# Principles of Research

**DPLS 720 – SUMMER 2015**

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DPLS 720 Principles of Research (3 credits)

COURSE INFORMATION

SUMMER 2015

Instructor: Kem Gambrell, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Please call or email for an appointment

Day of the Week/Time:
Dates:
Location:

School and Department Theme Statement:
The Doctoral Program in Leadership Studies and the School of Professional Studies at Gonzaga University seek to build "people for others," people able to define their own sense of identity, live within a moral framework, and articulate and advance social justice.

Course Overview:
Focusing on the pursuit of truth, this course gives a comprehensive perspective on research design, including both quantitative and qualitative methods. Emphasis is on the context of research and the pursuit of truth, and the appropriate use of various research methodologies. Students conceptualize their own research design as well as become more knowledgeable consumers of extant literature.

My Course Philosophy:
My goal and philosophy of the course is to help students learn (more?) about research, how to ask a measureable question, finding “answers” to these questions, and, most importantly, tap into our inner two-year old who was curious about everything... asking the question and finding out “why”.

Course Objectives and Goals:
1. How we learn and gain new meanings from research;

2. The predominant social science research paradigms, their underlying assumptions, and how they impact what we learn from research;

3. General principles of making quantitative and qualitative observations in research;

4. General sampling procedures used for quantitative and qualitative research design;

5. The purpose and procedures of various research methods: survey, experimental, field, and unobtrusive

6. General methods of analyzing data for quantitative and qualitative research designs; and
7. Ethical issues associated with research designs.

Student Outcomes:

1. Have a better understanding of how and why social sciences conduct research.
2. Design a research “idea” and begin the process(es) of developing said research.
3. Write and present a “research idea” proposal (consider writing a final product that can lead to either publishing, presenting at conference or both).

Learning Goals:

As part of the DPLS learning community, students will:

1. Understand principles of contemplation and discernment in order to facilitate personal development and to become more authentic leaders.
2. Understand the role of ethics in leadership, and develop ethical reasoning and reflection skills that will enhance positive, healthy relationships and that will move self and others toward the goodness of life.
3. Inspire, create, and lead based on respect for and accountability to others, their organizations, and humanity as a whole.
4. Understand organizations as social constructions that are living, dynamic systems. This leads to purposeful thought, words, and action regarding the change process at the individual, organizational, and global level.
5. Through the practice of positive organizational leadership, develop the ability to seek goodness, engender and amplify it, in personal, organizational, and global systems.
6. Understand and prize diversity and promote global approaches to issues, with special attention to the implications of diversity for individuals, organizations, and societies.
7. Become increasingly committed to social justice, and through their participation in community activities, refining the skills relevant to bringing about more humane social institutions.
8. Develop research competencies that are founded on practices of rigorous scholarship and that inform a practice of seeking truth in social science.

Gonzaga Mission Statement

Gonzaga University is an exemplary learning community that educates students for lives of leadership and service for the common good. In keeping with its Catholic, Jesuit, and humanistic heritage and identity, Gonzaga models and expects excellence in academic and professional pursuits and intentionally develops the whole person -- intellectually, spiritually, physically, and emotionally.

Through engagement with knowledge, wisdom, and questions informed by classical and contemporary perspectives, Gonzaga cultivates in its students the capacities and dispositions for reflective and critical thought, lifelong learning, spiritual growth, ethical discernment, creativity, and innovation.
The Gonzaga experience fosters a mature commitment to dignity of the human person, social justice, diversity, intercultural competence, global engagement, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, and care for the planet. Grateful to God, the Gonzaga community carries out this mission with responsible stewardship of our physical, financial, and human resources.

Required Texts/ Reading Materials:


**Other course material will be posted on BB or emailed to class. Please check BB weekly.**

Optional/Suggested Reading Materials:

Sixth Edition APA Manual (required of doctoral program)


Methods of course evaluation:

- **Class attendance, participation and preparation**: 20% of course grade
- **Short assignments** (usually handed out in class or posted prior to class on Black Board): 15% of course grade
- **Major assignments** (See dates on syllabus): 15% of course grade
- **Final paper**: See criteria listed in syllabus: 40%
- **Final presentation**: See criteria listed in syllabus: 10%

Grading Scale:

The final grade is based on total points over the entire session in the following percentages:

(Total Points Possible By Semester’s End, e.g. “200”) X (Percentage Below) = (Pts. Needed to Earn Grade)

- 100% - 98% = A+
- 97% - 94% = A
- 93% - 90% = A-
- 89% - 88% = B+
- 87% - 84% = B
- 83% - 80% = B-
- 79% - 78% = C+
- 77% - 74% = C