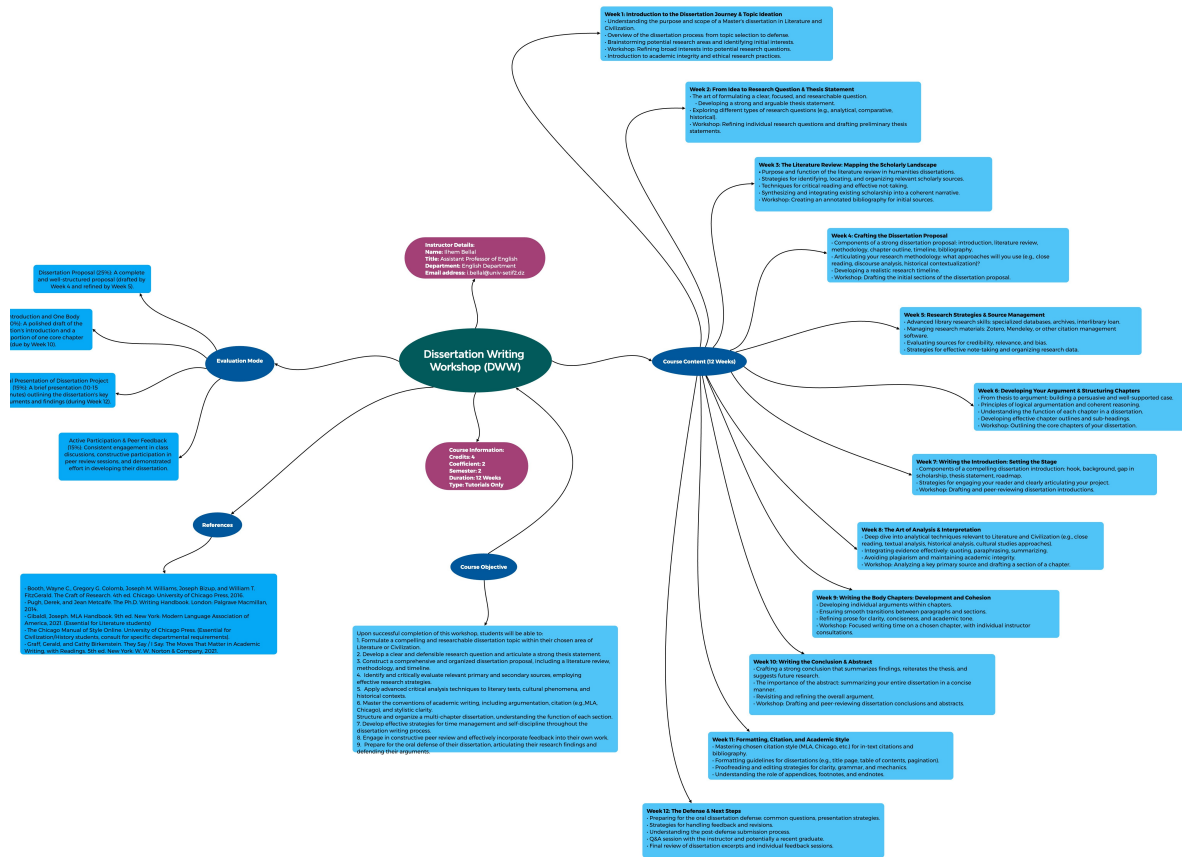


Course Syllabus



DWW Mind Map

Week 1: Introduction to the Dissertation Journey & Topic Ideation

- Understanding the purpose, scope, and structure of a Master's dissertation in Literature and Civilization.
- Exploring different types of dissertations and research approaches in the humanities.
- Overview of the dissertation process: from topic selection to final defense.
- Identifying research interests, areas of inquiry, and potential research problems.
- Assessing the relevance, originality, feasibility, and scope of a potential topic.
- Introduction to academic integrity, research ethics, and responsible scholarship.
- **Workshop:** Brainstorming research areas and transforming broad interests into potential dissertation topics.
- **Expected output:** Preliminary dissertation topic.

Week 2: From Research Problem to Research Questions & Thesis Statement

- Distinguishing between a research topic, research problem, research questions, research objectives, and thesis statement.
- Formulating clear, focused, relevant, and researchable questions.
- Exploring different types of research questions: analytical, comparative, interpretive, historical, and cultural.
- Developing research objectives that correspond to the research questions.
- Constructing a clear, arguable, and defensible thesis statement.
- Ensuring alignment between the research problem, questions, objectives, and thesis.
- **Workshop:** Refining individual research questions, objectives, and preliminary thesis statements.
- **Expected output:** Research questions, objectives, and preliminary thesis statement.

Week 3: The Literature Review & Mapping the Scholarly Landscape

- Understanding the purpose and function of the literature review in humanities research.

- Identifying relevant primary and secondary sources.
- Developing effective strategies for locating scholarly literature.
- Reading sources critically and taking effective research notes.
- Distinguishing between summary, synthesis, and critical evaluation.
- Identifying debates, gaps, limitations, and areas for further research.
- Organizing scholarship thematically, chronologically, or conceptually.
- Developing an annotated bibliography.
- **Workshop:** Reading, evaluating, and synthesizing selected scholarly sources.
- **Expected output:** Preliminary annotated bibliography and research gap.

