

**University of North Carolina at Charlotte BDBA
Spring 2019 – BDBA-8350-Focused Research Seminar**

Professors: Course Coordinator: Dr. Torsten Pieper

Meeting Time: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM **Room:** Center City

Office Hours: *By appointment*

Contact Information:

Dr. Denis Arnold denisarnold@uncc.edu

Dr. Torsten Pieper tpieper@uncc.edu

Dr. Steven Rogelberg sgrogeb@uncc.edu

Dr. Reginald Silver rsilver5@uncc.edu

Dr. Antonis Stylianou astylian@uncc.edu

Course Description

In-depth discussion of papers and development of research models and approaches in preparation of dissertation work.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to assist doctoral students in developing their dissertation proposals and to provide them with tools and insights that will help them in the proposal development and dissertation process.

Course Design

Session Format

Classes will meet once a month for 5 months. Each class is divided into two half-day sessions. The morning sessions (8:00 am to 12:00 pm) are led by different faculty members. Students are expected to participate actively during class sessions. To facilitate this, required readings will be assigned and must be read prior to each class meeting. Additional assignments may occur before or after a class meeting. Carefully read and be prepared to discuss all required readings prior to each class meeting.

The afternoon of each day (1.00 to 5.00 pm) is dedicated to independent study under the guidance of the independent study advisor. Students are responsible for making individual arrangements with their respective independent study advisors regarding logistics and contents for this part of the class.

Instructional Method

The morning sessions of the course will be delivered in a seminar style setting that includes open discussion, lectures, in-class projects and presentations. The format and style of the independent study will be determined by the respective independent study advisor.

Individual Assignments

Please refer to the specific assignments outlined by the respective instructors.

Course Materials

Course materials for the morning part of the course will consist of a combination of journal articles, textbooks, and other materials as assigned by the faculty. Required course materials will be provided by the respective instructor prior to class. Materials for the independent study part

of the course will be determined by the respective independent study advisor.

Grading

Deliverables and grades for this course will be assigned by the respective independent study advisors (50%) and faculty teaching specific half-day sessions (50%). The morning part of the course may contain additional deliverables that will be announced by the faculty teaching on specific half-days throughout the semester.

Class Participation and Discussions

Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Class discussion are comprised of in-class discussions during lectures and may also include online discussion threads in Canvas. The class participation and discussion will include the assignment and open discussion of course readings as well as other assignments or current issues arising in the business sector.

Course Sequence

Date	Session	Topic	Faculty
Sunday, January 13	Morning	1. The big picture – Things I’ve seen work well (and not so well) in dissertation projects 2. Review and discussion of assigned dissertation proposals	Dr. Torsten Pieper
	Afternoon	Independent study with assigned faculty based on agreement	Independent study advisor
Sunday, February 10	Morning	To be announced	Dr. Antonis Stylianou
	Afternoon	Independent study with assigned faculty based on agreement	Independent study advisor
Sunday, March 10	Morning	To be announced	Dr. Denis Arnold
	Afternoon	Independent study with assigned faculty based on agreement	Independent study advisor
Sunday, April 14	Morning	1. How to write a lot. We will read and discuss this book (to be provided by the program): https://www.amazon.com/How-Write-Lot-Practical-Productive/dp/1591477433 2. We will discuss obstacles to dissertation progress and how to get through them. 3. There will be a panel of DBA students who finished their dissertations while working full-time and who will share their experiences and tips (10 - 11:15 am).	Dr. Steven Rogelberg
	Afternoon	Independent study with assigned faculty based on agreement	Independent study advisor

Sunday, May 12	Morning	Student presentations and project planning	Dr. Reginald Silver
	Afternoon	Independent study with assigned faculty based on agreement	Independent study advisor

Course Information & Guidelines

Classroom Policies:

1. **Attendance.** Attendance is mandatory. Missing a class is equivalent to missing 20% of the semester. Late arrival or early departure will count as an absence. An absence, unless due to medical conditions and approved by student services, will result in a **FAIL** of the class.
2. **Orderly and Productive Classroom Conduct.** We will conduct this class in an atmosphere of mutual respect. We encourage your active participation in class discussions as well as online. Each faculty may have strongly differing opinions on the various topics of class discussions. The orderly questioning of the ideas of others, including the faculty, is welcome. However, we will exercise our responsibility to manage the discussions so that ideas and argument can proceed in an orderly fashion.
3. **Classroom Expectations.** This syllabus contains the policies and expectations the faculty have established for this course. Please read the entire syllabus carefully before continuing in this course. These policies and expectations are intended to create a productive learning atmosphere for all students. Students who fail to abide by these policies and expectations, risk losing the opportunity to participate further in the course. The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the instructors. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class and/or by changes to this syllabus posted on the course Canvas website.
4. **Materials.** All materials submitted as part of course requirements become the property of the instructor. Students desiring to retain copies of their work should make such copies before turning in their materials.
5. **Electronic Devices in Classroom.** Use of computing, communication, or other devices during the class time **for purposes other than those required for the class** is prohibited and may result in being asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. This includes the use of laptops, lab computers, phones or other devices for Internet browsing, game playing, reading news, emailing, texting, chatting, IM, Facebook, or other activities not required for the class. **Cellular phones and other communication devices must be silenced AND stored away during class.**
6. **Under no circumstances** will students be permitted to spend their class time working on assignments for other classes, checking e-mail, surfing the Web, texting, or engaging in activities not related to the class. Attempts to engage in such behavior will be reflected in lower grades and may lead to removal from the course.
7. **Grade Appeals.** If a student believes that the grade that they received on an assignment or an exam was in error or unfair, the student can appeal to the professor in writing within seven (7) calendar days after the grades are posted. The appeal should clearly state the reasons why the grade is believed to be unfair or the nature of the error. Overdue appeals will not be considered.
8. **Use of Tobacco and e-Vapor Products in Class.** The use of tobacco and e-Vapor products in class is prohibited. If a student uses any form of tobacco or e-Vapor product during class, the student may be asked to leave the class.

