PhD Proseminar – MCMA 595
Spring 2016
Dong Han

Time: 3:15 – 6 pm T
Location: Communications 1214
Office: Communications 1226
Office hours: MWF 1-2pm
Email: donghan@siu.edu

Course description and objectives:
This class introduces first year doctoral students to practical aspects of academic research and career in the United States. Weekly meetings cover a wide range of topics in research, teaching, professional service as well as basics of job application. The class emphasizes the awareness and ability to present research findings, to explain and teach complex theories, and to work collaboratively with colleagues and peers.

Requirements and evaluation:
Research presentation: 20%
Teaching demonstration: 20%
Conference panel proposal: 20%
Job application materials: 20%
Attendance and participation: 20%

Research presentation:
Each student will do one presentation on her/his research in class. It is strongly recommended that the topic be at the core of the student’s research and will likely become part of the dissertation project. Slides are required for the presentation.

Teaching demonstration:
Students will practice undergraduate teaching by giving a mini-lecture, designing a take-home assignment (or an exam) and creating an assessment plan.

Conference panel proposal:
Students will practice organizing a panel to submit to a conference. They will be asked to put together individual research, write a panel proposal, and pick a discussant.

Job application materials:
Students will prepare a job application kit and learn the basics of writing a cover letter, building a CV and preparing other documents.

Detailed requirements and instructions for these assignments will be available as handouts. There may be additional assignments from week to week.
Attendance and class participation:
The class will be organized as a seminar. Students are expected to bring questions and to explore answers with the class as a team.

D2L is going to be used extensively in the class. Notifications and announcements, as well as all assignments, are to be posted in D2L.

Class schedule

Week 1 (Jan 19) – Getting started

Week 2 (Jan 26) – Making a plan for graduate school

Week 3 (Feb 2) – Developing a dissertation topic

Week 4 (Feb 9) – Research presentation and Q&A

Week 5 (Feb 16) – Discussion on presentation performance and skills

Week 6 (Feb 23) – Teaching: lecturing, grading, and assessment

Week 7 (Mar 1) – Teaching demonstration

Week 8 (Mar 8) – Discussion on teaching performance and skills

Week 9 (Mar 15) – Spring break. No class.

Week 10 (Mar 22) – Publishing in peer-reviewed journals

Week 11 (Mar 29) – Conference; organizing a panel

Week 12 (Apr 5) – Review for journal/conference; write reference letters

Week 13 (Apr 12) – Job search basics

Week 14 (Apr 19) – Practice presentation for the graduate symposium

Week 15 (Apr 26) – Job interview and after

Week 16 (May 3) – Wrapping up/end-of-semester discussion

*Please see attached for SIU’s Syllabus Attachment Spring 2016.