

**EDUC 622**  
**Research Methods in Education**  
**CRN 21394**  
**Spring 2007**

Dr. Janet L. Powell  
Professor of Literacy Education  
University Hall 418  
760/750-4319  
jpowell@csusm.edu

Office Hours:  
4:30-5:30 Mondays  
and by appointment

**Check your email often for class updates and handouts.**

#### 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. (2001). *Publication manual of the American*

*Psychological Association*, (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington D.C.: Author..

Johnson, B. & Christensen, L. (2004). *Educational research*, (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)..

New York: Pearson Education.

## ASSIGNMENTS:

### 1. 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.

|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| <b><u>COE Attendance Policy</u></b> |
|-------------------------------------|

|  |
|--|
| <i>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</i> |
|--|

**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.

### 2. CHAPTER DISCUSSION LEADER 100 POINTS

Sign up with a partner to give a sixty minute presentation on one chapter of the textbook. Create overheads and an **interactive** presentation using handouts that the class can use to take notes. Email your handout to the professor for approval at least one week before your presentation.

### 3. RESEARCH PROPOSAL 300 POINTS

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

#### **Guidelines:**

#### CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

This chapter will define the research focus. Clearly state your question and sub-questions and explain what you hope to accomplish. Definitions of terms must be very clear. Do not assume that your reader knows what you mean when you use educational jargon.

Criteria:

- Are terms and definitions clear?
- 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 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? The review of the literature puts the research in perspective and lets the reader know why the question is of significance. It also provides a *critical analysis* of the research. ***You must have at least ten relevant peer reviewed articles for this draft, 20 references total.***

Criteria:

- 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?

## CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the research design and data collection. How will the research 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 the textbook identifying the methodology you have selected and a clear rationale for using that methodology.

Criteria:

- 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 future tense?
- Think about how well the chapter holds together. Does it all seem relevant and necessary? Could any parts be cut?
- Does it all make sense? What needs clarification?
- Is there a clear and easy to follow organization? Are large pieces of text broken up with subheadings? Are the subheadings indicative of the content?

- 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 indenting both margins.
- Are there too many or too few quotes? Most 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.

**RESEARCH PROPOSAL RUBRIC**

|   | <u>Chapter 1</u> | <u>Chapter 2</u> | <u>Chapter 3</u> |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|   | 100              | 100              | 100              |
| <b>Organization (20)</b>                    |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Completeness (20)</b>                    |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Clarity (20)</b>                         |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Relevance (20)</b>                       |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Conventions (20)<br/>(including APA)</b> |                  |                  |                  |

**Total Score** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU ARE NOT DONE WITH CHAPTERS 1-3 OF YOUR THESIS OR PROJECT  
UNTIL YOUR FACULTY CHAIR SAYS YOU ARE!!!!!!!**

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 FORMAT: You will be expected to follow APA for the following:**

|                        | <i>5<sup>th</sup> Edition</i> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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                    |
| Block Quotes           | p. 121, 117-119               |
| Secondary Sources      | p. 245                        |
| Electronic Sources     | p. 268-281                    |
| Reference Page         | p. 215-281, 313               |
| Appendixes             | p. 326                        |

**Helpful Websites:**

Guidelines for Institutional Review Board (IRB): (use the exempt form)  
<http://www.csusm.edu/research/IRB.htm>

CSUSM Thesis Information:  
[http://www.csusm.edu/rgsip/graduate\\_studies/thesis\\_project.htm](http://www.csusm.edu/rgsip/graduate_studies/thesis_project.htm)

CSUSM Library: <http://library.csusm.edu/>

**NOTE: Contract Negotiations**

*The instructor's union is in the midst of contract negotiations and there is a possibility of a work interruption. Updates on this situation will be provided throughout the semester.*

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE as of January 17, 2007

| DATES | TOPIC   | PRESENTER                             | DUE   |
|-------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1-22  | Introductions and Course Overview<br>Question Development<br>Writing the Research Proposal  | Powell                                |   |
| 1-29  | Finding References Electronically<br><b>Meet in KEL 3400</b>  | Sonntag                               |   |
| 2-5   | Graduate Student IRB Workshop<br>To <u>guarantee</u> that you receive your packet of workshop materials, you must RSVP by emailing: <a href="mailto:irb@csusm.edu">irb@csusm.edu</a> by Wednesday, January 31 <sup>st</sup> . Include any questions, specific or general, in your RSVP; we will try to address them at the workshop<br><b>Meet at the Field House</b> | Clark-Ibanez,<br>Collins,<br>Gonzalez |   |
| 2-12  | CH 1 Introduction to Educational Research<br>CH 2 Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Research   | Powell<br><br>Powell                  | *Explore research on areas of interest<br>* Five Possible Research Questions Due                  |
| 2-19  | CH 3 Developing Research Questions and Proposal Preparation<br>CH 4 Research Ethics<br>CH 18 Preparation of the Research Report   |                                       |   |
| 2-26  | Conferences   | Powell                                | *Final Question with ten references   |
| 3-5   | CH 5 Standardized Measurement and Assessment<br>CH 6 Methods of Data Collection   |                                       | *1 <sup>st</sup> Draft CH 1 with cover and reference page (2 hard copies)                         |
| 3-12  | CH 7 Sampling<br>CH 8 Validity of Research Results  |                                       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft CH 1 electronically to Powell with cover page and twenty (total) references |
| 3-19  | CH 9 Experimental Research<br>CH 10 Quasi-Experimental and Single-Case Designs  |                                       | *1 <sup>st</sup> Draft CH 2 with cover and reference pages (2 hard copies)                        |
| 3-26  | <b>SPRING BREAK</b>   |                                       |   |
| 4-2   | CH 11 Non-experimental Quantitative Research<br>CH 12 Qualitative Research  |                                       | *2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft CH 2 electronically to Powell  |
| 4-9   | CH 13 Historical Research<br>CH 14 Mixed Method and Mixed Model Research  |                                       | *1 <sup>st</sup> Draft CH 3 with reference page (2 hard copies)                                   |
| 4-16  | CH 15 Descriptive Statistics<br>CH 16 Inferential Statistics  | Powell                                | *2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft CH 3 electronically to Powell  |
| 4-23  | CH 17 Data Analysis in Qualitative Research   |                                       |   |

|      |               |  |  |
|------|---------------|--|--|
| 4-30 | Presentations |  | *3 <sup>rd</sup> Draft CH 1-3 with reference page to Powell electronically |
| 5-7  | Presentations |  |  |