University Policies:

9. Academic Integrity

- As a program that helps to create business and government leaders, the College of Business has an obligation to ensure academic integrity is of the highest standards. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course.
 - University regulations will be strictly enforced in all cases of **academic irregularities, cheating or plagiarism** or any variations thereof. Students assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work they submit. The guiding principle of academic integrity shall be that a student's submitted work, examinations, reports, and projects must be that of the student's own work.
 - All UNCC students have the responsibility to be familiar with and to observe the requirements of **The UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity** (see the Catalog and also <http://integrity.uncc.edu>). This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism of written materials and software projects, abuse of academic materials (such as Library books on reserve), and **complicity in academic dishonesty** (helping others to violate the code).
 - Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at: <http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html> (also see <http://integrity.uncc.edu/>). All UNC Charlotte students are expected to be familiar with the Code and to conduct themselves in accord with these requirements. To clarify, any academic dishonesty can result in a grade of "Fail" (F) for the course. Academic dishonesty also pertains to violating the "rules" of this syllabus. Anyone violating this policy will receive an "F" for the course.
 - For this course, it is permissible to assist classmates in general discussions of computing techniques. General advice and interaction are encouraged. Each person, however, must develop his or her own solutions to the assigned homework and laboratory exercises. So while students are encouraged to work together on class exercises, each student must produce and submit an own individual graded assignment in the end (unless it is a group assignment). A student may not use or copy (by any means) another's work (or portions of it) and represent it as his/her own. If you need help on an assignment, contact your instructor.
 - Any further specific requirements or permission regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor, and are also binding on the students in this course.
 - Students are expected to **report cases of academic dishonesty** they become aware of to the course instructor who is responsible for dealing with them.
- 10. Use of Computing Resources Policy.** For the purposes of the course you will be given access to a variety of computing resources. These resources are to be used only for the purposes of this course. Intentional or grossly negligent disruptive and/or illegal use of the resources will result at a minimum in a loss of access privileges and a failing grade for the course. Further action will be taken as necessary. All University Policies on the use of Computing Resources apply.
- 11. Disability Accommodations.** UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from Disability Services early in the semester. For more information on accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit their office in Fretwell 230.
- 12. Diversity.** The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that

includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

13. **Incomplete Grades.** Students will not be given an incomplete grade in the course without sound reason and documented evidence as described in the Student Handbook. In any case, for a student to receive an incomplete, he or she must be passing the course and must have completed a significant portion of the course.
14. **Course Changes.** The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the course content, schedule, and policies. Changes will be announced in class and will also be posted online and communicated via email.
15. **Religious Accommodations.** The instructor will observe University Policy 409 (<https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-409>) on matters of religious accommodation. Please note that the procedure prescribed by this policy requires a notice to the instructor prior to the census date of the semester (typically the tenth day of instruction).
16. **Severe Weather.** In case classes are cancelled due to severe weather, the DBA program has designated make-up days for each semester.

Detailed Course Flow and Assignments

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Topic: The big picture – Things I’ve seen work well (and not so well) in dissertation projects

Instructor: Dr. Torsten Pieper

Assignments:

Students are expected to read three dissertation proposals (posted in Canvas) and be prepared to discuss the contents in class. In your reading and preparation, you should focus on the following aspects:

- Introduction: What are the intended contributions to a) theory/literature, and b) practice? At what point in the introduction are they highlighted? What is the “hook”? What makes the study interesting?
- Literature and Hypotheses: How is the literature analyzed and synthesized? How is theory and literature used to ground the hypotheses underlying the research? How and where is the conceptual model introduced? How does it connect to the research hypotheses?
- Methods: What is the nature of the sample? How was sample size determined? How were constructs in the conceptual model operationalized/measured? What was the chosen method of analysis and why was it chosen?

Please refer to materials provided in Canvas.

Sunday, Sunday, February 10, 2019

Topic: To be announced

Instructor: Dr. Antonis Stylianou

Assignments:

To be announced

Please refer to materials and assignments provided in Canvas.

Sunday, Sunday, March 10, 2019

Topic: To be announced

Instructor: Dr. Denis Arnold

Assignments:

To be announced

Please refer to materials and assignments provided in Canvas.

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Topic: Writing advice and dissertation process

Instructor: Dr. Steven Rogelberg

Assignments:

To be announced

Please refer to materials and assignments provided in Canvas.

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Topic: Student Presentations and Project Planning

Instructor: Dr. Reginald Silver

Assignment:

Students are expected to present the current status of their dissertation proposal. This presentation should cover as many of the below items as possible (the more the better):

- a. Potential title for your study
- b. Background for why you are interested in this topic
- c. Reasons why others should be interested in the topic
- d. Seminal research articles pertaining to the topic
- e. Where/what are the gaps in the current literature?
- f. Statement of purpose
- g. How will this study fill one or more of the gaps in the literature?
- h. Potential model