I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Joe Champion, Ph.D.
E-mail: joe.champion@tamucc.edu
Webpage: http://faculty.tamucc.edu/jchampion
Office location: Center for Instruction #359
Office phone: 361-825-3165
Office hours (for students): M/W/F 8:00-8:50 a.m.; M 5:00-6:40 p.m.
Meeting place: Center for Instruction Room 107
Meeting times: Mondays, 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. and by arrangement

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Reading, analyzing, and synthesizing mathematics education research literature for the purpose of informing teaching practice. A study of qualitative research methods including interviews, case studies, and teaching experiments, with a focus on the components of a research study (research question(s), literature review, conceptual framework, methods, analysis, findings) and the relationships among them. All documents will use APA style.

III. PREREQUISITES for the COURSE

- Enrolled in the MS Math-Curriculum Content program w/ completion of leveling courses
- Successful completion of 18 hours in the program, specifically MATH 5321, 5325, 5326, 5327, 5328, and 5329

IV. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS and OTHER MATERIALS

- Mathematics Graduate Thesis/Project Guidelines (on the department webpage)

V. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, class participants will:

- Select an appropriate research topic and problem
- Formulate research questions, hypotheses or guiding principles
- Choose an appropriate research methodology for thesis or outline the method for completion of the curriculum project
- Conduct a literature review of the research problem or project
- Write/rewrite a thesis/project proposal and submit for critical review by peers and committee
- Defend their thesis/project proposal orally in front of committee and peers

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS and ACTIVITIES

The course will consist of lecture, collaborative groups, class discussions, a field trip to the library and a guest speaker. Students are expected to participate in collaborative groups and
whole class discussions by contributing knowledge and thoughtful evaluation of the contribution of others. It is very important that students critically and meaningfully provide feedback and comments on others’ work during this course.

VII. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS and ASSESSMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Completion level</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent written proposal &amp; oral defense</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory proposal &amp; defense</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete proposal &amp; defense (with substantial progress)</td>
<td>IP (In Process)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little or no substantial progress on proposal &amp; defense</td>
<td>F</td>
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By the end of the course, you are expected to have your thesis or project proposal satisfactorily completed, defended successfully, signed by all three committee members, and corrected copies to appropriate parties. This will result in a grade for the course and will allow you to enroll in MATH 5995 or 5997 (thesis or project) for the next semester. Not completing your proposal or securing required signatures will result in a grade of IP (in progress) and you will again enroll in the course the next semester.

Upon receiving credit for this course, students must enroll in MATH 5995 or 5997 and continue that enrollment throughout each semester (Summer semester is optional) until the thesis or project is completed and signed by the committee.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

See the updated course calendar at [http://faculty.tamucc.edu/jchampion](http://faculty.tamucc.edu/jchampion)

IX. CLASS POLICIES

**Attendance/Tardiness.** Since this course meets just once a week, you’re expected to attend every class session, arrive on time, and complete all assigned tasks. If you need to miss part or all of a class session, please email me and immediately begin working on assigned tasks.

**Writing.** Learning to write a formal academic proposal is very challenging. Please carefully proof-read all your writing and consult the [math department's informal master's help pages](http://faculty.tamucc.edu/jchampion) and [examples of prior student work](http://faculty.tamucc.edu/jchampion) to help structure your narrative. The Writing Center is available for help in learning the conventions of formal academic writing. Expect to go through several revision cycles on all the text you create.

**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 & participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**Academic integrity.** 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 minimum of a 0 on the assignment or test.

**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 Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

**Veterans.** 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.

**Grade appeals process.** 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 tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Classroom Behavior.** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Changes.** The instructor may amend the syllabus at any time prior to the final exam by announcing the changes in class.