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EDU 520.50: Educational Research

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Teaching and Learning 520
EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH
Spring 2021

Instructor: Trent Atkins, Ph.D.

Class Meets: via the internet

Contact Information: Email: trent.atkins@umontana.edu

Office Location: Education 101

Office Hours: by appointment

(feel free to call or email during these times)

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to assist students in acquiring the skills and knowledge required to be competent consumers and producers of educational research.

Course Objectives: Participants in this course will be able to:

1. Articulate the relationship between educational research and practice.
2. Understand the theoretical and practical differences between quantitative and qualitative traditions.
3. Explain the different steps in both qualitative and quantitative research processes, using and understanding relevant terminology.
4. Identify a research topic of interest to you, and conduct a systematic literature review on your topic.
5. Identify distinguishing characteristics of various types of research designs within qualitative and quantitative traditions.
6. Describe validity and reliability.
7. Explain different sampling techniques, samples and populations.
8. Understand and articulate the parameters and implications of “ethical” research, and the procedures that educational researchers must follow when working with human participants.
9. Discuss issues unique to working with vulnerable and diverse populations.
10. Name features of both qualitative and quantitative data analysis procedures.
11. Become familiar with basic statistical procedures.
12. Apply new knowledge and develop scholarship by designing a research study consisting of a problem statement, literature review, and methods sections, using APA (6th ed.) style.

Conceptual Framework for all Courses Taught through the PJW College of Education

The Professional Education Unit has adopted a conceptual framework that places central value on learning as a collaborative endeavor. The faculty in the Professional Education Unit believes that an educational orientation is insufficient and outmoded if it is based on isolated content, is teacher- dominated, and directed primarily toward passive students learning alone. Thus, it is the Unit’s intent that education candidates at The University of Montana-Missoula will experience a cohesive learning community during their own preparation, with the goal that they will be disposed and equipped to create communities of learners in their own future educational settings.

The faculty has identified three essential elements of learning communities which form organizing themes or strands that permeate all the programs and drive the candidate proficiency outcomes:

Integration of Ideas

Members of a learning community look beyond the traditionally segmented curriculum and think creatively about the interrelationships among subject areas. They work with a variety of fields of study and search for unifying themes that cross disciplinary lines. There is an emphasis on explaining realities and dealing with actual problems in contextual learning situations.

Cooperative Endeavors

In a learning community, knowing and learning are viewed as communal acts, and all members can learn from each other. There is a commitment to engage all learners cognitively and emotionally in acquiring and sharing knowledge that is personally meaningful. In the process, members create a culture that encourages personal responsibility and active commitment to the group and its learning goals.

Respect for Diversity and Individual Worth

By definition, a learning community embraces diversity, requiring and valuing the input of all voices present. The ethics of care and mutual respect are viewed as essential for supportive learning environments that enhance each member's self-esteem and foster risk-taking, creative conflict, and excellence.

Instructional Methods:

Effective teaching methods will be modeled throughout the semester and will encompass a variety of formats including power-point facilitated on-line discussions, small and large group problem-solving activities and student-led presentations and discussions. In addition, case studies will be utilized regularly for student reflection and inquiry-based learning. The use of email correspondence with the instructor is strongly encouraged as a means of individualizing instruction. Computer-mediated instruction in the form of email communication among students and internet research will also be encouraged. **Please note: It is imperative that you attend to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of this course. When someone asks me a question for which an answer is useful to all students, I will post the response in the FAQ section.**

Disability Statement:

If you have a disability for which accommodations are needed for you to perform to your highest potential in this course, arrange a meeting with me in the first week of the semester. During this meeting we will discuss what accommodations you need and will receive in this course. Please be sure to contact me within the first week of the semester.

Course Expectations:

All participants will be expected to comply with the academic honesty policies, as defined in the University of Montana Student Conduct Code. Any violation will result in a letter to the Dean recommending immediate expulsion, and a grade of "F."

It is expected that participants will take part in each class activity and will have read the assigned

material prior to each session. Quizzes and exams will be based on assigned readings and class activities.

Required Texts:

Gay, L.R., Mills, G.E., & Airasian, P. (2012). *Educational research: Competencies for analysis and application* (10th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson.

A series of videos, articles and selected readings will also be assigned on a weekly basis.

It is recommended that you have access to an APA manual (6th ed.).

