EDFN 5301 – Introduction to Research

Instructor  Dr. Nancy J Smith

Office  Faculty Center 213

Office Hours  Monday 1:00-4:00 & Thursday 1:00-4:00

I will respond to emails within 24 hours.

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Classroom  Online

Class Hours  Online

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The graduate level course is offered in support of graduate degree programs in the College of Education. It is designed to introduce the student to the fundamentals of research in education and applied behavioral sciences. That is, students will explore what research involves, the various types of research, the techniques for conducting research studies, ethical behavior in the conduct of research, and research in educational settings. Descriptive and inferential statistics will be presented in the context of the research study. Social issues related to educational research will also be presented and discussed.

II. RATIONAL:

All educators are either practitioners or consumers of research. It is important that students of education know and understand the elements of research in order to be able to evaluate critically and/or conduct research to enhance one's skills and advance the knowledge of the field. This course will provide the student with a basic framework for understanding and evaluating educational research studies. It will also provide knowledge of the various types of research designs used in educational research and the procedures for conducting research studies. The course is applicable for all students who will make professional use of educational research or conduct research studies.

III. STATE ADOPTED PROFICIENCY DOMAINS:

The following state adopted proficiencies for mid-management administrators are covered in this course.

- Learner-Centered Leadership
- Learner-Centered Professional Development

IV. TEXES COMPETENCIES: N/A

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

1. The historical and social antecedents of research studies
2. The basic skills required to comprehend and apply research studies in a variety of educational and clinical settings
3. The professional skills and competencies that researchers and users of research studies must master
4. The basic measurement, statistical, and research skills needed to understand and conduct research studies
5. The different types of research designs and their appropriate usage
6. Ethical standards and considerations in conducting research in an educational setting

The course is also designed to meet the following CACREP Standards II-G-8-a-f:
RESEARCH AND PROGRAM EVALUATION—studies that provide an understanding of research methods, statistical analysis, needs assessment, and program evaluation, including all of the following:

a. The importance of research in advancing the counseling profession;

b. research methods such as qualitative, quantitative, single-case designs, action research, and outcome-based research;

c. statistical methods used in conducting research and program evaluation;

d. principles, models, and applications of needs assessment, program evaluation, and the use of findings to effect program modifications;

e. the use of research to inform evidence-based practice; and

f. ethical and culturally relevant strategies for interpreting and reporting the results of research and/or program evaluation studies

Major Learning Outcomes

- Students will have the knowledge and understanding of research methods such as qualitative, quantitative, single-case designs, action research, and outcome-based research.

Secondary Learning Outcomes

- Students will have the knowledge and understanding of statistical concepts, including scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions, and correlations.

- Students will have the knowledge and understanding of the importance of research in advancing the counseling profession.

- Students will have the knowledge and understanding of statistical methods used in conducting research and program evaluation.

- Students will have the knowledge and understanding of the use of research to inform evidence-based practice.

- Students will have the knowledge and understanding of the principles, models, and applications of needs assessment, program evaluation, and the use of findings to effect program modifications.

- Students will have the knowledge and understanding of ethical and culturally relevant strategies for interpreting and reporting the results of research and/or program evaluation studies.

VI. COURSE TOPICS:

- Process and approaches of research
- Identifying a research problem
- Literature reviews
- Research purpose and questions or hypothesis
- Collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data
- Research designs
- Reading research reports

VII. REQUIRED TEXTS:


RESOURCES:

OWL at Purdue – [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)
VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Lecture & discussion
- Individual assignments
- Research proposal design

IX. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

EVALUATION, GRADE ASSIGNMENT, AND DELIVERABLES:

Grades will be calculated based on A = 90-100%; B = 80-89.9%; C = 70-79.9%; D = 60-69.9%; F < 60%

- Discussion and Participation: 35%
- Weekly Quizzes: 30%
- Final Research Design: 35%

DELIVERABLES:

- Discussion and Participation
  - Reactions to readings and class discussions questions
- Weekly Quizzes
  - 5-10 questions from textbook & lecture material and one open ended question
- Final research proposal design
  - Will be a culmination of your weekly discussion and open ended quiz questions

REQUIREMENTS FOR DELIVERABLES:

Detailed instructions and rubrics for each assignment will be provided in the Overview for each week, which can be found in the Module Folders under the Content link in Blackboard.

X. COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES:

1. Attendance and Participation: This class requires you to invest time for preparation, assignments, and application of critical concepts in research. You will need to stay on top of things in order to perform well. While you might be an independent learner, and perhaps a strong performer, the research is consistent on the value of social learning and reviewing difficult concepts through discussions with others. Your respectful and meaningful participation in discussions will be required for your final grade.

2. Competencies: There are some basic competencies that I expect you will have in order to perform well in this class. These are:
   a. Ability to proof read your work before submitting
   b. Ability to use APA style to write and cite references when making general and/or specific statements that are not entirely your own
   c. Ability to communicate effectively when you do not understand the instruction or expectations about assignments
   d. Ability to connect to the Internet, download required materials, and transmit required materials as needed. I will not entertain excuses emerging from last minute computer troubles. Therefore, plan ahead and have backup plans in place should something go wrong.

3. Special 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 116. 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.

4. **Professional Conduct and Academic Honesty:** 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.

Professional conduct is expected in this course. Professional conduct includes, among others, interactions with peer colleagues, faculty, timely completion of assigned tasks and responsibilities; adherence to professional ethical standards; and adherence to University policies regarding plagiarism. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary actions.

