

Course Number: EDUC 622

Course Title: Research Methods in Education

Section Number: 901

CRN: 23217

Days: Each session is open for 8 days, with suggested pacing guidelines

Time: Log in at convenient times in your schedule; log in multiple times per week

Course Location: Fully online

Semester/Year: Spring 2021: February 28 to April 24

Instructor: Dr. Rong-Ji Chen

Phone: (760)750-8509

Email: rchen@csusm.edu

Office: University Hall 418

Virtual Office Hours: via Zoom, "community commons" discussion forum, or by phone

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

(Adopted by SOE Governance Community, January 2013)

Vision

To serve the educational needs of local, regional, and global communities, the School of Education advances innovative practice and leadership by generating, embracing, and promoting equitable and creative solutions.

Mission

The mission of the School of Education community is to collaboratively transform education. We:

- Create community through partnerships
- Promote and foster social justice and educational equity
- Advance innovative, student-centered practices
- Inspire reflective teaching and learning
- Conduct purposeful research
- Serve the School, College, University, and Community

BASIC TENETS OF OUR CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- Student centered education
- Research and theory specific to the program field inform practice
- Connections and links between coursework and application
- Strong engagement between faculty and candidates
- Co-teaching clinical practice
- Culturally responsive pedagogy and socially just outcomes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION.....	3
Catalog Description	3
Course Prerequisites	3
Course Objectives	3
REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS	3
Course Material Available	4
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES.....	4
MASTER'S PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (PSLOs)	4
GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS	5
School of Education Attendance Policy	5
CSUSM Academic Honesty Policy.....	5
Plagiarism	5
Students with Disabilities Requiring Reasonable Accommodations.....	5
All University Writing Requirement.....	6
Academic and Non-Academic Support Resources.....	6
Course Format/ Unique Requirements	6
Technical Competencies Required	6
Contact Information for Technical Support Assistance	6
Use of Technology	6
Electronic Communication Protocol	7
COURSE REQUIREMENTS.....	7
Credit Hour Policy Statement.....	7
Suggested Pacing Guidelines	7
Course Assignment Details	8
Final Exam Statement	12
Grading Standards	12
Tracking Progress	13
Policy on Late Work	13
Tips for Success Learning Online	13
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE/COURSE OUTLINE	14

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Description

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

Further Detailed Description

Course participants will explore quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods of conducting research, while developing a critical eye for high caliber research. We will explore ways to incorporate educational research into one's everyday practice. The goal is to become confident creators of knowledge as well as discerning consumers of research. In addition to laying a foundation of inquiry, students will apply what they learn through completing a research proposal.

The research proposal may serve as practice or as a pilot for development of the culminating MA thesis or project for students who have identified a focus, and those individuals will need to consult with a Committee Chair. While students do not complete a Master's Thesis/Project during this course, each participant will have practice drafting a research proposal to discuss with a potential Chair. The research proposal alternatively may deal with a concern in one's practice that an individual is interested in addressing.

Course Prerequisites

Enrollment in a Master's program.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to develop skills and knowledge about educational research practices followed by application of that skill and knowledge to an actual research proposal. After completing this course participants should be able to:

1. Participate as a scholar in **individual, small group, and large group** activities relevant to understanding research methodologies as well as critiquing, conducting, and writing up educational research, as developed in the **Scholarly Research Practices Assignment**.
2. Use **systematic research practices and procedures** to identify an issue, craft a research question, search the literature, plan appropriate methodology, address Human Subjects concerns, collect and analyze data or outline a project and determine implications of a research study, as practiced in the practitioner research proposal for the **Scholarly Research Practices Assignment**.
3. Demonstrate expertise in **one-on-one peer review** by responding to early drafts of written work by peers, as learned through the **Peer Review Assignment**.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of **elements of a research article** and ways to write up each element in a scholarly manner by **describing the research problem and questions, review of literature, methods, findings/outcomes, and implications**, as practiced in the **Writing Up Research Assignment**.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

The textbooks are an important source of course content, and are an integral part of most sessions, so should be obtained prior to week one of the course.

- Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & Fitzgerald, W. T. (2016). *The craft of research* (4th ed.). Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. You can [access this book online via the CSUSM Kellogg Library](#) (no additional cost). If you want to get a print copy, either the 4th edition (2016) or 3rd edition (2008) is fine.
- Other online resources are posted on the course website.

