

CCJ 7926 DISSERTATION PROPOSAL (3)

Department of Criminal Justice
Florida International University

Course Description/Objective

Doctoral students develop a research proposal under the direction of their major professor, including an oral presentation and defense (pass/fail grading). Prerequisite: CCJ 7960.

Learning Outcomes

1. Apply your theoretical and methodological understanding and skills into devising researchable ideas and specific research questions and hypotheses,
2. Conduct a focused review of the relevant literature and create appropriate conceptual framework,
3. Develop a realistic research design with specific research strategies,
4. Think through and articulate a chapter-by-chapter outline of the intended dissertation,
5. Communicate research ideas and their appropriate theoretical and methodological issues effectively and efficiently,
6. Critique other's ideas paying particular attention to both theoretical and methodological rigor and reality, and
7. Gain understanding of the process of dissertation including stress, time, and project management, committee formation, dissertation proposition and defense, and human subjects reviews.

Procedures

Dissertation committees must have a minimum of four members: at least three of whom are from the Department of Criminal Justice and one of whom is from another academic unit at FIU. All FIU faculty who are members of the dissertation committee must be members of the Graduate Faculty and the chair of the dissertation committee must hold Dissertation Advisor Status. A list of Graduate Faculty, including those with Dissertation Advisor Status, is available online at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/faculty-staff-grad-das-faculty.shtml>. All committee appointments are made by the Dean of the University Graduate School.

Proposal Outline

Generally, the proposal will consist of: (1) A statement of the problem; (2) A comprehensive literature review; and (3) A detailed discussion of the research design/methodology. A dissertation proposal must be approved by the University Graduate School at least three semesters prior to the date of graduation.

READINGS

Research Designs

Campbell, Donald T., and Julian C. Stanley. Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research. Chicago: Rand McNally (1963).

Cook, Thomas D., and Donald T. Campbell. Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings. Boston: Houghton Mifflin (1979), Chapters 5 and 8.

Hirschi, Travis, and Hanan Selvin. Principles of Survey Analysis. N.Y.: Free Press (1973). (Also known as Delinquency Research: An Appraisal of Analytic Methods).

Miller, Delbert. Handbook of Research Design and Social Measurement. N.Y.: Longman (1983).

Data-Gathering Methods

- Babbie, Earl R. *The Practice of Social Research*. 11th ed. Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth (2007).
- Denzin, Norman (ed.). *Sociological Methods: A Sourcebook*. N.Y.: McGraw-Hill (1978). Chapters 7 and 21 (by Howard S. Becker).
- Dillman, Don A. *Mail and Telephone Surveys: The Total Design Method*. N.Y.: Wiley (1978).
- Gove, Walter R., et al. "Are the Uniform Crime Reports a Valid Indicator of Index Crimes?" *Criminology* 23:451-501 (1985).
- Lofland, John. *Analyzing Social Settings*. 2nd edition. Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth (1984).
- Sudman, Seymour. *Applied Sampling*. N.Y.: Academic Press (1976).

Statistics (Basic-to-Intermediate) and Data Interpretation

- Bachman, Ronnette, and Raymond Paternoster. *Statistics for Criminology and Criminal Justice*. 2nd ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill (2004).
- Morrison, Denton, and Ramon Henkel (eds.). *The Significance Test Controversy: A Reader*. Preface, Ch. 9, 21, 31. Chicago: Aldine-Atherton (1970).
- Carmines, E. G., and R. A. Zeller. *Reliability and Validity Assessment*. Beverly Hills: Sage (1979).
- Lewis-Beck, Michael S. *Applied Regression: An Introduction*. Beverly Hills: Sage (1980).
- Berry, William D., and Stanley Feldman. *Multiple Regression in Practice*. Beverly Hills: Sage (1985).

Advanced Statistical Methods

- Iverson, Gudmund R., and Helmut Norpoth. *Analysis of Variance*. No. 1 (1976).
- Ostrom, Charles W., Jr. *Time Series Analysis: Regression Techniques*. No. 9 (1978).
- McDowall, David, et al. *Interrupted Time Series Analysis*. No. 21 (1980).
- Markus, Gregory B. *Analyzing Panel Data*. No. 18 (1979).
- Aldrich, John H., and Forrest D. Nelson. *Linear Probability, Logit, and Probit Models*. No. 45 (1984).
- Berry, William D. *Nonrecursive Causal Models*. No. 37 (1983).
- Kim, Jae-On, and Charles W. Mueller. *Introduction to Factor Analysis*. No. 13 (1979).
- Long, J. Scott. *Confirmatory Factor Analysis*. No. 33 (1983).
- Long, J. Scott. *Covariance Structure Models*. No. 34 (1983).