**HSC4730: Research ‘Proposal’ Assignment**

**(What the *#%\*@* are we being asked to do???)**

* You and your research team are being asked to design your own research study that will answer your specific research question. This is known as a research ‘proposal’. You are literally proposing an idea for a study that will answer a question on a topic of your choice.
* You will use the existing literature to help you generate ideas about what your research topic will be.
* Your research topic of interest should be articulated into a well-defined research question.
* You will cite the existing literature to show that you have adequate knowledge of the field. What has been done before in this area (or related areas), what did these studies find? What were the ‘limitations’ (i.e., weaknesses) of these studies?
* These previous studies will help you with generating ideas for your own study, that is why it is important to **DIG INTO THE LITERATURE** on your topic.
* You should try and think about the following questions when designing your research study:
  + Why is this area important?
  + What is the unmet need or unanswered question?
  + How will my research address that?
  + Why is this the best approach?
* The proposal has 3 main sections (see proposal writing guide)
* You are NOT collecting these data, this is a proposal, you are proposing a ‘*hypothetical’* study!
* You will use ‘future tense’ (e.g., “we plan to collect….” “our study design will be a….”)

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Remember the **Research Proposal Writing Guide** I there to help you produce a coherent and properly formatted proposal document.

The **PowerPoint slides** will give you examples of what can be included in the different sections of the proposal.

The **Peer-reviewed Literature** will help provide you with evidence of what has been ‘studied’ before, how they did it (methods), and what they found.

The **Example** **Research Proposal Documents** from previous semesters will provide you with the how the finished product should look.