



GEDU 6140
Graduate Project in Lifelong Learning
Unit Value: 0.5 (1/2 unit)

Course Overview

This is a required course for all students in the 5.0 unit Graduate Lifelong Learning M.Ed. program at Mount St. Vincent University. Students are advised to take this course either at the end or near the end of their program of study. The project entails a sustained exploration of theory, research and practice. Students will be expected to reflect upon their learning throughout the degree to link theoretical and research ideas to existing practical contexts. Each project will be designed by the individual student in consultation with the instructor.

Students will be expected to work independently on their projects and to submit a final academic paper that will be no less than 30 and no more than 40 pages in length, inclusive of references (12 pt. type, double-spaced, 1" margins, APA referencing style). Students will be expected to include a minimum of one scholarly reference per page, and papers must be grammatically and stylistically accurate. It will be the student's responsibility to ensure that the writing is at a graduate level. Evaluation for the project is either pass or fail. Papers that do not meet acceptable graduate level standards of writing will be returned and students will be expected to rewrite and resubmit their work.

The objective of the course is for the student to focus on an area of interest in which the student will discuss the significance, importance, and relevance of this topic for the field of adult education. Students must outline a clearly defined argument and support this in their writing. For the project, students may choose to critique existing practices (ie. challenge HRD from a feminist perspective), open up a new topic for consideration (ie. assess the potential for humanistic theory to develop a curriculum that could be used by museum educators), or apply theory to a particular situation (ie. draw upon Freire to explore opportunities for learning in technological environments). Work in the project must fall into the realm of professional practice or be reflective/theoretical in orientation so that it does not require a formal ethics approval.

Course Structure

There will be a preliminary class session at the start of the term where the students in the class will be given an orientation to the project.

Class Date: TBA

Students will be expected to submit a preliminary proposal on their project by the following week. The preliminary proposal will include a 2-3 page overview that overviews the topic that will be explored, provides a rationale as to why the student would select this topic, and includes a preliminary bibliography of references that will be drawn upon to inform the final paper.

Proposal Due Date: TBA

Students will be expected to set up a time to meet either virtually or in person with their instructor over the next couple of weeks to refine the topic, determine that the proposed project will not require a formal ethics review, and to discuss additional areas of research that might need to be included. Based upon this feedback, some students will be asked to revise the initial proposal and resubmit.

Students will then be expected to work independently upon their projects through the rest of the term. Students may contact their instructor as questions arise, but they should also update their instructor via email or in person as to their progress on the project by the 15th of every month.

Final Paper Due: TBA

Frequently Asked Questions:

- A. ***Do I have to do a project if I have already done the practicum?***
- A. Yes. As of 2002/2003, everyone who is in the 5.0 credit M.Ed. adult education program has to complete the project. M.A.Ed. students will write a thesis but do not complete the project.
- A. ***If I decide halfway through the project that I would like to change this into a thesis, can I?***
- A. No. The thesis and the project are two separate and distinct courses with different requirements.
- A. ***What do I do if I need to complete the project but it isn't offered in the semester I want to take it?***

The project will be offered as a course in fall/winter sessions when there are sufficient numbers of students (10) to justify running a full section. At other times, students may approach a full-time faculty member to see if that person is willing to supervise the project as an independent study. However, faculty are not required to take on independent study courses, so students should try to plan their schedule to take the project when it is offered as a course.