



**EDCI 595.1XW  
Research Literature and Techniques  
Summer 2024**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor: Dr. Julia Persky, Assistant Professor**  
**Office Location: N/A**  
**Office Hours: By Appointment**  
**Office Phone: (903) 886-5537**  
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**Communication Response Time: 24 Hours (M-F)**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

***Textbook(s) Required:***

Shagoury, R., and Power, B. R. (2012). *Living the questions: A guide for teacher-researchers* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). Portland, Maine: Stenhouse Publishers.

**Course Description:**

This course provides an overview of action research with emphasis on qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Students will produce a written action research report on inquiries demonstrating competencies in research methodologies.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

This course has been designed to provide instruction on the models of instruction and teaching and learning theories. The following are general instructional objectives for this course:

1. To examine action research and its implications for improving educational practice.
2. To understand qualitative and quantitative methodologies through teacher research experiences.
3. To explore how research inquiries within the field of curriculum and instruction may powerfully improve educational practice.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be expected to complete assigned readings, assimilate lecture material, and to participate in class discussions. The course material and activities will be delivered 100% in an online environment. The class learning experiences shall include:

1. Reviews of pertinent literature associated with curriculum and instruction and action research.
2. Interacting with peers through review processes.
3. Completing an action research written report and formal presentation.

The assignments for the course are listed below, and specific instructions for each assignment are included in detail on D2L/ECollege (see assignments for each week).

*Rear Window* observation assignment: 10%

Research design (with annotated bibliography and literature review sample): 10%

Data collection journals (observations, surveys, interviews): 30%

Reading and chat charts: 10% (33.33 points each for 3 charts)

Action research paper and E-presentation: 40% (includes first draft and peer review)

**Prior to submitting the action research paper, each student must write and submit a first draft and then participate in a peer-review conference (either via chat or discussion board).**

Additional information about assignments and learning experiences shall be provided on the first day of class.

The grading scale will constitute: A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (59% or below). Letter grades translate into mathematical scores as follows: A++ (100%), A+ (97%), A (95%), A- (92%), A-/B+ (90% or 89% as deemed by instructor), B+ (87%), B (85%), B- (82%), B-/C+ (80% or 79% as deemed by instructor), C+ (77%), C (75%), C- (72%), C-/D+ (70% or 69% as deemed by instructor), D (65%), D- (62%), F (59% or below as deemed by instructor).

**Assignment Submission Policy:** The instructor reserves the right to change course assignments, projects, and examinations throughout the semester. Each assignment/project must be completed and turned in by the due date given. **All assignments are due by 11:59 midnight on the date indicated on the calendar. All assignments are submitted electronically in the drop boxes on D2L/Ecollege.** Students may elect to turn in a hard copy, but the assignment must be hand delivered to the instructor before the deadline (this is not an option for summer courses). **If technical difficulties arise during the submission of assignments, students may use the university computer labs (located in Commerce, Metroplex Mesquite Center, and other satellite locations), to remedy the problem.**

The instructor maintains a strict late work policy. **Late assignments shall be subject to letter grade reductions (usually a 70 or half credit) or non-acceptance at the instructor's discretion. Students electing to withdraw from the course must contact the registrar by the university's official deadline for withdrawal.**

**In the case of unexpected emergencies, students must provide written documentation regarding their missed assignments.** The instructor reserves the right to deny make-up opportunities, especially in cases of negligence. It is expected that all course assignments/projects (inside and outside of class

and including examinations) will be completed at mastery level (as designated by the instructor). If (in the professional opinion of the instructor) an assignment/project is not satisfactorily completed, it may be returned to the student, and the student may be required to re-do the work until it is at mastery level. The instructor reserves the right to limit the number of times an assignment/project may be re-submitted and to establish a reasonable time frame for resubmissions. If any course assignment/project is not completed at a mastery level by the final resubmission deadline, the instructor reserves the right to assign the student a grade of "I" or "F" for the assignment and/or course--at the instructor's discretion.

**Attendance Policy:** As per University Policy A 13.02 effective September 1, 1996: Students are responsible for learning about and complying with the attendance policy stated in the catalog, Student's Guidebook, and/or faculty syllabus. The expectations for students enrolled in this course are that they will attend all class sessions, by actively participating in discussions and activities.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Due the nature of the course, students are required to have continuous on-line access. All students must have access to email and adequately functioning computer equipment. To use the university's online resources, students need a computer and an Internet service provider (ISP). Students also need an Internet browser, an email program, and a word processing program. A working familiarity with hardware and software is advantageous before entering the program.

