

Andrews University
Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

GSEM 790 DMin Project Seminar
(2 credits)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Participants receive assistance in forming their DMin Project proposal, and orientation to issues in successful completion of the project dissertation. Areas of focus include a literature review, research techniques, writing standards, developing an effective work plan for completion of their project, and other project related topics.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

To assist students in the completion of an acceptable DMin project proposal based on a relevant, ministerial problem or challenge and to equip them with the tools necessary for developing and writing a project dissertation.

COURSE COMPETENCIES

The Doctor of Ministry program seeks to develop the person, knowledge and practices of its participants. No matter what the participant's area of concentration the DMin program has certain competencies that are used to evaluate outcomes for all participants. Additionally each area of concentration has its own competencies as do some of the individual modules. The following constitute the competencies for GSEM 790 DMin Project Dissertation:

Being:

Greater commitment to academic research and writing
A willingness to receive constructive criticism and input from others

Knowing:

Knowledge of both *Andrews Standards for Written Work* and *APA* style
An understanding of the principles of good academic writing
How to develop, apply for, and receive IRB approval for research

Doing:

Development of a successful DMin Project Proposal
Incorporation of the skills of good academic writing
The ability to develop and write a DMin Project Dissertation

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required Reading:

1. *Andrews University Standards for Written Work*. 10th ed. (2001). Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press.

This book can be downloaded from the following URL:
<http://www.andrews.edu/GRAD/style.html> Also found at:
www.doctorofministry.com

2. Graff, G., & Birkenstein, C. (2006). *They say I say: The moves that matter in academic writing*. New York: W. W. Norton.
3. Creswell, J. W. (2003) *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method approaches*. 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

B. Writing:

Pre-intensive:

1. Write a “review/reaction” Journal Report, on the book by Graff and Birkenstein and the book by Creswell.

The journal report is simply an informal reflection of your thoughts and reactions as you read the book. Journal reports need not follow any particular writing style, and will not be graded for grammar or writing ability. They are “*working*” documents!

Focus on providing a concise personal reaction (i.e., a “reflective” critique) to each book as you encounter them in the natural course of your reading. Please explain the basis for any commendations and/or criticisms of key points in each book.

These book review/reaction journal reports should be the equivalent of 3-4 typed or printed pages in total length (8 ½” x 11”) double-spaced);

Please employ the following simple GUIDELINES for each reaction/journal report:

- 1) State the title and author of each book at the top of the first page.
- 2) Then devote the rest of the first 2 pages to your personal thoughts and reactions to the book’s central ideas, issues, or suggested practices.
- 3) Finally, give a one-page, overview/summary of the author’s overall purpose for each book, as you understand it.

During the Intensive:

1. Develop a Title Page.
2. Write a 4-5 Sentence Statement of the Problem.
3. Write a 1-2 sentence Statement of the Task. Write a ½ to ¾ page Justification for the Project.
4. Write a one-page Description of the Project Process.

5. Write a ½ to ¾ page Expectations from this Project.
6. Develop a 2 page Proposal Outline.
7. Complete the Reference List exercise
8. Develop a 1 page Vita.

Post-intensive:

1. Prepare and Submit a Project Proposal
2. Submit IRB Application if applicable

COURSE GRADES:

Pre-intensive Work	150 points
In Class Work	150 points
Post-Intensive	700 points
 Total	 1000 points

LETTER GRADE SCALE:

A (95-100%)	B (83-86%)	C (73-76%)
A- (90-94%)	B- (80-82%)	C- (70-72%)
B+ (87-89%)	C+ (77-79%)	D (60-69%)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

All written papers and reports should be submitted double-spaced and in accordance to Andrews University Standards for Written Work. Follow the sample proposal exactly!

See DMin Policy regarding grade deductions for work turned in late.

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, is a serious offence. Disciplinary measures may include dismissal from the program.