COURSE TITLE: Thesis Fundamentals

COURSE NUMBER: MCT 624

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Assists students in developing a thesis topic working under an approved research director.

PREREQUISITE COURSES:
MCT609/MCT 619, MCT610, MCT611, MCT613, MCT614, and MCT 615.

COURSE OUTCOMES:
Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:
1. Synthesize the MScSED Thesis Process.
2. Critique research articles and discuss the scholarly research merits of each.
3. Critically evaluate a body of literature that leads to an IT research problem.
4. Construct a research problem (thesis statement) based on research literature review.
5. Defend a logical and sound argument related to thesis topic.
6. Evaluate the research method used to conduct a research study.
7. Explain thesis research study assertions, methodology, success criteria.
8. Synthesize your thesis research findings thus far to evaluate how each article relates to thesis research problem or research question.
9. Describe the use ethical human subject research techniques for primary research (required for Regis University advised students only).
11. Explain how the literature addresses a research problem or research questions for thesis topic area.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Texts:

Required Resources:


Library Tutorials*:
NUIG Library Tutorials - Writing, Referencing & Avoiding Plagiarism (WRAP) which contains resources from NUIG Library, IT Online programme, as well as other universities (e.g. Purdue's OWL). See http://www.nuigalway.ie/wrap/.

Regis University Library Tutorials see http://legacysite.regis.edu/library.asp?page=research.tutorials.

Technology Tools:

Optional Materials:
None

PRE-ASSIGNMENT:
2. Review:
   • -Regis University Library Tutorials AND
   • -NUIG Library Tutorials

RELATED STANDARDS
None
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Please note that this course is Pass/No Pass. Check with your facilitator if you need more information.

Shared Course
Since this MCT 624 Thesis Fundamentals course is a shared course between Regis University (RU) and National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG), each has a thesis process and related assignments that are somewhat different between the universities. Therefore, you will be instructed by your facilitator for specific required assignments for RU-advised students, or for NUIG-advised students.

Please check with your facilitator for additional required assignments.

Please note that the table below includes the discussion activities that are required and common amongst the two universities. Your facilitator will provide points or percentages for all assignments.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Readings/Resources</th>
<th>Discussions</th>
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<td>Thesis Process – Step 3. Thesis Statement (draft) - begin</td>
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<td>Article Critiques Assignment 1 (two articles provided) &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>Article Critique Assignment 2 on Thesis Topic (begin)</td>
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<td>Thesis Process – Step 3. Thesis Statement (draft) - Submit to Thesis Advisor</td>
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<td>Telling the Research Story</td>
<td>Ellis &amp; Levy (2006). See Required Resources above.</td>
<td>Research References Exercise &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>Peer Review of Thesis Statement (draft) &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>Annotated Bibliography versus Literature Review Discussion</td>
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<td>Week</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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| 5 | Investigating Research Methodologies | Locke et al. (2010) Part 3 Qualitative Research | Evaluate Research Articles - Quantitative or Qualitative - Discussion  
Thesis Process – Step 4 - Thesis Proposal (draft) – Submit to Thesis Advisor |
| 6 | Design Science | Select one – Design Science Articles, eBook, or white paper from list provided (see Week 6 To-Do List page) | Design Science Critique & Discussion  
Peer Reviews of Thesis Proposal Drafts |
| 7 | Research Ethics Project Plan | Regis University (RU)-advised students ONLY - Human Subject Research in Qualitative Research Studies (Responsible Conduct of Research Course (RCR) module) | Logical Fallacies versus Sound Judgments Exercise & Discussion  
Project Plan – AND Submit Thesis Proposal to Thesis Advisor  
Literature Review - Begin |
| 8 | Approved Thesis Proposal Course Reflections | None | Course Reflections Discussion – facilitator lead  
Peer Review of final Thesis Proposal – Complete by Wednesday  
Thesis Process – Step 4. (Final) APPROVED Thesis Proposal – Due  
Literature Review – Due |
University Policies

**Regis University (RU) Policies** (links):
You will be asked to enter a valid Regis University UserID and password to access the following policies.

- Academic Integrity
- Attendance Participation
- Confidential Proprietary Information Policy
- Dayton Memorial Library
- Diversity
- Equal Access and Disability Services
- Human Subjects Review (IRB)
- Inclement Weather and Class Cancellation
- Late or Incomplete Course Procedures
- Learner Conduct
- Writing Assistance

**OTHER INFORMATION:**
NOTE TO LEARNERS: On occasion, the course facilitator may, at his or her discretion, alter the Learning Activities shown in this Syllabus. The alteration of Learning Activities may not, in any way, change the Learner Outcomes or the grading scale for this course as contained in this syllabus. Examples of circumstances that could justify alterations in Learning Activities could include number of learners in the course; compelling current events; special facilitator experience or expertise; or unanticipated disruptions to class session schedule.