Articles / websites / videos on various course topics are required reading/watching/browsing and will be linked in the course shell. Speak with the instructor about helpful reading strategies if assigned materials are taking too long, or if you need a reading accommodation.

Recommended APA Websites

- American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: APA.
- Most American Psychological Association (APA) style is accessible on the APA website at: <https://apastyle.apa.org/index>
- The Purdue OWL site is very rich in resources: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html
- Cornell University Library offers citation management: <https://www.library.cornell.edu/research/citation>

Various websites offer automated citation builders as well, but beware of the downloads that come with them, and double check the style and format to avoid errors.

Course Material Available

Cougar Courses (Moodle): Access from <https://cc.csusm.edu/>

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This Master's level research methods course is designed to increase awareness, knowledge, and skills related to educational research. This will occur using structured activities in individual, large/whole group, and small groups to both learn about and apply systematic research practices. Class participants will have the necessary foundation for critiquing and systematically engaging in research to improve schooling and classroom practices toward eventually completing a Master's Thesis or Project and beyond. The systematic research process is a way of making meaning in whatever future undertakings course participants may engage, as it is a fundamental skill that is applicable in multiple contexts.

MASTER'S PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (PSLOs)

The following Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLO) guide the M.A. in Reading, Language & Literacy program:

1. Recognize major historical and contemporary theories and empirical research that describe the cognitive, linguistic, motivational, developmental and sociocultural foundations of reading and writing development, processes, and components,
2. Demonstrate the role of professional judgment in order to use foundational and historically shared knowledge to design or implement an integrated, comprehensive, and balanced literacy curriculum.
3. Create a literate environment that fosters reading and writing by integrating foundational knowledge, instructional practices, approaches and methods, authentic literature, curriculum materials, and the appropriate use of assessments.
4. Employ a wide range of texts (e.g., narrative, expository, and poetry) from traditional print, digital, and online resources for a wide range of teaching and learning purposes and students' needs.
5. Utilize a variety of assessment information to plan and evaluate instruction
6. Teach English literacy by harnessing students' primary language knowledge base to enable them to develop competency in the English language arts and to develop understanding of content across the curriculum.
7. Integrate tools of technology in literacy settings to gather, synthesize, and critically evaluate information and to create and communicate knowledge.
8. Display positive dispositions related to their own reading and writing and the teaching of reading and writing, and pursue the development of individual professional knowledge and behaviors.

9. Design, facilitate, lead, and evaluate effective and differentiated literacy programs for students and professional development programs.
- 10. Investigate questions, examine assumptions and beliefs, collect and analyze data to improve teaching and students' learning.**
11. Recognize and influence local, state, or national policy decisions.
12. Create and implement strategies to advocate for equity, excellence and social justice for all students.

Many PSLOs are addressed in the course, in particular, PSLO 10.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

School of Education Attendance Policy

Due to the dynamic and interactive nature of courses in the School of Education, all course participants are expected to attend all classes and participate actively. At a minimum, course participants must attend more than 80% of class time, or s/he 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 course participant have extenuating circumstances, s/he should contact the instructor as soon as possible. (*Adopted by the COE Governance Community, December, 1997.*)

***Instructor addendum to attendance policy:**

In an online environment there is flexibility in time and space, and therefore all course sessions must be completed. **Notify the instructor to negotiate modified deadlines for extenuating circumstances BEFORE missing activities/assignments.** Your voice and perspective are critically important to the learning of your classmates!

CSUSM Academic Honesty Policy

Students will be expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity, as outlined in the Student Academic Honesty Policy. All assignments must be original work, clear and error-free. All ideas/material that are borrowed from other sources must have appropriate references to the original sources. Any quoted material should give credit to the source and be punctuated accordingly.

