**Research Methods Assignment #1**

**Creating a Dissertation Shell**

**Date of Submission: 12th March 2014**

This assignment is an individual assignment and counts for 30% of your overall mark; you are required to submit a document (in Microsoft Word format) that has a first-draft version of the chapter names and main section headings of your dissertation. To help you out, on the following pages I have included a sample of what is needed; everything in bold is the actual titles you have to put in, so no work needed there; whereas the ones that are not in bold, you’ll have to change and make them specific to your project.

Additionally, there a few other elements to incorporate into your document:

* A draft of your abstract, we will work on this in class and you can polish it off.
* A Table of Contents that must be generated using Microsoft Word, if you have created your headings correctly, this is no problem. NB: *This is an atomic marking requirement, if you don’t do this you won’t get any marks for this assignment*
* A description and a MindMap describing your discipline.
* You will be required to locate two papers that are relevant to your discipline that include the use of an interview as part of their research methods, you are required to write one sentence about each of them.
* You will be required to locate two papers that are relevant to your discipline that include the use of a questionnaire as part of their research methods, you are required to write one sentence about each of them.
* You will be required to create 10 questions that you might use for an interview, we will work on this in class and you can polish it off.
* You will be required to create 10 questions that you might use for a questionnaire, we will work on this in class and you can polish it off.

**Submission of Assignment:**

You are required to electronically submit your assignment on or before the due date, and print out a copy for me also, and hand to me in class on the due date.

**To submit electronically:** e-mail to [Damian.Gordon@dit.ie](mailto:Damian.Gordon@dit.ie) , subject heading: "MSc Research Methods Assignment #1", the name of the file must be Dissertation-DXXXXXXXX.docx, where DXXXXXXXX is your student number.

Title Page

<Find an existing dissertation for this>

**Declaration**

<Find an existing dissertation for this>

**Abstract**

<Draft of your abstract, plus 4-6 keywords>

**Acknowledgements**

**Table of Contents**

<Must be generated automatically (in format “Automatic Table 1”), this is an atomic marking requirement, if you don’t do this you won’t get any marks for this assignment>

Optional: **Table of Figures**

Optional: **Table of Tables**

Optional: **Glossary of Terms**

1. **Introduction**
   1. **Project Background**
   2. **Project Description** <Include Mindmap and description your discipline>
   3. **Research Aims and Objectives**
   4. **Research Methods**
   5. **Scope and Limitations**
   6. **Organisation of Dissertation**

2. Literature Review

<Might be more than one chapter>

<This chapter focuses on the main themes of your research>

**2.1 Introduction**

<Include section headings that you think will be applicable for your research problem>

<Reference any papers you found in your google of your area with the word “trends”

**2.X Conclusions**

3. Design

< Might be more than one chapter >

< This chapter focuses on how you will do the experiment>

**3.1 Introduction**

**3.2 Methodologies**

<Write one sentence per two papers with interviews appropriate to your research problem>

<Write one sentence per two papers with questionnaires appropriate to your research problem>

<Your 10 Interview Questions>

< Your 10 Survey Questions>

<Other section headings as appropriate>

**3.X Conclusions**

4. Experiment

<Might be more than one chapter>

< This chapter focuses on how you deployed the experiment>

**4.1 Introduction**

<Explain your implementation>

<Other section headings as appropriate>

**4.X Conclusions**

5. Evaluation

< This chapter focuses on your analysis and evaluation>

**5.1 Introduction**

<Other section headings as appropriate>

**5.X Conclusions**

**6. Conclusions and Future Work**

**6.1 Introduction**

**6.2 Conclusions**

**6.3 Future Work**

**Bibliography**

<References for any papers cited in Harvard format>