



EDUC 595

Research Methodologies

Fall 2015

Instructor: Denise Pheils, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor
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Office Hours: Virtual Daily
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

All course readings will be included in your McGraw-Hill eBook. To access your readings for this course, click on the Course eBook link in the left hand navigation block.

Optional: Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (5th or 6th ed.). (2001/2009). Washington, DC: APA.

Course Description

This course provides a study of research methodologies with appropriate practical application in relevant problem solving. Specific research types, including action research will be emphasized.

Student Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are what you are able to do as a result of the activities, readings, instruction, etc. that have occurred in t course - these are my expectations of you. Assignments/activities related to these outcomes are described in the assignments and assessments portion of the syllabus.

1. The engaged learner will be an active and engaged team member within his/her learning community by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities in order to contribute to and develop a research proposal.
2. The engaged learner will compare and contrast different research designs and distinguish quantitative and qualitative methods.
3. The engaged learner will prepare and execute steps in the process of research in the form of a written formal research proposal. Learning Outcome #3 will be evidenced as follows.
4. The engaged learner will identify and select a problem for research.

5. The engaged learner will examine and analyze the process of collecting relevant empirically-based research to write a literature review.
6. The engaged learner will develop the purpose and research questions to address the research problem.
7. The engaged learner will examine, select and design appropriate research designs to collect data.
8. The engaged learner will properly format and cite research via the APA publication style.
9. The engaged learner will participate in a review and revision process with class members providing constructive and thoughtful feedback to the construction and development of the research proposal.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

A wide variety of instructional methods will be utilized to provide meaningful learning experiences, including group problem solving activities, self-assessments, independent research, and case studies. It is vital that support material is read prior to class and that you actively participate in class discussion, activities, and case studies.

Work on your written assignments according to the course schedule and submit these in a Word Document to the relevant Dropbox.

- Discussion Board (100 points/unit x 4 units = 400 points)
- Research Plan (500 points)
- Research Critiques (100 points/2 critiques = 200 points)

Discussion Participation: Each student will make at least 3 meaningful discussion posts for each of the 7 modules, interacting with the other students in the class. See the rubric below for the discussion participation grading criteria.

GRADING/ASSIGNMENT TABLE

	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	Module 6	Module 7	Total Points	%
1. Research Plan Total								500	65%
2. Statement of the Problem	100							100	10%
3. Research Questions		100						100	10%
4. References			100					100	9%
5. Significance of the Study						100		100	18%
6. Research							100	100	18%

Design									
7. Research Critiques				100	100			200	23%
8. Discussions	100	100				100	100	400	12%
9. Post to EduWiki									
10. Update Portfolio									
Total								1100	100

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

To fully participate in online courses, you will need to use a current, Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Internet Explorer 9.0 or 10. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - Microphone
 - Word Processing Software (Microsoft Word preferred)
- Depending on your course, you might also need a:
 - webcam
 - microphone

For courses where interactive tools are used, like VoiceThread or ClassLive Pro, headphones are suggested for use with recording and playback. We recommend a webcam with an integrated microphone, such as the Microsoft LifeCam Cinema. All devices should be installed and configured before class begins.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. Java can be downloaded at: <http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

- You will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - Adobe Reader
 - Adobe Flash Player
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see: <https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

LEARN Technical Concerns

Please contact the HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. By clicking on the "Get Help" link at the bottom any screen within LEARN. Chat, Voice and Self-help tools are all conveniently located on this page for your access.

Course Concerns

If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc., first refer to the appropriate area within this syllabus or the course. If you are still unable to find the answer please contact your instructor via email, through the "Ask Your Instructor" page, or during office hours.

Other Questions/ Concerns

Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department relating to your questions/concern. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Participation & Communication: I expect each of you to be active and thoughtful participants within the learning environme (LEARN) and your learning community. You are to expect the same of me. This includes completing the extensive readings related to course topics, team and/or individual research proposal topics and participation in proposal revision activities (submission of individual draft sections and evaluation of draft sections from other class members)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Citizenship: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student 92s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Late work: Late work is not accepted. You will have plenty of notification and time to complete course assignments. If you know you are going to be out of town and unable to access a computer, plan ahead. See course semester outline at the botto of this syllabus.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism **WILL NOT** be tolerated and will result in an automatic F in the course. Various versions of your work and final papers will be run through Turn It In software - this is not meant to "catch" you in the act, but rather assist you in seeing possible areas that may be unintentionally plagiarized and allow for editing your work.

Attendance: This is an online class therefore attendance is up to you! You will be required to work as a team via various activities. The quality of your contributions and regular participation activities, including attendance via synchronous session will be considered attendance. It is strongly encouraged that you attempt to log into the course everyday and/or check your email for messages in order to not get behind. The synchronous sessions via synchronous are not required, but it is in your best interest to attend when available during the semester.

Scholarly Expectations: All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class is considered inappropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate higher- order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level.

University Specific Procedures

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

A wide variety of instructional methods will be utilized to provide meaningful learning experiences, including group problem solving activities, self-assessments, independent research, and case studies. It is vital that support material is read prior to class and that you actively participate in class discussion, activities, and case studies.

Work on your written assignments according to the course schedule and submit these in a Word Document to the relevant Dropbox.

- Discussion Board (100 points/unit x 4 units = 400 points)
- Research Plan (500 points)
- Research Critiques (100 points/2 critiques= 200 points)

Weekly Assignments

Discussion Participation: Each student will make at least 3 meaningful discussion posts for each of the 7 modules, interacting with the other students in the class. See the rubric below for the discussion participation grading criteria.

	Does not post or reply	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Exemplary
First Visit: Initial Post (1)	0/50	20/50	35/50	50/50
Quantity and timeliness				

Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of content and applicability to professional practice				
Generates learning within the community				
2 nd and 3 rd Visit: Reply to Other Learners	0/25 (x2)	15/25 (x2)	20/25 (x2)	25/25 (x2)

Research Plan:

The core of this course is the development of a research plan. Through the analysis of appropriate research literature, you will identify a problem that you wish to further investigate. This problem needs to be one that is “researchable” and related to an area in education. Throughout the semester, you will conduct a series of activities to assist you in completing a formal research plan.

Research Critiques:

You will complete two research design reports to assess your understanding of research designs.

NOTE: More detailed directions for the assignments are provided in the lectures within each module. For this reason, I suggest you watch the lectures early in the week.