Academic Honesty and Integrity: Students are responsible for honest completion and representation of their work. Your course catalog details the ethical standards and penalties for infractions. There will be zero tolerance for infractions. If you believe there has been an infraction by someone in the class, please bring it to the instructor's attention. The instructor reserves the right to discipline any student for academic dishonesty, in accordance with the general rules and regulations of the university. Disciplinary action may include the lowering of grades and/or the assignment of a failing grade for an exam, assignment, or the class as a whole. Incidents of Academic Dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students. Sanctions at the University level may include suspension or expulsion from the University. Refer to the full Academic Honesty Policy at: http://www.csusm.edu/policies/active/documents/Academic_Honesty_Policy.html

Plagiarism

It is expected that each course participant will do his/her own work, and contribute equally to group projects and processes. Plagiarism or cheating is unacceptable under any circumstances. If you are in doubt about whether your work is paraphrased or plagiarized see the Plagiarism Prevention for Students website <http://library.csusm.edu/plagiarism/index.html>. If there are questions about academic honesty, please consult the University catalog.

Students with Disabilities Requiring Reasonable Accommodations

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations must seek approval for services by providing appropriate and recent documentation to the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS). This office is in Craven Hall 4200, contact by phone at (760) 750-4905, or TTY (760) 750-4909. Website:

<http://www.csusm.edu/dss/>. Students authorized by DSS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with their instructor during office hours or, in order to ensure confidentiality, in a more private setting. The CSUSM's accessibility policy can be found at <https://www.csusm.edu/accessibility/>.

***Instructor addendum to the accommodation policy:**

Please discuss the need for accommodations with the instructor at the earliest possible time to ensure success in this course.

All University Writing Requirement

The CSUSM writing requirement will be met in three primary ways for this course. All forum posts are prepared in a written/structured format and contribute to the writing requirement. The Article Review contains additional tightened text that is a part of the required 2500 words. The final 5 section Research Article rounds out completion of the writing requirement.

Academic and Non-Academic Support Resources

Academic Support Resources:

- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [CSUSM Library](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Personalized Academic Success Services](#)
- [Writing Center](#)

Non-Academic Support Resources:

- [Cougar Care Network](#)
- [Student Health and Counseling Services](#)
- [University Police](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Registration and Records](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)

Also check out CSUSM [Student Resources and Services](#).

Course Format/ Unique Requirements

The class will be conducted online in its entirety with no face-to-face meetings. All contact with the instructor will be electronic or by phone. It therefore requires development of skills using course management tools in Cougar Courses (Moodle). All or part of assignments will be shared in the online environment with some or all of the course participants.

Technical Competencies Required

Students need full functionality within the Cougar Course environment. If personal technology does not meet required speeds/standards, students may need to update their hardware or software, or complete course sessions in on-campus technology laboratories. Links are provided in Session Zero and the Course Header to update necessary applications. Firefox is the most functional web browser for Cougar Courses and should be updated to the latest version.

Contact Information for Technical Support Assistance

The Student Tech Help Desk (STH) is located directly outside of Kellogg 2000, which is an open computer lab with 92 computer stations (with both Macs and PCs). Employees of the STH are available to assist you as you get familiarized with the campus technology. Please stop by if you have any questions.

Cougar Courses Support: <http://www.csusm.edu/sth/support/cougarcourses/index.html>

IT services and support: <https://www.csusm.edu/iits/index.html>

Use of Technology

Course participants are expected to demonstrate competency in the use of various forms of technology (i.e., word processing, electronic mail, Moodle, use of the Internet, and/or multimedia presentations). Specific requirements for course assignments with regard to technology are at the discretion of the instructor. **Keep a digital copy of all assignments** and posts as a backup in the event of a Course Management System malfunction (Moodle in Cougar Courses). All assignments will be submitted online.

Electronic Communication Protocol

Student interaction and collaboration are built into the fabric of this course, must be undertaken appropriately. Electronic correspondence is a part of a professional communication repertoire. As part of this coursework you may need to contact a colleague using an e-mail or online message, post and respond in forums, and peer review classmates' work. Online communication has its own nuances and etiquette. For example, electronic messages sent in all upper case (or lower case) letters, with major typos, or slang may communicate more than you originally intended. Please be mindful of all e-mail and on-line discussion messages you send to your colleagues, to faculty members in the School of Education, or to persons within the greater educational community. All electronic messages should be crafted with professionalism and care. Things to consider:

- Would I say in person what this electronic message says?
- How might this message be misconstrued?
- Does this message represent my most professional self?

If there is ever a concern with an electronic message sent to you, please talk with the author directly in order to correct any confusion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There is no substitute for actually jumping in with both feet and “doing” what you are learning, so we will be putting into practice what we are learning. Each of the three assignment groups moves us along in our research endeavor, and when all class activities are summed they will result in a completed research proposal.