### Hardware

Both Macintosh and Windows systems are acceptable. Students do not need to purchase a new system to begin online learning at the university.

### Windows

98/NT/2000/ME/XP

Pentium (2 GHz or greater)

128 megabytes (MB) random access memory (RAM)

2 GB or greater hard drive

### Macintosh

OS 9.1 to OS X; G3, G4, or higher

128 megabytes (MB) random access memory (RAM)

2 GB or greater hard drive

### Software

#### Word Processor

Microsoft Word is preferred. Microsoft Works, WordPerfect, and AppleWorks are acceptable.

### Connectivity

Reliable Internet access through an established Internet service provider (ISP) is key to the online learning experience. Students should choose a DSL or cable-modem service where high-speed Internet is available. If you have dial-up, you may experience problems.

### Web Browser

Internet Explorer (version 6.0 or greater) or Netscape (version 7.0 or greater) is required. These browsers are available for free in the download areas at [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) and [www.netscape.com](http://www.netscape.com), respectively.

Note: Browsers that are part of the MSN and AOL software are not acceptable, because they include proprietary modifications that may not work correctly with resources. Students may continue to use AOL or MSN as their

Internet service provider, but once connected to the Internet, they should minimize the AOL or MSN window and launch Internet Explorer or Netscape.

#### Adobe Acrobat Reader

Available at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com), this free program (Adobe Reader 8) allows you to view and print many forms and some full-text documents from online library databases.

Adobe Flash Player 9.0 Available at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). This allows you to view any content delivered in Flash.

Video Players/Plugins: It is available for free download Quicktime, [www.apple.com/quicktime](http://www.apple.com/quicktime).

RealPlayer, available at [www.real.com](http://www.real.com), and Windows MediaPlayer 11.0, available at [www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download).

#### Real Player

Lecture files will be viewed using Real Player. A free copy can be downloaded from [www.real.com](http://www.real.com).

#### Java Applet

Since the online classroom is interactive and dynamic, it is important that students' Internet browser be Java-enabled. The Java Virtual Machine can be downloaded for free at <http://java.com/en/index.jsp>.

#### Virus Protection

Viruses can be transmitted to computers as email attachments. Once a virus is resident on a computer, it can hinder performance, crash the computer, or damage files and hard drives—permanently. To protect their systems, students should purchase up-to-date antivirus software from a local computer store and regularly check their computers for viruses.

Note: Students should keep their antivirus software current by downloading updates from the software company's Web site. Antivirus software is usually licensed for one year, with free updates. Most antivirus software can be configured to download virus definitions (or updates) automatically when the computer connects to the Internet. Students should download virus updates weekly or more frequently. Commercially available programs such as Norton Antivirus or McAfee can be configured to update virus definitions automatically at least once a week.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The course requires the use of ECollege accessible through students' My Leo accounts. To login, students will need their valid student ID number and password.

eCollege Technical Concerns: Please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by sending an email directly to [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org). You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511. If you have a dial-up connect, you may experience problems uploading and downloading. If you feel your connection is not adequate, please use the lab at your site to upload documents.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

#### Email

Access to a reliable email service through an established Internet service provider (ISP) is critical to the online learning experience.

Course Concerns: If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact via email.

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 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Monday through Friday.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### **Instructor Policies:**

The instructor reserves the right to change course assignments, projects, examinations, and due dates throughout the semester. Each assignment/project must be turned in by the due date given. Late assignments/projects will be subject to a point deduction or non-acceptance at the instructor's discretion. Class participation and attendance will be considered in assigning the final course grade. Students who elect to drop the course must make arrangements with the registrar. This is the student's (not the professor's) responsibility.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism Policy:**

The Student GuideBook provides penalties for misconduct by students, including academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to, (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; and (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use of the published or unpublished work of another person, by paraphrase or direct quotation, without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. If a student engages in academic dishonesty related to this class, the student will receive a failing grade on the test or assignment and a failing grade in the course. In addition, the case will be referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action.

### **Code of Ethics:**

The Curriculum and Instruction Department expects that its students will abide by the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators (Chapter 247 of the Texas Administrative Code [www.sbec.state.tx.us](http://www.sbec.state.tx.us)) and as outlined in Domain IV: Fulfilling Professional Roles and Responsibilities of the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES); and as also addressed in codes of ethics adopted by professionals in the education field such as the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

### *ADA Statement*

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**

**Waters Library 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

### *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*).

*Discrimination Policy*

Texas A&M-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.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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The calendar for the course is posted on D2L.