Week 4: Crafting the Dissertation Proposal & Research Methodology

- Understanding the purpose and structure of a dissertation proposal.
- Examining the main components of a proposal: introduction, research problem, questions, objectives, literature review, methodology, chapter outline, timeline, and bibliography.
- Exploring qualitative research approaches in Literature and Civilization.
- Selecting appropriate research methods and analytical approaches.
- Examining methods such as close reading, comparative analysis, discourse analysis, historical analysis, and cultural analysis.
- Establishing the relationship between research questions and methodology.
- Developing a realistic research timeline.
- **Workshop:** Drafting and reviewing sections of the dissertation proposal.
- **Expected output:** Initial dissertation proposal.

Week 5: Research Strategies, Digital Tools & Source Management

- Developing effective academic search strategies and keyword combinations.
- Using Boolean operators and advanced search techniques.
- Exploring academic databases, digital libraries, archives, repositories, and scholarly search engines.

- Evaluating sources according to credibility, relevance, authority, currency, and potential bias.
- Distinguishing scholarly sources from unreliable or non-academic online materials.
- Managing references and research materials using citation-management tools such as Zotero.
- Developing systematic strategies for note-taking and organizing research materials.
- Understanding responsible and ethical uses of digital and AI-assisted research tools.
- **Workshop:** Conducting an advanced literature search and organizing sources in a reference-management system.
- **Expected output:** Organized research library and source-management system.

Week 6: Developing the Argument & Structuring the Dissertation

- Moving from a thesis statement to a coherent and persuasive argument.
- Understanding the relationship between claims, evidence, analysis, and interpretation.
- Applying principles of logical reasoning and academic argumentation.
- Considering alternative interpretations and counterarguments.
- Understanding the function and organization of dissertation chapters.
- Developing chapter outlines, sections, and subheadings.
- Ensuring coherence and progression across the dissertation.
- **Workshop:** Constructing the argument and developing a detailed dissertation outline.
- **Expected output:** Dissertation structure and chapter outline.

Week 7: Writing the Dissertation Introduction

- Understanding the purpose and function of the dissertation introduction.
- Identifying the key components of an effective introduction.
- Establishing the research context and problem.
- Presenting the research questions and objectives.
- Identifying the research gap and significance of the study.
- Presenting the thesis statement and outlining the structure of the dissertation.
- Developing effective academic signposting.

- **Workshop:** Drafting, reviewing, and peer-assessing dissertation introductions.
- **Expected output:** Draft dissertation introduction.

Week 8: Analysis, Interpretation & Use of Evidence

- Exploring analytical approaches relevant to Literature and Civilization.
- Applying close reading and other forms of textual, cultural, and historical analysis.
- Distinguishing description from analysis and interpretation.
- Selecting and integrating relevant textual and scholarly evidence.
- Using quotations, paraphrases, and summaries effectively.
- Connecting evidence to claims and the overall research argument.
- Avoiding plagiarism and maintaining academic integrity.
- **Workshop:** Analyzing a primary source and developing an analytical section of a dissertation chapter.
- **Expected output:** Draft analytical section.

Week 9: Writing the Body Chapters: Development & Cohesion

- Developing focused arguments within individual chapters.
- Organizing paragraphs around clear claims and supporting evidence.
- Creating logical connections between paragraphs and sections.
- Developing effective transitions and academic signposting.
- Maintaining coherence between individual chapters and the overall dissertation argument.
- Refining academic style, clarity, precision, and concision.
- Revising arguments based on peer and instructor feedback.
- **Workshop:** Focused writing and revision of a selected dissertation chapter, with individual consultations.
- **Expected output:** Draft body chapter.

Week 10: Writing the Conclusion, Abstract & Research Contribution

- Understanding the purpose and structure of the dissertation conclusion.
- Synthesizing the main findings without simply repeating previous sections.
- Reconnecting the findings to the research questions and thesis.
- Articulating the contribution and significance of the research.
- Acknowledging the limitations of the study.
- Identifying possible directions for future research.
- Understanding the purpose, structure, and conventions of a dissertation abstract.
- **Workshop:** Drafting and peer-reviewing conclusions and abstracts.
- **Expected output:** Draft conclusion and abstract.

Week 11: Academic Writing, Citation, Formatting & Revision

- Applying appropriate academic writing conventions and disciplinary terminology.
- Mastering the selected citation and referencing style, such as MLA or Chicago.
- Distinguishing between effective citation, paraphrasing, and plagiarism.
- Formatting the dissertation: title page, table of contents, headings, pagination, bibliography, and appendices.
- Understanding the use of footnotes and endnotes where appropriate.
- Revising for argument, structure, coherence, and academic style.
- Editing for grammar, vocabulary, clarity, and mechanics.
- Conducting a final consistency and formatting check.
- **Workshop:** Editing and revising a dissertation extract using a structured revision checklist.
- **Expected output:** Revised dissertation extract and final submission checklist.

Week 12: Dissertation Defense & Next Steps

- Understanding the purpose, structure, and expectations of an oral dissertation defense.
- Structuring a concise and effective 10–15-minute research presentation.
- Selecting and presenting the most significant aspects of the research.
- Summarizing the research problem, methodology, findings, and contribution.
- Developing effective academic presentation and communication skills.
- Anticipating and responding to questions from the examination committee.
- Defending research choices and responding constructively to criticism.
- Understanding post-defense revisions and final submission procedures.
- Reflecting on the dissertation process and identifying future research directions.
- **Workshop:** Mock defense, presentation practice, and individual feedback.
- **Expected output:** Oral dissertation presentation.