

EDUC 622
Research Methods in Education
Summer 2004

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Office Hours:
5:00-6:00 MT
and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A core course designed to introduce educational practitioners to the fields of educational research and evaluation. As such, it explores quantitative and qualitative methods of designing and conducting research and evaluation in the context of classroom settings. It further examines measurement, assessment, common statistical techniques and methods for critiquing research and program evaluation studies.

OBJECTIVES

Students will increase their:

- ability to critique education research
- understanding of various research methodologies
- knowledge of education research
- skills in planning research; and
- ability to summarize and interpret research.

TEXTBOOKS

American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th Edition.*

Johnson, B. & Christensen, L. (2004). *Educational Research, 2nd Edition.* New York: Pearson Education.

EMAIL: You must email me the first week of class from the account you use. Check your email often for any updates.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. CHAPTER DISCUSSION LEADER

100 POINTS

Sign up with a partner to give a ninety minute presentation on one chapter of the textbook. Create overheads and **interactive** handouts that the class can use to take notes.

Email your handout to the professor at least two days before your presentation.

3. RESEARCH PROPOSAL

200 POINTS

The final paper assignment is to write or revise the first three chapters of a thesis in *APA format*. You will give a 10 minute presentation of your paper *highlighting the methodology (Chapter Three)* at the end of the semester. Each chapter must be peer reviewed by two classmates.

Research Proposal Outline

Title Page

Table of Contents

Chapter I - Introduction to Study

- Background
- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study and Rationale
- Research Questions and Hypotheses
- Significance of Study and Applications
- Limitations
- Definitions of Terms

Chapter II - Review of Literature

- Introduction
- Subtopic Sections (at least 3)
- Summary of Literature Review

Chapter III - Methodology

- Introduction
- Design
- Subjects
- Materials
- Procedure
- Analysis

References

Appendices

- A Time Schedule
- B Budget
- C Instruments
- D others-optional

RESEARCH PROPOSAL RUBRIC

<u>Category</u>	<u>Chapter 1</u> Max 50 pts	<u>Chapter 2</u> Max 50 pts	<u>Chapter 3</u> Max 50 pts	<u>References</u> Max 15 pts	<u>Presentation</u> Max 35 pts
Organization					
Completeness					
Content					
Relevance					
Clear Presentation					

Total Score _____

Master Thesis/Project Guidelines

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION/FOCUS OF THE THESIS/PROJECT

This chapter will define the research or project focus. Explain what you hope to accomplish in your thesis/project. What issue is to be addressed? Definitions of terms must be very clear. Do not assume that your reader knows what you mean when you use educational jargon.

Thoughts for the Writer/Reader:

- Are terms and definitions clear?
- Is it clear what the focus of the research will be? One of two formats should be used:
1) The research shows X, Y, and Z, but it doesn't show _____. -or- 2) This research will help build upon the research of X, Y, and Z by _____.
- Is the question *very* clear? Do you understand exactly what the author hopes to find?
- Is the chapter written in present tense? (With the exception of citations of other research; use past tense or present perfect tense for these--see APA)

CHAPTER TWO REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

This chapter will put the research or project in context with what is already known. Review what is currently known (and not known) about the issue. Where is the field in terms of what is happening with the topic? Put your project/issue into a theoretical context. What theories/ principles are you basing your projection? What are your assumptions? The review of the literature puts the project in perspective and lets the reader know why the project is of significance. It also provides a *critical analysis* of the research. *You must have at least eight peer reviewed articles.*

Thoughts for the Writer/Reader:

- Is all the research discussed relevant to the question presented in Chapter One?
- Do you understand the essential elements of the each article cited? Did the author provide information on the methodology, subjects, and conclusions of each article? Did the author mention strengths and weaknesses of the research?
- Are the majority of the articles from professional, peer reviewed journals?
- Is the chapter written in past tense?

CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the research or project designs and data collection. How will the research/project be conducted? Why did you select that design? What must be done in order for you to accomplish your goals? In the introduction to this Chapter, cite Charles identifying the methodology you have selected and a clear rationale for using that methodology.

Thoughts for the Writer/Reader:

- Are descriptions of the methodology specific enough that someone could replicate?
- Is it clear who did what and when? Is it clear how these decisions were made?
- Whenever possible, did the author use examples of classroom scenarios, student work, teacher lesson plans, etc.?
- Is the chapter written in past tense?

If a project, did the author list conclusions from the review of literature and list specifically how those conclusions will be implemented into the final project?

General Guidelines for Peer Review:

- APA format should be followed. Read APA for important information on such things as spacing, margins, etc.
- Give the author specific feedback on what you understood and what you didn't understand
- Think about how well the chapter holds together. Does it all seem relevant/necessary? Could any parts be cut?
- Is it clear? Does it all make sense? What needs clarification?
- Is there a clear and easy to follow organization? Are large pieces of text broken up? Are there appropriate subheadings?
- Is the theoretical orientation of the writer clear?
- Is there a summary and/or a concluding paragraph? This should be a transition to what will follow.
- Are all necessary terms defined? (Assume someone familiar with education will be the reader, but do not assume that they will understand all professional jargon).
- Did the author use spell check?
- Did the author cite properly? Are all citations in the reference page? Anything that is

quoted needs a page number. Quotes longer than five lines are set apart by single spacing and indenting both margins.

- Are there too many or too few quotes? Many times it is preferable to paraphrase and then cite an author.
- As much as possible, did the author find the original source and cite them (rather than citing what someone else cited). However, if the author used a secondary source, did he or she follow the guidelines?
- Did the author use proper tense? APA suggests different tenses for different chapters. The main thing to remember is to be consistent within chapters.

4. ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

100 POINTS

You are expected to arrive on time, be a good listener and participant, and be prepared for class. Points for overall attendance and participation will be determined at the end of the semester.

COE Attendance Policy

*Due to the dynamic and interactive nature of courses in the College of Education, all students are expected to attend all classes and participate actively. At a minimum, students must attend more than 80% of class time, or student **may not receive a passing grade** for the course at the discretion of the instructor. Individual instructors may adopt more stringent attendance requirements. Should the student have extenuating circumstances, s/he should contact the instructor*

IMPORTANT: You cannot receive an "A" if you miss more than two classes. You cannot receive a "B" if you miss more than three classes.

Grading Scale (based on percentages of the above points):

100-94	A
93-91	A-
90-88	B+
87-84	B
83-81	B-
80-71	C

APA Style

You will be expected to follow APA for the following:

5th Edition

Title page	p. 10, 306
Levels of headings	p. 113, 307-8
Page numbers & headers	p. 12, 288
Writing numbers	p. 122
Citations in text	p. 207-214
Reference Page	p. 215-281, 313
Block Quotes	p. 121, 117-119