

CCJ 7980 PH.D. DISSERTATION (3-12)

Department of Criminal Justice

Florida International University

Course Description/Objective

Supervised research on an original research project submitted in partial fulfillment of doctoral degree requirements, including an oral presentation and defense (pass/fail grading). Prerequisites: CCJ 7960, CCJ 7926.

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

Doctoral students are required to complete a minimum of 24 credits within consecutive semesters including summer. Generally, the candidate works most closely with his/her major professor, although regular contact is expected with other committee members as well. Once the dissertation is judged acceptable by the major professor, the student schedules a formal dissertation defense date. The University requires that the student provide all participating faculty members with a copy of the dissertation at least four weeks before the scheduled defense date. The student will need to fill out the appropriate paperwork with the Graduate School for their defense announcement at least two weeks prior to the dissertation defense. The defense is open to anyone in the University.

Dissertation Outline

1. Abstract - A paragraph summarizes the study. It should be about one-half to three-quarters of a page in length, and is often written last, even though it is placed at the beginning.
2. Statement of the problem - This chapter should describe the problem to be studied. The following sections should be used: (1) introduction; (2) problem statement and purpose(s) of the study; (3) hypotheses; (4) assumptions and limitations of the study; (5) conceptual framework; (6) significance of the study; and (7) brief summary.
3. Review of the literature – This chapter is a literature review, a summary of the relevant theory and research related to the research question.
4. Research methods - This chapter describes the methods that were used in the study. It includes the following sections: (1) subjects; (2) instruments; (3) procedure; and (4) data analysis.
5. Findings - Descriptive statistics (percentages, means, standard deviations) should be presented first, and then inferential statistics (regression, time-series, etc.). The order of presentation of inferential statistics should follow that of the order of the hypotheses in the first chapter. Each hypothesis should be briefly restated, and the results then presented. Tables and graphs can be used to illustrate the results. As the results are presented, the text should refer to tables and graphs as appropriate. There should not be any discussion of results in this chapter.

6. Discussion and conclusions - This chapter involves discussion and conclusions. It should generally be seen as the most difficult chapter to write. The results that were obtained should be described and analyzed. What do they mean? The chapter should discuss what was observed during the course of the study, and what the writer concluded from those observations.
7. References - All studies cited in the text should be included in the references, and everything in the references should be cited in the text. APA style should be used.

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).