The three assignment groups are:

- **40 points – Scholarly Research Practices Assignment**
- **20 points – Peer Review Assignment**
- **40 points – Writing Up Research Assignment**
- 100 points – Total Points Possible**

NOTE: As adjustments are made to the course in response to student learning needs, this total may vary.

Credit Hour Policy Statement

National accreditation agencies set required course time standards and allocate 9 hours per week for a three-unit course (3 in class, 6 outside class) in a 16-week semester. Since the course is in a fast track, **8-week** timeframe, the weekly workload is increased accordingly. **This is an intensive course.** It is helpful to clarify that time commitment in an online environment, as the boundaries between ‘in’ and ‘out’ of class are somewhat blurred. Below is an allocation of times you should expect to spend in/outside of the online environment on various course activities as an individual, in small groups, and in large groups to complete this course successfully.

- **Individual – 4 to 6 hours per week**
- **Small group and large group – 3 to 6 hours per week**

*** If you are noticing that you need more time, please contact the instructor for time management strategies and/or adjustments to the course.** Please do not wait until you are behind!

Suggested Pacing Guidelines

As we rethink the boundaries between ‘going to class’ and completing ‘outside of class’ work, we look to students who are successful learning online to see how we might make the most of this course. Students who learn effectively in the online learning environment report that they **break work into shorter chunks throughout the week**, rather than a larger chunk on one or two days. Students who have the most success report **logging in for an hour or so a day throughout the week, or working in two hour blocks three or more times a week.**

While there are technically three assignment groups for this course, each will be completed in a series of steps throughout the semester. This multi-step strategy offers opportunities for multiple drafts, feedback from peers and the instructor, and a gradual completion process rather than three stress points during the semester. It does, however, mean that **every week some work will be due**.

Since classmates depend upon one another for Small and Large Group activities as well as session completion, suggested guidelines for completing various session activities are offered to maximize success in the course as well as deepen the dialogue among class participants. **Course participants are encouraged to complete activities on the early side.**

Generally **sessions will be released each Saturday to be completely finished seven days later, on the following Saturday**, with typical recommended completion days/deadlines as follows:

Individual activities – Sat-Sun

Session preparation by Sun 11 PM (48+ hours after release) and

Large group activities – Sun-Tue

Initial post by Sun 11 PM (48+ hours after release),

Follow up posts by Tue 11 PM (96 hours+ after release)

Small group activities – Tue-Thu

Initial post by Tue 11 PM (96 hours+ after release),

Follow up posts by Thu 11 PM (144 hours+ after release)

Individual activities – Thu-Sat

Assignments/reflection/self-evaluation/course format feedback by Sat 11PM (192 hours after release)

From time to time the order or nature of the session activities varies, and therefore **recommended due days vary** as well for a particular session, activity, or assignment, so **follow session instructions carefully**. Note that the release dates for a new session overlap the due date for the previous session by one day. This intentional overlap is designed to maximize flexibility of timing to accommodate many different student schedules.

Course Assignment Details

The assignments address **PSLO 10. Investigate questions, examine assumptions and beliefs, collect and analyze data to improve teaching and students' learning.**

42 points – Assignment Group One: [Scholarly Research Practices](#)

This assignment group is designed for you to meet the first two Course Objectives:

1. Participate as a scholar in **individual, small group, and large group** activities relevant to understanding research methodologies as well as critiquing, conducting, and writing up educational research, as developed in the **Scholarly Research Practices Assignment**.
2. Use **systematic research practices and procedures** to identify an issue, craft a research question, search the literature, plan appropriate methodology, address Human Subjects concerns, collect and analyze data or outline a project and determine implications of a research study, as practiced in the practitioner research proposal for the **Scholarly Research Practices Assignment**.

Throughout the semester you will engage in primarily in three levels of scholarly dialogue. You may not engage in every level every week. Activities at each level build on the prior level as follows:

- **Individual:** This level of engagement involves session preparation and reflection, which contributes to assignment construction. **This investment of time is critical to success in the course.** Preparation involves reading/watching to prepare for session activities. Reflection involves searching, thinking, reflecting, and writing about a research topic using appropriate conventions. You will also have opportunities to reflect on your development as an educational

researcher by evaluating your level of engagement, quality of interaction, and commitment to accepted research practices. Both dimensions of individual effort are captured in a number of ways but primarily through entries in a reading response, reflection journal or a course check-in response for 1-3 points per week, as well as completion of assignments.

