# Projects in the Course

The course is built around a series of projects that lead to an integrated goal:

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| Project #1 *Urban Research Design*  In a 3-4 page paper, contrast Missiological research methodologies with Community-Based research, Action research, and the organizational analyses you have been doing in some of your internships. Discuss how each of these feed into a Transformational Conversations paradigm of doing theology. Describe the organization you are working with, and potential issues you might research with them. What does the organization leadership indicate are the three most significant things you could research? What do you think? Which research approaches might work best, and which of the 15 or so methodologies that you have studies in various courses might be most effective?  *Evaluative criteria:* timeliness, completeness, evidence of idea integration from assigned materials, writing quality |
| Project #2 *Agency Assessment and Selection*  *Evaluative criteria*: timeliness, completeness, depth of analysis, writing quality |
| Project #3 *Initial Project Plan and Timetable (undergraduate style – this is not your proposal)*  <https://urbanleaders.org/670ResearchMethods/1ResearchFramework/ProjectPlan.docx>  *Evaluative criteria:* timeliness, completeness, evidence of idea integration from assigned materials, feasibility of plan |
| Project #4 *Literature Review*  *Evaluative criteria:* # of high-quality (authoritative) sources; completeness, quality of literature analysis, writing quality |
| Project #5 *Project Proposal – Final*  <https://urbanleaders.org/670ResearchMethods/2Charting%20Journey/ProjectProposal_2_.docx>  *Evaluative criteria:* selection of appropriate research methods; blend of observational and interview data; # of informants; quality of interview guide; quality of data collected; clear organization of data by labeled themes; writing quality (clear, succinct, spelling, persuasiveness). |
| *Project #3b Local Knowledge*  If attending a local course:   * Prior to the course compare local course syllabi with the WCIU course project. Attach summary notes from a local course on research methods. Indicate the time commitment and evaluate the effectiveness of this course in contributing to your skills for this course. Which assignments in this course have been fulfilled?   If not attending a local course:   * Identify a local academic mentor to meet with for a few hours. (You may need to barter as to how you can contribute to his/her work at your expense). * Identify and discuss local research issues, and ethics (1 page). * Identify five local books and articles used in the areas of action research, participatory research and research methods with a five-line annotation for each in your bibliography. * Identify five local books or articles related to the field of research you are focused on with a five-line annotation for each in your bibliography.   *Evaluative Criteria:* Clarity of Engagement with mentor/school; Extent of Engagement with Local Literature; Analysis of Input; Understanding of Local Research Issues |
| *Project #3c Ethics Application (or equivalent*)  Since this only a Master’s level course, we will avoid designs that require ETHICS approval, but will learn the ETHICS process.   * Begin understanding the Ethics requirements of WCIU * Download the WCIU Research handbook and browse. * You need to complete a simple Ethics training <https://wciu.populiweb.com/router/courseofferings/9861175/files/67858885/show> * Submit your certificate and Ethics application to the professor.   *Evaluative Criteria:* successful ETHICS proposal design. |
| *Project #3d Developing a Theological Framework*  Review the document on Transformational Conversations, then Transformational Conversations as Research  You will tend to emphasize one area more than another. Discuss whether you primarily want to see theological outcomes that identify and potentially change the theologies of the people:  ● in the community organization you are partnered with or  ● in the community under study or  ● to do primarily community development outcomes, supported by theological concepts or  ● do church growth research.  The steps in the approaches are relatively the same but the emphasis placed on each will be quite different.  Discuss how our own future might bias this decision. Do you want to be known as a theologian , as a community development worker, an educator, as a ministry leader?  Discuss how the organization you are planning to work with might bias this decision.  Each student work on one of the following to contrast each Transformational Conversations with one each of the following. How do the following differ from Transformational Conversations and do they help you more with your topic?  ● The Pastoral Cycle  ● Narrative theology  ● Case Study analysis  ● Grounded theory  ● The hermeneutic cycle of liberation theology  ● Grounded Theological Research: This is a common expression for theological reflection derived from real life issues. Scan the web for definitions.  ● Critical Discourse theory  All review at least one chapter from Eddie Elliston's \_Missiological Research\_ and ask how it connects with the above approaches. Come to class (Week 1) prepared to develop a collective diagram of the linkages between these. |