does your worldview influence your adherence to academic integrity?	6.0
Participation		18.0

Topic 8: The Doctoral Journey

Duration: 7 days

Description:

Objectives:

1. Articulate milestones in the doctoral journey.
2. Evaluate opportunities to internalize and express a worldview.

Topic Material:

Textbook

1. Find Your Purpose: The Path to a Successful Doctoral Experience
Read chapter 9.

Other

3. Literature Review Resources Tool
Use this to complete the assignment.

Lecture Note

4. Topic 8 Overview
Read Topic 8 Overview.

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
Assignment	Literature Review Resources Successful completion of a doctoral dissertation requires significant amounts of independent reading on	50.0

the research topic. This allows the doctoral learner/researcher to become familiar with the scope of the topic and to identify gaps or tensions within the existing literature on the topic. These gaps and tensions become the source of the dissertation research. In this assignment, you will read and annotate potential sources in your dissertation field of interest. Those demonstrating the most merit to the best of your understanding of the topic at this time should be added to your RefWorks list for potential inclusion in the literature review section of your dissertation.

General Requirements:

Use the following information to ensure successful completion of the assignment:

It is strongly recommended that you engage in this activity throughout the duration of your program. You will be adding to this document to begin building a running literature review. You will have five sources in your list by the end of this assignment.

Instructors will be scoring your submission based on the number of unique sources identified in the list submitted.

Download the resource Literature Review Resources Tool and use it to complete the assignment.

Doctoral learners are required to use APA style for their writing assignments. The APA Style Guide is located in the Student Success Center. Refer to the resource, "Preparing Annotated Bibliographies," located in the Student Success Center, for additional guidance on completing this assignment in the appropriate style.

Directions:

Read at least five empirical articles in your general dissertation field. In the "Literature Review Resources" document, provide the following for each source:

Gradable Items	Details	Points Possible
	<p>The APA formatted citation.</p> <p>A brief annotation of the key points of the source.</p> <p>An indication of whether the source has been added to (Y) or excluded from (N) your RefWorks list.</p>	
Discussion Question	<p>Module 8 DQ 2</p> <p>Looking back at Topic 1, how has your dissertation topic changed in the last eight weeks? Looking ahead, how will you build time into your schedule to work independently to continue to develop your literature review and uncover a gap in the literature that you will address with your dissertation? Discuss a theme or trend you have noticed while completing your Topic 8 assignment. (This response does not require research support.)</p>	6.0
Discussion Question	<p>Module 8 DQ 1</p> <p>In a doctoral program, a learner must assume the role of independent researcher in order to become an expert in their respected field of study. Along the way, learners will need to identify a gap (an area of study that needs to be researched) in order to formulate research question(s). Klingner, Scanlon, and Pressley (2015) detailed the process a researcher takes to produce a scholarly article. Discuss how a review of literature contributes to a doctoral identity by transitioning a learner into a scholar. As you make your way along your doctoral journey, other than completing one course and moving on the next, when and how will you evaluate that you are growing as a learner and as scholar?</p>	6.0
Participation		18.0

Grade Scale

Letter Grade	GPA Value	Minimum	Maximum	Interpretation of Level of Performance
A		97.0	100.0	
A-		93.0	96.99	
B+		89.0	92.99	
B		85.0	88.99	

Letter Grade	GPA Value	Minimum	Maximum	Interpretation of Level of Performance
B-		81.0	84.99	
C+		78.0	80.99	
C		76.0	77.99	
F		0.0	75.99	
I		0.0	0.0	
W		0.0	0.0	
-		0.0	0.0	
-		0.0	0.0	

Policies

For student policies, please refer to the University Policy Handbook