- **Large group (typically whole class):** This level of engagement involves joining a dialogue about issues, processes, and practices of education research. **Discussion forums** typically involve an initial post in response to a prompt, with follow up posts in response to classmates with guidelines. Forum prompts are structured in a way that requires concise responses rather than streams of consciousness. It will be necessary to **revisit the large group forum several times** throughout the week to read through posts made before and after yours to follow the discussion. The dialogue is captured in a number of ways but primarily through large group forum posts and responses worth 1-3 points per week. Thoughtful participation in course discussions is a key part of this online learning environment.
- **Small group (typically two-four students):** This level of engagement functions as a debriefing, and peer feedback area each week. Peer interactions in small group collegial dialogue is an important part of sifting through course material for the week and considering multiple perspectives on education research through sharing your own work. **Your active participation is critically important, and group consensus may be required.** Small group interactions are captured in a number of ways but primarily through small group forum posts / responses worth 2-4 points per week, and through peer review assignments.

Facilitation: As the instructor reviews forum posts or group discussions, and in the instructor's replies/comments to individuals or groups, he or she will identify areas of agreement and disagreement on the topics under discussion, in order to facilitate effective exchange of ideas and collective learning.

Course participants are encouraged to complete activities as early as possible in the week. The large / small / individual levels of engagement are designed to teach/develop skills relevant to becoming an accomplished producer and consumer of educational research.

As adjustments are made to the course based on student learning needs, the relative weight of the three levels of scholarly endeavor may vary slightly. Scholarly critical friend dialogue grades are based on full participation in course sessions.

The top level of Scholarly Participation is described below to set the bar high (for the remainder of the levels of participation, see the rubric in the course header on Cougar Courses):

Type 5: The interested/engaged citizen – You:

- Leave class sessions wondering (pondering / uncertain / surprised / speculating / questioning / struck/ stuck / amazed / caught up, etc.) and excited about your contributions to the dialogue and how those of others impact your thinking
- Challenge other group members (small and large) respectfully
- Ask insightful questions
- Make contributions that extend the class readings/viewings/events/issues
- Refer to specific lines in the text and relevant classroom experiences when appropriate
- Participate regularly and feel a sense of belonging with the group (inclusion with them, responsibility for them)
- Share the collective spaces, neither dominating nor intimidating others nor staying in the shadows
- Are well prepared by thorough reading and thinking BEFORE joining the group
- Demonstrate clear evidence of engagement, critical friend skills, comments based on specific reliable sources, and provide a reflective interface with all course readings / viewings / browsings.

Here is a list of specific graded tasks in **Assignment Group One: Scholarly Research Practices**.

Session # - Title of Graded Task	Points	Course Objectives (see p. 3)
S1 - Prior research experience and learning goals	3	1
S1 - CITI training	5	1, 2
S2 - Large Group: Capture essence of a method	3	1
S3 - Advantages and limitations of action research	4	1
S4 - Qualitative data analysis: Coding & writing memos	8	1, 2
S5 - Qualitative data analysis: identifying themes	8	1, 2
S7 - Large Group: Analyzing data and making claims	8	1, 2
S8 - Course reflection	3	1, 2
Total possible points	42	

20 points – Assignment Group Two: Peer Review

The objective for this assignment is:

3. Demonstrate expertise in **one-on-one peer review** by responding to early drafts of written work by peers, as learned through the **Peer Review Assignment**.

Peer review in educational research refers to screening of submitted proposals or manuscripts, and encourages authors to meet accepted standards of their discipline. It is designed to prevent dissemination of irrelevant findings, unwarranted claims, unacceptable interpretations, and personal views. Publications that have not undergone peer review are likely to be regarded with skepticism by scholars and professionals.

An important part of conducting educational research is development of a critical eye for quality and reliability of text, a process that forms the underpinning of Peer Review. In this course we will explore the process of peer review in two ways: by serving as ‘critical friends’ to classmates as they write up their research proposal and prepare an IRB form, completing a self review of the research proposal, and by reviewing a published article.

