

ML M400INT – Research Methods Unit Module Syllabus Outline Spring 2017-18, Rev. Dr. Michelle A. Walsh, PhD, LICSW

1. Unit Module One (to be completed by March 1, 2018 – 20%)

Introduction to each other and the course

Foundational research concepts and relationship to theology/ministry/faith leadership

Reflecting on Research Ethics and the Belmont Principles

One Hour Zoom Call (To be scheduled for the week of February 26, 2018)

See Discussion Board Questions To Be Completed on Populi

Required Readings:

Read your Transdisciplinary Research textbook, preface, ch. 1-2

Read *Violent Trauma, Culture, and Power*, preface and ch. 1-2, “Introduction” and “Challenges and Possibilities in Interdisciplinary Encounters” (On Populi for download)

Watch “Miss Evers Boys,” full film on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHP1p9bRQ3Q>

Review these links for more information on the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment:

<https://www.cdc.gov/tuskegee/timeline.htm>

<http://time.com/4867267/tuskegee-syphilis-study/>

<http://www.history.com/news/the-infamous-40-year-tuskegee-study>

Review “The Belmont Report” at this link:

https://phrp.nihtraining.com/codes/02_codes.php

Also review this link for brief history:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3593469/>

Read *Foundations for a Practical Theology of Ministry*, ch. 3, “A Method for Practical Theology” (On Populi for download)

2. Unit Module Two (to be completed by March 15, 2018 – 20%)

Developing and deepening into your project proposal topic interest and design

One Hour Zoom Call (To be scheduled for the week of March 12, 2018)

Discussion Board Questions To Be Completed on Populi

Required Readings:

Read your Transdisciplinary Research textbook, ch. 3

Read Research Design, ch. 1-2, “A Framework for Design” and “Review of the Literature” (On Populi for download)

Read *Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice*, ch. 1-2, “Getting Started” and “Clarifying the Questions” (On Populi for download)

Choose at least one of the below as an example of religious research

A House of Prayer for All Peoples, ch. 6 “The Sea Captains and Slavery, First Parish Brewster, Brewster, MA” (On Populi for download)

OR *Places of Redemption*, ch. 1 and ch. 2, “Introduction” and “Working It Out: Homemaking Practices” (a congregational study examples) (On Populi for download)

OR *Everyday Religion*, ch. 4, “Religion, Twice Removed: Exploring the Role of Media in Religious Understandings Among ‘Secular’ Young People” (a lived religion cultural study example) (On Populi for download)

OR ch. 11, “Embodied Practices: Negotiation and Resistance” (a lived religion study of spiritual practices) (On Populi for download)

OR *We Are Not All Victims*, Introduction and Ch. 1 (ethnographic immersion in the Congo related to peacebuilding) (On Populi for download)

With Optional Readings as Suggested for Particular Student Development

Register and complete the free on-line Institutional Review Board training at this link <https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php> and submit a copy of your certificate to the instructor. This will take approximately 3 hours to complete. Also read the PDF that corresponds to the training (On Populi for download)

3. Unit Module Three (March 19-23 in Chicago – 40%)

Preparing your project proposal presentation

Days will be split between engaging your own research with library systems available in Chicago and meeting in discussion groups on method as well as individual meetings with your instructor, Michelle Walsh. At the end of the week, you will be giving a power point presentation to the instructor and your classmates on your research project proposal to date.

Required Readings:

Read your Transdisciplinary Research textbook, ch. 4-5

Independent Required Assigned Readings Designed for Particular Student Development

4. Unit Module Four (to be completed by May 3, 2018 – 20%)

Wrapping up the Course/Remaining Questions

Final project proposal submission

Evaluating your experience/research

Two One Hour Zoom Calls (Dates to be scheduled in April)

Discussion Board Questions To Be Completed on Populi

Required Readings:

Read your Transdisciplinary Research textbook, ch. 6

Additional Readings to be Assigned Based on Group and Individual Interest

PLEASE NOTE: Each student may request and schedule individual Zoom meetings with the course instructor at any point to discuss your progress on your research project proposal.

Grading: Completion of Discussion Board Posts and Participation in Zoom Calls are worth 20% of your grade for each of Module One, Two, and Four for a total of 60% of your overall grade. You are graded on how substantive your posts are in reflection of readings and assignments and on the quality of your overall participation with the course and your colleagues. Development of and submission of your project proposal, inclusive of your work and presentation during the intensive week in March, represents the final 40% of your grade.

Project Proposal Elements

(pulled from the larger description of the MALS project for your degree program)

II. The Project Proposal

- a. Elements of the proposal include: **a thesis statement, summary, outline, calendar**, and a supporting **bibliography**. The proposal is an “abridged” version of the Project final summary. The proposal will be 5-7 pages in length and must be approved by the faculty (see above) before the student may begin implementing their Project.
- b. The **thesis statement** should concisely articulate “**why**” the Project is relevant to the student’s development as a leader, why it supports their professional or vocational aims, and why (or how) it expresses their theological commitments. The thesis statement articulates a hypothesis about how a given Project will resolve a question, address a problem, or meet a need that is important to the student in their development as a faith leader. The thesis statement should consist of 1 – 3 sentences.
- c. The **summary** should articulate “**what**” the Project entails. Students should address the type of Project they are proposing (for example, multifaith, religious education, prophetic social justice, or, if approved, a research project), the particular focus of the Project (for example, a climate justice mobilization, a curriculum, a sequence of multifaith actions or trainings), and the specific aims of the Project (for example, to increase multifaith literacy, to raise local climate justice awareness, to build sustainable racial justice coalitions).
- d. The **outline** should explain “**how**” the student will implement the Project. This outline should include logistical as well as substantive steps.
- e. The **calendar** describes “**when**” the student will execute the different stages or elements of the Project as explained in the outline.
- f. The **bibliography** should include resources the student will consult during the research for their Project, including books, articles, curricula, and films. If the student intends as part of their research to interview experts or practitioners in the Project area, this should be indicated here, and provisions should be made to submit a proposal to the Internal Review Board (see above for links).

By the end of this course, you will have developed this portion of your overall degree project for submission for approval.