Evaluation Procedures:

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- | | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 1. | Literature Review: | 50 points |
| 2. | Quizzes (5 @ 10 points each): | 50 points |
| 3. | Online Activity/Discussion Engagement: | 100 points |
| 4. | Issues Presentation: | 50 points |
| 5. | Proposal Presentation: | 50 points |
| 6. | Research Proposal: | 50 points |

POSSIBLE POINTS = 350 points

*involvement in weekly activities is mandatory.

Literature Review (50 points, Due WEEK 8)

Conduct a literature review of the educational topic of your choice. The final product should be a clear and concise table (I will provide an example) and include at least 10 research-based resources. Be sure that you choose a topic that has a research base so you can fulfill these requirements. Include a reference page and citations in APA format (separate from the table). Use your text (Chapter 2) as a guide for this assignment.

Quizzes (50 points, ongoing)

Quizzes will be given throughout the semester. These quizzes will cover the assigned reading material.

Online Activity/Discussion Engagement (100 points, ongoing)

Most weeks of the semester you will be given an activity to complete. The purpose of these activities is to ensure that you are engaging the material from the course. When needed, basic guidelines will be given so you will know how you will be graded. For example, if you are asked to discuss something, you will be given an approximate number of words that you need write to get full credit. You should have these activities completed by Monday at 7:00 p.m. each week.

Issues Presentation (50 points, WEEKS 4)

Each student will present information regarding a particular issue pertinent to educational research. The presentation should be no longer than 10 slides. The presentation should provide (a) an overview of the issue, (b) existing current research, and (c) future implications.

Proposal Presentation (50 points, WEEK 14)

Each student will present information regarding his or her research proposal. The presentation should be no longer than ten slides. The presentation should consist of (a) explanation of the method, (b) explanation of proposed procedure (c) the strengths and weakness of the methodology, and (d) presumed findings. You should prepare this assignment before you finish your proposal. Use it as a way to guide writing your paper.

Research Proposal (50 points, WEEK 15)

Complete a research proposal that includes a corrected literature review table. In total, the proposal should be approximately 10 pages and include all steps of a research project including a proposed (or assumed) *Findings* section and relevant *Discussion* section. Evaluation of APA style usage will be stringent. More specific guidelines for this assignment will be discussed throughout the semester.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A=	93%-100%
B=	85%-92%
C=	77%-84%
D=	76% and below

<i>Activities & Assignments/Readings (Readings Based on 10th Edition)</i>		
Date	Class Activities	Readings Related to Activities
Week 1 1.14	Introductions	
Week 2 1.21	#1 TOPIC: An Introduction to Research #2 Activity: How do we know things?	Read Chapters #1, 2
Week 3 1.28	#1 TOPIC: Preparing a Research Report #2 Activity: What Issue are you interested in?	Read Chapters #4 and #21
Week 4 2.4	#1 Issues Presentations: Students should post presentations #2 Activity: What are the essential components of research report? #3 Quiz #1	Read Chapter #3
Week 5 2.11	#1 TOPIC: Variables, Validity and Reliability #2 Activity: What construct and/or variables are you interested in studying and how are you going to measure or describe them?	Read Chapter #6
Week 6 2.18	#1 Quiz #2 #2 TOPIC: Qualitative Research #3 Activity: Design a research process for a qualitative study	Read Chapters #14 and #18
Week 7 2.25	#1 TOPIC: Survey Research and Correlational Research #2 Activity: Design a brief survey	Read Chapters #7& #8
Week 8 3.4 (STUDENT BREAK)	LITERATURE REVIEW IS DUE	
Week 9 3.11	#1 TOPIC: Evaluating a Research Report #2 Activity: What are the pros and cons to both qualitative and quantitative research? #3 Discussion of Research Proposals and Peer Evaluation	Read Chapter #22
Week 11 3.18	#1 QUIZ#3 #2 TOPIC: Causal Comparative and Experimental Research #3 Activity: Design an Experimental Study	Read Chapters #9&10
Week 12 3.25	#1 QUIZ#4 #2 TOPIC: Statistics #3 Activity: The Basics of Statistics	Read Chapters #12 and 13
Week 13 4.1	#1 TOPIC: Research Ethics and How it All Fits Together #2 Activity: Do you know ethical standards?	Visit and review this site: http://www.umt.edu/research/
Week 14 4.8	PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS DUE	
Week 15 4.15	#1 QUIZ #5 #2 Proposal Seminar and Discussion #3 Activity: Do you know Educational Research?	Proposal Presentations
Week 16 4.22	PROPOSALS DUE #1 Proposal Seminar and Discussion #2 Activity: Do you know Educational Research?	Proposal Presentations
FINALS WEEK		