Review of classmate’s written text – This activity is equally important for developing the reviewer’s critical eye as for providing helpful suggestions for a peer. Peer review is an important skill of an education researcher. Several times during the semester students will provide focused feedback to a classmate on drafts of various assignments using Peer Review strategies on: draft sections of the research proposal, and an Institutional Review Board (IRB) practice form. **Peer feedback forms** will be provided to facilitate development of an accomplished critical eye. In addition to suggesting ways to improve for a peer, you will reflect on your own development as a peer reviewer. Scoring guidelines will be provided. **Time is of the essence** when responding to classmates’ text, so negotiate due dates with your partner peer reviewer to meet the needs of each author.

You should all aim high to be the Critical Friend (CF) Advocate, as described below. For the rest of the rubric for the Peer Review Assignment see the full text in the course header on Cougar Courses.

Type 5: The Critical Friend Advocate

This CF listens carefully to the type of feedback requested by a partner, reads the text carefully using that lens, and provides first praise for specific strengths in the piece, and then offers multiple thoughtful specific suggestions for improvement and asks questions to stimulate thinking, and finishes with encouragement.

Self-evaluation – you will reflect on your work writing up the research proposal and turn your discerning critical eye toward a critique of the article you wrote about your research proposal. A form is provided for the self-evaluation, and the grade is based on the thoughtful and honest appraisal of each element of your research article. You’ll also self-monitor your learning throughout the course.

Here is a list of specific graded tasks in **Assignment Group Two: Peer Review**.

Session # - Title of Graded Task	Points	Course Objectives (see p. 3)
S1 - Peer review of elevator pitch	4	3
S3 - Peer review of research proposal draft 1	4	3
S6 - Research or project design chat	4	3
S7 - Peer review of research proposal draft 2	4	3
S8 - Self-evaluation of research proposal	4	3
Total possible points	20	

38 points – Assignment Group Three: [Writing Up Research](#)

The objectives of this assignment are:

- Use **systematic research practices and procedures** to identify an issue, craft a research question, search the literature, plan appropriate methodology, address Human Subjects concerns, collect and analyze data or outline a project and determine implications of a research study, as practiced in the practitioner research proposal for the **Scholarly Research Practices Assignment**.
- Demonstrate knowledge of **elements of a research article** and ways to write up each element in a scholarly manner by **describing the research problem and questions, review of literature, methods, findings/outcomes, and implications**, as practiced in the **Writing Up Research Assignment**.

Here is a list of specific graded tasks in **Assignment Group Three: [Writing up Research](#)**.

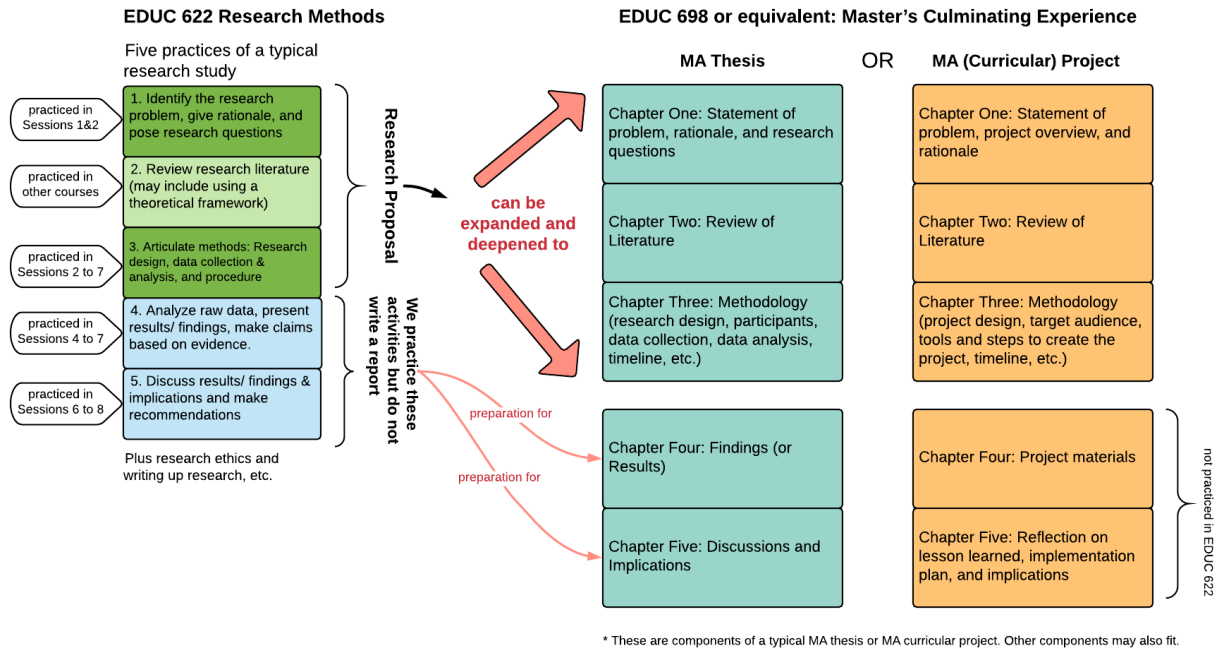
Session # - Title of Graded Task	Points	Course Objectives (see p. 3)
S1 - Elevator pitch	6	2, 4
S3 - Research proposal draft 1	6	2, 4
S7 - Research proposal draft 2	6	2, 4
S8 - Research proposal final draft	20	2, 4
Total possible points	38	