All written work submitted must be the student’s original work and conform to the guidelines of the *American Psychological Association* (APA) available online and via their publications. This means that any substantive ideas, phrases, sentences, and/or any published ideas must be properly referenced to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full or clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency in the selling of term papers of other academic materials. It is the student’s responsibility to know all relevant university policies concerning plagiarism. Any documented cases of plagiarism can and will result in dismissal from the course with a failing grade, and may result in other more serious sanctions by the College of Education and the University.

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 one or more of the following: An F on assignment; report of incident to the dean; dismissal from the course with a failing grade, and may result in other more serious sanctions by the College of Education and the University.*

5. **Diversity Statement:** The department aspires to create a safe and diversity-sensitive learning environment that respects the rights, dignity, and welfare of students, faculty, and staff. Diversity means the fair representation of all groups of individuals, the inclusion of minority perspectives and voices, and appreciation of different cultural and socioeconomic group perspectives. We aspire to foster and maintain an atmosphere that is free from discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Departmental courses will strive to provide opportunity for all students to discuss issues of diversity including, but not limited to, ethnicity, gender, disability, and sexual orientation.

6. **Late Work and End of Semester Negotiations:** I will support you in every way possible during the semester to ensure that you perform well in the class if you communicate any difficulties or concerns with the material with me. Therefore, I recommend that you take full advantage of a supportive learning environment designed to ensure your success. However, I will not accept any late work or entertain any end of semester negotiations about grades. Your grade in the course is a direct reflection of your engagement in your own learning process.

7. **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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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. Please see the current Academic Calendar at http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/ for the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

8. Grade Appeals: As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 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 Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

Please understand that, despite the strict expectations and policies outlined above, I do care about you as an individual and am always willing to listen and be flexible in order to help you have a successful semester if you are faced with unusually difficult circumstances. I encourage you to get in touch with me if you want a conference to explain your circumstances. Do not wait until you have accumulated absences, fallen behind, and failed to do the required work to discuss any personal difficulties that are affecting your performance.
### XI. COURSE SCHEDULE:

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<tr>
<th>Module 1</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic &amp; In-class Activities</th>
<th>Required Reading and Deliverables Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WK 1 – 8/27-9/2</td>
<td>Introduction to Research &amp; Conducting Research</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Quiz 1 – 9/2</strong></td>
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<td>Creswell – Preface and Chapter 1: The Process and Approaches of Research</td>
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<td>Supplemental Content – Library navigating, Annotated Bib format, and writing up research</td>
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<td>FINAL Research Design Projects – Steps in the Research Process</td>
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<td>APA – Citations, references, and academic writing</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Step 1 Research topic and problem</strong></td>
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<th>Module 2</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic &amp; In-class Activities</th>
<th>Required Reading and Deliverables Due</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WK 2 – 9/3-9/9</td>
<td>Research Problem</td>
<td>Creswell – Chapter 2: Identifying a Research Problem</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Quiz 2 – 9/9</strong></td>
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<td>Literature Reviews</td>
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<td>Creswell – Chapter 3: Reviewing the Literature</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Step 2 Annotated Bib</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Module 3</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic &amp; In-class Activities</th>
<th>Required Reading and Deliverables Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WK 3 – 9/10-9/16</td>
<td>Research Problem, Purpose, Questions or Hypothesis</td>
<td>Creswell – Chapter 4: Specifying a Purpose and Research Questions or Hypothesis</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Quiz 3 – 9/16</strong></td>
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<td>Qualitative Research</td>
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<td>Creswell – Chapter 7: Collecting Qualitative Data</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Step 3 Research Purpose &amp; Questions/Hypothesis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Module 4</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic &amp; In-class Activities</th>
<th>Required Reading and Deliverables Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WK 4 – 9/17-9/23</td>
<td>Qualitative Data Analysis</td>
<td>Creswell – Chapter 8: Analyzing and Interpreting Qualitative Data</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Quiz 4 – 9/23</strong></td>
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<td>Quantitative Research</td>
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<td>Creswell – Chapter 5: Collecting Quantitative Data</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Step 4 Collecting Data</strong></td>
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<th>Module 5</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WK 5 – 9/24-9/30</td>
<td>Quantitative Data Analysis</td>
<td>Creswell – Chapter 6: Analyzing &amp; Interpreting Quantitative Data</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Quiz 5 – 9/30</strong></td>
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<td>The Findings</td>
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<td>Creswell – Chapter 9: Reporting and Evaluating Research</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Step 5 Analyzing &amp; Interpreting Data</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Module 6</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic &amp; In-class Activities</th>
<th>Required Reading and Deliverables Due</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WK 6 – 10/1-10/7</td>
<td>Research Designs</td>
<td>For your final Research Proposal, choose the research method which best fits your research purpose either Qualitative or Quantitative</td>
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<td><strong>DUE – Quiz 6 – 10/7</strong></td>
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<td>– If you chose Qualitative – read Creswell Chapters 13, 14, &amp; 15</td>
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<td>Quantitative – read Creswell Chapters 10, 11, &amp; 12</td>
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<tr>
<th>Module 7</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic &amp; In-class Activities</th>
<th>Required Reading and Deliverables Due</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WK 7 – 10/8-10/12</td>
<td>Reporting &amp; Evaluating Data</td>
<td>Creswell – Chapter 16: Mixed Methods Designs; and Chapter 17: Action Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DUE – Final Research Proposal Design paper 10/10-12</strong></td>
<td><strong>Work on Final Research Proposal Design Paper</strong></td>
<td><strong>DUE – Step 6 Final Research Proposal Design – submission link will open on 10/10 and close at 11:59 on 10/12</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Parts of this syllabus may be subject to change based on class needs. Students will be notified of all changes. Additionally, I reserve the right to widen point ranges on assignments as needed.