



## Advanced Dissertation Seminar 16:910:706:01 (1 credit)

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**Course Description:** This course is designed to meet the needs of doctoral students who have defended their proposals and begun work on their dissertation research and writing. Topics related to dissertation research, writing the dissertation, and defense of the dissertation will be foci. Professional development and career planning will be an additional focus. Accountability to one another will be critical as we work to create a space where intellectual discussion of each participant's process will be a hallmark of the course. Readings are kept to a minimum to allow for discussion, but completing readings is critical to allow fruitful class discussions. Further, consistent attendance is optimal as participants support one another through this phase of scholarship and are introduced to topics/ speakers regarding aspects of professional development that are relevant at this stage of the scholar's life.

The course is conducted in close collaboration with dissertation chairs and Committee members.

Students are expected to work closely with their Chairs throughout the semester. Although students will receive feedback on their dissertation proposal from the instructor and fellow peers, this feedback should not supersede the feedback you are given by your Chair and other Committee members.

### **Course Objectives:**

- 1- Develop a scholarly community where participants freely give scholarly critique on aspects of one another's work and support one another's progress toward scholarly goals.
- 2- Consider the dilemmas of the research process from gaining access to data, through IRB issues, through maintaining a writing discipline, through building a career.
- 3- Learn from recent graduates about career-building skills and considerations to promote competence and confidence in pursuing academic, research or other careers after the PhD is completed.

### **Required Text:**

Furstenburg, F. (2013). *Behind the academic curtain: How to find success and happiness after the PhD*. University of Chicago Press.

NOTE: the paperback version of this book will be available after Sept. 23, 2013 and it is ok to wait to get it until then.

**Meetings:** Sept 17, 24; Oct. 8, 22; Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 3, 17 at 6-7 (1:30-2:30?)

**Class Schedule:**

**Sept 17- Introductions and Organization**

Decisions about topics and meetings times

**Sept. 24- Benchmarking and Accountability to self and accountability partner/s**

Visit from prior doctoral students about their organizational process

**Oct. 8- Moving into and through the doctoral program**

Furstenburg, F. (2013). *Behind the academic curtain: How to find success and happiness after the PhD.* Intro and Ch 1 (to page 38)

**Oct. 22- Preparing for an Academic Career**

Furstenburg, F. (2013). *Behind the academic curtain: How to find success and happiness after the PhD.* Ch 2 (to page 72)

**Nov 5-Nuts and Bolts of Dissertation Defense**

Donna Albert Visit

**Nov. 19-Teaching while working on a dissertation**

Furstenburg, F. (2013). *Behind the academic curtain: How to find success and happiness after the PhD.* Ch 3 (to page 112)

**Dec. 3-Dilemmas in the Research Process**

Visitors and/or the class discuss barriers, obstructions and other dilemmas in the dissertation research and writing process.

**Dec. 17- Party and Accountability**

Staying connected and motivated through the holiday break