All semester we will be going through the steps of the systematic research process as we engage in dialogue about our thinking and practices. In this assignment, completed throughout the course, we will articulate that process in writing by developing an abridged version of a research proposal, which includes two main components.

- Introduction** – Statement of problem, related research or theoretical framework, research questions and/or hypotheses
- Methodology** – Plans for undertaking the research with regards to who / what / when / where / how things will be collected, analyzed, and displayed

A typical research report also includes *a review of research literature, findings and discussions*. While we will not write these sections, we will practice data collection and analysis and identify preliminary findings backed by evidence. In other words, we will make claims based on careful data analysis. **The course activities and assignments can lead to a Master's Thesis or Master's Curricular Project** (see diagram below).

EDUC 622 Research Proposal, MA Thesis, and MA Project



Each section of the research proposal will evolve from our weekly individual, small group, and whole group activities. Early drafts of each section will be peer reviewed by classmates.

You should aim high at the **Outstanding** level: Section is fully fleshed out, engaging, and well articulated. Well-crafted language pulls the reader into the article awaiting the next idea with interest. All parts are present, language is clear and paragraphs flow coherently from one to the next, each section is well articulated in a concise way, and all sources are listed/cited. There are no obvious errors in grammar / punctuation / spelling as checks / edits have been performed and revisions made.

- Introduction section – Problem is stated clearly, related research is discussed, research question or hypothesis is appropriate to explore problem, and a clear overview of study is provided
- Methodology section – An appropriately chosen method is clearly described in a way that helps a reader envision the procedures to be used, including data to be collected, and the means of analysis is clearly outlined;

Role of drafts: Even great writers can have a poor draft in the beginning of a writing project. It is essential for a beginner education researcher to go through several rounds of drafting-reviewing-revision for each section, using peers' and the instructor's (and thesis/project Chair if you have one) feedback.

Final Exam Statement

There is no final exam for this course.

Grading Standards

The grading scale is based on the percent of the earned point out of a total possible of 120 points. NOTE: As adjustments are made to the course in response to student learning needs, this total may vary, but each of the three assignments will still be about one third of the grade.

A: 93% - 100%
B-: 80% - 82%
D: 60% - 69%

A-: 90% - 92%
C+: 77% - 79%
F: below 60

B+: 87% - 89%
C: 73% - 76%

B: 83% - 86%
C-: 70% - 72%

Tracking Progress

Use the Grades tool in the left column of Cougar Courses to track your progress in the course. Grades will be continuously updated throughout the semester.

Policy on Late Work

All session activities and assignments should be completed and submitted into Cougar Courses. In the event of an emergency session deadlines will be extended. **In the event of an emergency situation notify the instructor and request an extended deadline. Extensions are not automatic. Late assignments may be docked up to 10% per day late.** After 7 days, no assignments will be accepted.

