Lincoln University
FALL 2017

COURSE:	**BA 510 Seminar on Higher Education** (Wednesday 12:30—3:15 AM, by appointment); 3 units (45 hours of lectures & discussions)
INSTRUCTOR:	Igor Himelfarb, Ph.D. ihimelfarb@lincolnuca.edu
OFFICE HOURS:	Before and after the class and by appointment in room 404
TEXTS:	no textbook for this course

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The DBA Dissertation Seminar prepares students to begin the dissertation phase of their doctoral study program. This course provides students with individualized instruction guiding them toward the selection of a dissertation topic that is sufficiently well defined to ensure its successful pursuit and narrow enough in its scope that the student can expect to complete their project within a reasonable time frame. Further, this course provides students with a framework for dissertation research enabling them to select a research area and topic that will provide meaningful results to practitioners in that field. Students in this course are required to work with the instructor in selecting a dissertation research topic and develop a formal comprehensive dissertation research proposal. Upon completion of this course, the student will present this research proposal to the DBA Program Committee for approval to begin their dissertation research project. (3 units)
Prerequisites: *Completion of all DBA core and five elective concentration courses.*

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT:

The focus of this course is to prepare the student to begin the dissertation phase of their DBA program.

- Students in this course will be required to explore a variety of research topics of interest to them and work with the instructor in reducing the range of topics to one that is feasible to undertake and sufficient in scope and depth to become their dissertation research project. In order to make this choice, the student will interact with their instructor exploring critical issues such as available data sources, appropriate research methodologies applicable to their topic, appropriate tools for data analysis, and the potential value of the information produced by their research.
    - o **Assessment:** Weekly discussions, drafts submitted by the student

- Once the final topic selection is agreed upon, the student will proceed to develop a comprehensive formal dissertation research proposal based on the dissertation guidelines provided by the course instructor (applicable to all dissertations). The objective of the dissertation seminar is to enable each student to have an instructor critiqued and accepted doctoral dissertation proposal in final form ready to present to the DBA Program Committee for approval to begin their dissertation research project.
  - **Assessment:** Weekly discussions, final draft of the proposal submitted by the student

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

When we have group meetings, the class will follow seminar format, which is a combination of lectures and round-table discussions. Typically, the instructor will lecture at the beginning of the class, then, each day, a discussion of articles read for that day will follow. In addition, the instructor will meet one-on-one with students to cater to their specific dissertation needs.

FINAL PAPER:

A final paper on the topic chosen by the student for their dissertation will be required. Depending on the state of student's dissertation, the final paper may be a literature review related to the topic chosen by the student, a draft of the method or results sections (including tables and figures) or a complete draft of the dissertation.

I am available and will do my best to help you learn and succeed. Questions and points of discussion are encouraged. I am also highly accessible for discussions if you wish to receive additional information or learn more about a certain topic or need help with data analysis. Please visit me during my office hours, or talk to me immediately after class, if you need study tips or additional help. No appointment is required for my office hours.

GRADING:

The grading schema for this class will be: **CR (credit)** or **NC (no credit).**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE COURSE:

Weeks 1-3: **Discussion Related to Dissertation Topics**

Students, in concert with the instructor, will select and evaluate a range of dissertation research topics of interest to them. This range will be narrowed to a few possible choices based on instructor input regarding each topic's research feasibility, the likelihood that the research will provide a useful outcome, and whether the research could be completed within a reasonable time frame. Students would then pick one topic from among a limited number of choices remaining as the selection for their dissertation research project.

Weeks 4-6: Guidelines for the Dissertation Research Project

Students will be presented with the Institutional guidelines that they are to use in the development and publication of their dissertation. The instructor will take the students through a discussion of the format and structure requirements for the development of their dissertation. Coverage will include development of a research hypothesis, description of the research methodology to be employed, data collection plan, methodology for data analysis and evaluation of the research results, development of an assessment of the research results, and, the construction of a final section citing the value and application of the research including conclusions and recommendations.

Weeks 7-12: Dissertation Research Project Proposal Development

During this portion of the course students will focus on the development of a formal proposal supporting their topic selection, research process, and the nature of the results expected. The course instructor will work with individual students as questions arise related to their research project or concerns surface as to the feasibility of the student's research as proposed or their planned research methodology. Students are expected to have a final draft of their dissertation research project proposal ready for presentation to the instructor and class by the end of this course segment.

Week 13: Research Proposal Presentation

Student presentations will be critiqued by the Instructor and students to provide each student with feedback designed to strengthen their proposal in terms of being a convincing rationale for undertaking specified research study.

Weeks 14-15: Submission of Research Proposal in Final Form

Students have two weeks to incorporate Instructor and Student presentation feedback into their research proposals. Dissertation Research Project Proposals presented to the Instructor in final form complete the student's requirements for this course. It is expected that this document will also be presented for review and approval by the DBA Program Committee as the student's next step toward beginning their dissertation research.

Note: Instructor reserves the right to modify any part of this syllabus.

GOOD LUCK!

Syllabus Reviewed: 8/16/2017

Appendix. Program and Institutional Learning Outcomes.

Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs)	
DBA Graduates of Lincoln University should be able to:	
1c	Incorporate various modes of thinking, among them: scientific thinking, mathematical thinking, historical thinking, anthropological thinking, economic thinking, and moral thinking.
2c	Operate within alternative systems of thought, recognizing and assessing the needs, with related assumptions, implications, and practical consequences; and being able to communicate results effectively with others in figuring out solutions to complex problems
3c	as exemplary business professionals, minimize the possibility of indirectly harming others by following accepted standards at local, national or international levels; to be able to assess the likelihood and physical and social consequences of any developed product's harm to others.
4c	Integrate collaboration into organizational workflows, create a supportive environment for collaboration and teamwork, and lead by example.
5c	Have perseverance to accomplish a goal despite potential obstacles, use sound judgments to make decisions at a right time, and make timely appropriate changes in thinking, plans, and methods in achieving organizational goals.
6c	Set up realistic goals for the organization, encourage innovative strategies, and convey a clear sense of future direction to employees.
7c	Formulate and arrange ideas, designs, or techniques, and apply them to specific issues and problems. They should be able to apply current research, scholarship and or/techniques in the field.

Program Level Outcomes (PLOs)	
Students graduating our DBA program will be able to:	
1	Demonstrate advanced knowledge and competence in the latest academic theories, concepts, and techniques in the field of business administration.
2	Demonstrate effective research skills including formulation of research problem; integration of previous literature into an appropriate literature review; design of a research study; data analysis; and summary and presentation of results.
3	Create and present advanced forms of oral and written communications, including teaching and advising.
4	Generate, evaluate and assess the ethical obligations and responsibilities of business for the purpose of responsible management.
5	Apply the knowledge from the area of specialization and provide consulting to other business industries or other fields.