CALWEST UNIVERSITY

Course Type: **Doctor of Business Administration**

Course Code: **DBA813**

Course Name: **Research Proposal**

COURSE SYLLABUS

All students must complete all courses DBA801 to DBA812 before undertaking this course(or obtain credit for prior learning) . The sequence of study must also be followed, starting with studying (1) Research Methods; followed with presenting a (2) Research Proposal (this course); and then undertaking the proposed research and writing the (3) Research Thesis.

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1. Course Description

Prior to doing this course, students must first complete the Research Methods course; which provides a general introduction to social research methods and covers broad topic areas such as research ethics, research design, data collection, and data analysis. This will provide the foundation for formulating good research questions and designing an appropriate research agenda.

In this course, students are required to develop a research proposal and present the proposal for evaluation by the supervisor appointed to them.

The proposal should indicate:
* the field of research;
* the research issues/question(s)to be addressed;
* research method(s);
* limitations of the research;
* anticipated outcomes;
* contribution to knowledge (is it likely to extend current understanding on a topic/field
* of enquiry);
* managerial/business significance for theory and practice;
* an indicative reference list; and
* a timeline of the dissertation aims and objectives to be completed.

2. Learning Objectives

Students are expected to develop a Research Proposal that will be relevant to their careers and workplace.

3. Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, research students should have completed a Research Proposal that demonstrates that they are able to:

1. Identify a business administration problem suitable for scientific investigation.
2. Situate that problem within the relevant literature and existing evidence and identify gaps in the evidence about that problem (i.e. things worthy of further research).
3. Develop a (structured) research question which addresses a gap in the evidence about the problem.
4. Plan an appropriate research design to investigate the research question.
5. Use appropriate online databases of research evidence and reference management software.
6. Apply ethical principles of research to shape or modify the research proposal.

2. Prescribed Reading (Compulsory)

Saunders, M.N.K., Thornhill, A., Lewis, P., *Research Methods for Business Students*, (Latest Edition), Pearson, New Jersey, USA. http://www.pearsoned.com/

4. Student Resource Requirements
- PC: A reliable computer running Windows XP or higher with 500 MB of RAM or higher
- Mac: A reliable computer running Mac OS 10 or higher
- Reliable high speed Internet connection (minimum 768 Kbps/128 Kbps)
- Web browser with Adobe Flash Player installed (Flash Player 10 or higher recommended)

5. Student Instructions

- On enrolling for this course, you will be assigned a Calwest Supervisor who will contact you via email.
- All correspondence pertaining to research matters will be direct between you and your supervisor by email.
- You will agree with your supervisor as to the topic you are proposing to research.
- Please watch completely all videos pertaining to writing a Research proposal.
- Calwest advises that you should be regularly in contact with your supervisor when writing your proposal.

6. Topic Outline

Topic No.	*Topic and Topic PowerPoint*	
1	Formulating the Research Topic	2
2	Critically Reviewing the Literature	3
3	Research Reports	14
4	Research Proposal Format	PDF

7. Assessment

Your course assessment is a completed Research Proposal.

Your Research Proposal should be a Microsoft Word document in Times New Roman 12; with 1.5 spacing and line spacing before 12 points and after 6 points.

The length should be between 2,000 and 3,500 words (including references and appendices)

Please submit your completed Research Proposal by as a word document direct to your supervisor by email for comment.

Once your supervisor and you are happy with your research proposal, your supervisor will officially notify you of your grade and if you can undertake your Research Thesis.

On receiving such notification, please enroll in the Calwest Research Thesis (six courses equivalent).

8. Grading Criteria

Calwest University applies the following grading system in all courses:

A pass mark of 60% (grade of D which is a bare minimum pass) or above is required to satisfy the educational requirements of the university for completing the course. The grade assessments are as follows:

Below 60%:	Fail
60-64% :	D
65-69% :	D+
70-72% :	C-

73-75%	:	C
76-78%	:	C+
79-81%	:	B-
82-84%	:	B

85-88%	:	B+
89-91%	:	A-
92-95%	:	A
Over 95% :		A+