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ECDC 241 
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I. Course Description
This is designed as the culminating course in the interdisciplinary Curriculum and Instruction master’s degree. Covered in the class are historical and current trends in research, the critical examination of selected research studies, and a self-analysis of personal and professional interests and needs. The course calls for students to integrate and use information from previous graduate classes with information presented in this class to develop, implement, and defend an action-based research project.

II. Rationale
This course provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of pedagogy, research, and issues related to their field of study. Students will design and complete a research study on a self-selected topic. The results of the study will be presented to a panel of faculty members. The experience of designing and conducting research will prepare students to evaluate instructional materials, programs, and systems used in school settings.

III. State Adopted Proficiencies for Teachers and/or Administrators
N/A

IV. TExES Competencies
N/A

V. Course Objectives and Outcomes
Students will be able to:
A. Identify an appropriate research question
B. Develop a viable research design
C. Collect and analyze research data
D. Synthesize research and findings to create an effective presentation
E. Produce a written report on research.
VI. Course Topics  
   A. Characteristics of good research  
   B. Components of a research study  
   C. Data collection and analysis  
   D. Documenting research appropriately  

VII. Instructional Methods and Activities in the Course  
   A. Lecture  
   B. Hands-on activities  
   C. Peer conferencing  
   D. Individual research  
   E. Individual conferences  

VIII. Evaluation and Grade Assignment  
   A. Methods of Evaluation and Criteria for Grade Assignments  
      1. The signature assignment for this course is a major capstone project in which you pose a question regarding an issue in curriculum and instruction, conduct research on the question, and find answers to your question. Your findings will be presented orally accompanied by PowerPoint to a panel of university faculty members. Assignments related to the research study will be completed throughout the semester.  
      2. Timeline Assignments will consist of component parts of your final paper. You will be developing the various parts of your paper throughout the course. This paper is too big to be created at the last minute. Details on Timeline Assignments are provided in the Assignments section of BlackBoard  

   B. Grading Scale (points)  
      
      | Assignment                                      | Points |
      |------------------------------------------------|--------|
      | Timeline Assignments (4)                       | 40     |
      | Class participation/assignments                | 10     |
      | Oral presentation of project                   | 50     |
      | Complete research paper                        | 100    |
      | **Total Possible Points**                      | **200**|

Grades:  
A = 92% - 100%  
B = 84% - 91%  
C = 76% - 83%  
D = 68% - 75%
Course Policies

*Attendance/tardiness*
Attendance will be recorded for both the class sessions and practicum sessions of this course. Ten points will be deducted from every class session missed; twenty points will be deducted from every practicum session missed. Notification of an absence does not constitute a class waiver.

*Late work and Make-up Exams*
Full credit will not be given for late assignments or unexcused missed conferences. Because this is a practicum course, there can be no extensions for the final case study.

*Extra Credit*
Extra credit is not an option for this course.

*Cell Phone/Electronic Device Usage*
Cell phones and other electronic devices should not be used during class. If a potential emergency exists where a student is expecting an important call concerning a child or family member, the phone should be put on vibrate.

*Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.*
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a level of discipline appropriate to the misconduct. This may include a requirement to re-do work in question; requirement to submit additional work; lowering of grade on work in question; assigning grade of ‘F’ to work in question; assigning grade of ‘F’ for course; recommendation for more severe punishment, such as suspension or dismissal from the University. The procedure for Academic Misconduct cases is posted on BlackBoard.

Learning and teaching take place in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom and openness. All members of the academic community are responsible for supporting freedom and openness through rigorous personal standards of honesty and fairness. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine the very purpose of the university and diminish the value of an education.

Plagiarism is wholly unacceptable and, for the purposes of this course, is defined as using in part or in whole any material written or designed by someone other than the student, unless specific credit is given to the person or resource material used. This includes, but is not limited to: lesson plans found on the Internet.
and/or provided by classroom teachers, or found in any form of publication (e.g., books, magazines, Internet sites), book descriptions/reviews, course work done by previous students (or any other current or TAMU-CC student). Appropriate citation of resources is required.

**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 12, 2012, is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Preferred methods of scholarly citations**

**Classroom/professional behavior**

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Disabilities Accommodations**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable
accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
IX. Course schedule
   A. Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments due</th>
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| Jan. 28| Course requirements
Intro to research
Timeline planning |                 |
| Feb. 4 | Developing topics
Review of literature
Reading research | Timeline #1
CH: 1-3, APA 2-3 |
| Feb. 11| Previous presentations
Planning research | CH: 3-4         |
| Feb. 18| IRBs
Collecting data | Timeline #2
CH: 5-6         |
| Feb. 25| Analyzing findings | Timeline #3
CH: 7-8, APA 1  |
| March 4| Progress reports | APA 2-3         |
| March 11| No class – Spring Break |                |
| March 18| Progress reports | Timeline #4
APA 3-5 |
X. Textbooks

XI. Bibliography