Tips for Success Learning Online

- Receiving too many emails? Use “unsubscribe” settings in your profile to eliminate having all postings being emailed to you; there is also a checkbox to uncheck under the text box in each forum, for Discussion Subscription. Be sure it is unchecked.
- Ask a lot of questions. No question is silly, but suffering in silence IS a bad idea! Ask classmates or ask the instructor – we are all here to help! Use the Community Commons for questions and answers (in course header). For privacy email the instructor using course mail.
- Problems with technology? Use the Student Help Desk right away! They are available by phone, email and on the bottom floor of the library through the doors facing Craven Hall, 760.750.6505, or sth@csusm.edu.
- Pace work online throughout the week – the most successful online students log in most days of the week for an hour +/- to complete sessions in small bites rather than at one sitting, as students who try to complete whole sessions in one sitting near the end of the week struggle in this course.
- Read all instructions thoroughly, watch all course videos/mini-lectures, complete all assigned readings – material in the readings is NOT repeated in other course materials
- Complete sessions systematically while keeping track of work completed and what is left to do, as activities in each session are built on prior activities in the same session and earlier sessions
- Stay connected to classmates/instructor using course mail, community commons, or request a phone call
- Make assignments work for you – let the instructor know of specific learning goals you have to be sure you reach them through adjustments of sessions / assignments as needed
- If sessions are taking too long, immediately contact the instructor who will make adjustments or suggest time management strategies! Do not suffer in silence!
- Keep up with course sessions – it is hard to catch up once you get behind
- Engage fully and enthusiastically in all course sessions – come to learn!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE/COURSE OUTLINE

Notes: (1) The dynamic nature of teaching and learning makes it hard to establish a set schedule. Modifications will likely to occur. (2) During each week students work individually, in large groups, and in small group forums. All sessions involve reading/watching session materials and responding. Only additional assignments will be listed under “Assignments,” so be sure to read all session instructions carefully.

Session/ Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments (see Notes above)
Session 1 2/28—3/6	Where does a research question come from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulating research problem Formulating a research question Research ethics & human subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Craft of Research</i> (CR) Ch 1-4 Watch video lectures Participate in discussion forums Elevator pitch: research proposal ideas Start CITI training
Session 2 3/6-3/13	What are characteristics of various research approaches? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods methodologies Examples of research design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read a chapter on methodology (Creswell, 2012) Watch video lectures Explore research designs and methods Participate in discussion forums Continue CITI training Start data collection practice
Session 3 3/13-3/20	What data may help answer the question? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More research design examples Data collection methods Asking good questions, making good observations, & recording what we see/hear/experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read chapters about data collection (Creswell, 2012) Watch video lectures Participate in discussion forums Continue data collection practice Read CR pp.232-245 and write the introduction section of research proposal (draft 1)
Session 4 3/20-3/27	How do we engage with qualitative data? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative data analysis Coding and writing memos ATLAS.ti tutorial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read an article about qualitative coding Watch video lectures Review a peer’s research proposal draft 1 Participate in discussion forums Explore ATLAS.ti Practice qualitative data analysis—coding Understand your options: MA Thesis vs. Project Mid-term reflection
Session 5 3/27-4/3	What do the data reveal? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative data analysis—identifying and integrating themes Making research claims based on evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue qualitative data analysis—identifying and integrating themes Read CR Ch7-9 Watch video lectures Participate in discussion forums
Session 6 4/3-4/10	Proposal development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review research designs Review data collection & analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss research/project design with a small group Participate in discussion forums Draft the methodology section of proposal
Session 7 4/10-4/17	How does organizing and displaying data assist in analysis? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro to data science and descriptive statistics Effective visualization: Tell a story with data Correlation analysis and t-tests Intro to SPSS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read CR Ch 15 and articles about descriptive statistics Explore data science and visualization Analyze numerical data: Comparing groups Post research proposal draft for peer review Participate in discussion forums

Session/ Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments (see Notes above)
Session 8 4/17-4/24	Conclusion and Continuing Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential components of a proposal • Writing up research • Teacher-researcher: continuing inquiry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read CR Ch 17 • Review a peer's research proposal • Revise research proposal based on feedback • Read Belcher' (2009) chapter posted on CC and do a diagnostic test & edit sentences • Submit research proposal • Self-evaluate research proposal • Complete final reflection & course evaluation

* Syllabus courtesy of Dr. Robin Marion, with modifications.