I. Nature of the Seminar

The goal of this seminar is to provide advanced graduate students with guidance and direction on their individualized research projects, which typically involve students’ masters theses or doctoral dissertations. It is expected that prior to enrolling in this seminar, students will have successfully completed graduate level courses in research methodology, data collection techniques, and qualitative or quantitative data analysis procedures. The focus of the seminar is on the application of these methods, techniques, and procedures to the specific research problems selected by students.

II. Course Procedures

Class sessions for the seminar will involve primarily discussions and debates. Students will be expected to present different aspects of their research throughout the semester both orally and in writing. Class discussions will center on the content and format of these presentations. Their purpose is to help students refine and clarify their research problems, the procedures they plan to use in their investigation, and the possible implications of their findings. The process and politics involved in defending a thesis or dissertation, and completing a degree program in a reasonable period of time, are also described. As a result of the seminar, students should be well prepared to develop their formal thesis or doctoral research proposal.
III. Recommended Texts


IV. Specific Requirements

In addition to regular participation in the seminar discussion sessions, each student is expected to:

1. Carefully read the assigned material *before* the class session at which it will be discussed.

2. Complete the written assignments that will be assigned at regular intervals throughout the semester. These assignments all relate to students’ individual research projects. *All assignments must be typed.*

VI. Grading

Grades for the course will be based upon the following criteria:

1. Scores on the written assignments (70%)

2. Participation in class sessions and discussions (30%)

VII. Availability of the Seminar Instructor

The course instructor will be available for conferences with students on Monday and Tuesday mornings, and at other times by appointment. Conferences can be scheduled by phone or by leaving word with the secretary in the Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation, 145 Taylor Education Building.