

RESEARCH METHODS—EDFN 500

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Course Description

Research methods include theory of research, experimental design, bibliographical and data gathering techniques, and interpretation of results.

The main focus of this course, however, is not on how to actually do research but on understanding research, on interpreting research results.

No prior knowledge of research or statistics is required, although it would certainly be helpful.

The course will be taught on a very tight schedule, so if you do not think you can commit to working hard to learn materials, you should not take this course.

Course Overview

EDFN 500 is an introductory graduate course in methods of educational research. The course includes the systematic presentation of research process; students will be exposed to the fundamental concepts, procedures, and techniques of research in the social/behavioral sciences. Students will have opportunities to develop competence in reading and evaluating research materials, as well as in reporting research processes and results in writing. Involvement in the research process will enable students to acquire an appreciation for the role of research in education.

Course Objectives

The course is designed to enable the student to:

1. Understand various methods of research in education.
2. Demonstrate competency in evaluating educational research reports.
3. Retrieve, review and report information from library and other sources relevant to a specific research question.
4. Apply and interpret basic statistical analyses of research data.

Textbook

There are two textbooks that will be used for this class. One is required and the other one is optional. The required one is:

Gay, L.R., Mills, Geoffrey E., & Airasian, Peter. (2012). Educational Research: Competencies for Analysis and Applications. (10th edition). Prentice Hall.

The optional is:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. (Latest Edition). Be able to use APA publication style.

Questions Concerning This Course

The following is a short description in Question and Answer format.

- Q. Will we have to meet face to face during this course?
- A. This course is an asynchronous web course – you do not have to be on-line at a certain time to be able to receive/submit course information (as opposed to a synchronous course during which lectures are delivered live over internet). We will not be meeting face to face during the course.
- Q. Do I have to participate in class discussion to receive credit in this course?
- A. No, you do not have to communicate with me in any form (e-mail, discussion board posts etc.) other than submitting your assignments and quizzes to be able to receive full credit for the course. I do, however, encourage you to participate in the Discussion Board whenever you have either clarification questions or a good example that would help explain class material. I will use course participation to decide your grade in borderline cases.
- Q. Will I be notified of deadlines for what I have to do throughout the course?
- A. Although I will try to send out notifications through e-mail and post announcements on Blackboard to remind about upcoming deadlines and instructions on what to do next, ultimately IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE AWARE OF AND ADHERE TO DEADLINES LISTED IN THE COURSE SCHEDULE POSTED UNDER COURSE INFORMATION. “I did not know this was due” is not an excuse.
- Q. Where can I find class materials?
- A. All class materials (assignments, quizzes, etc.) will be posted on Blackboard under Course Information, Course Documents and Assignments.

Q. What if I have a question?

A. If you have questions regarding class material, ASK THEM ON THE DISCUSSION BOARD in the Blackboard so that others could see the answers (just like everyone would hear your question and my answer in class.) Consequently, **if you want to ask a question, you MUST make sure that it has not already been answered on the discussion board. IF YOU CONSISTENTLY IGNORE THIS RULE, I WILL TAKE POINTS OFF YOUR GRADE.**

If you have personal questions (the things you would normally ask after class in a face to face setting), ask them over e-mail.

Q. I am having problems with my computer. Can you help me?

A. If you are taking an on-line class, a certain level of computer expertise is expected of you. I will provide minimal amount of help with issues related to the course but do not expect me to troubleshoot all your problems.

Q. Can I send my assignments through email to you?

A. No, all assignments have to be post mailed or hand delivered to my office for a grade.

Q. Can I send you emails with my school or hotmail address?

A. Any email without WKU.EDU will not be opened for fearing viruses.

Make Up Policy

You will be offered an opportunity to make up missed quizzes/assignments only in two cases:

1. Where there is an unforeseen event that caused extreme hardship (e.g. death in the immediate family, hospitalization). In this case you will have to document the reason for your inability to study for the course.
2. Planned absence. You have to let me know AT THE BEGINNING of the course if you have prior engagements coinciding with the deadlines.

Because this is an on-line class and you have an opportunity to do work at your own pace, make up work will be offered on VERY unusual circumstances.

E-mail Suggestions

E-mail will be one of our methods of communication for this class. Remember that anything you write could be read by others. Each e-mail should deal with one subject or one assignment. Each e-mail or assignment should be concise but include all requested information. For e-mail SUBJECT, please use “EDFN500-700 or (701, 702)”. **E-mail without these as SUBJECT will not be sorted for reading.**

Emails sent during weekends will be replied on weekdays.

Evaluation

- A. Three quizzes: (300 points total)
- B.. Find five articles using similar research methods described by Chapters 7,8,9,10 and 11 in the textbook. Write 1-2 page summaries for each article and explain why you think the article matches the method described by that particular chapter. The articles have to be from professional journals and the abstract page of the article has to be turned in together with all your summaries. APA style is required. (20 points for each summary x 5 =100 points)
- C. Final grade will be totaled and divided by 4 (3 quizzes, five summaries).

Grade	Points (average)
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	69 and below

ADA Statement

If you think you have a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act and requires accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids of services) for this course, you must contact the Office for Student Disability Services Room DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. The telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor without a letter of accommodation from the OFSDS.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is serious offense. The academic work of a student is expected to be his/her own effort. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism. Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive a failing grade for the course and may be subject to dismissal from the program. Student work will be subject to review and checks using plagiarism detection software.

Before receiving a grade in this course students will be required to verify in writing that they have completed the Harvard Graduate School of Education online tutorial: Principles of Paraphrasing: How to Avoid Plagiarism in Three Easy Modules - <http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=paraphrasing>.

Or Indiana University's Plagiarism and Academic Integrity - <http://edtech.wku.edu/~counsel/policies/plagiarism-and-academic-integrity.htm>.

WKU
Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Research

Student Name (PRINT) _____

I verify that I have completed the plagiarism tutorial indicated below and that I understand what constitutes plagiarism:

_____ **Harvard Graduate School of Education online tutorial: Principles of Paraphrasing: How to Avoid Plagiarism in Three Easy Modules**
<http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=paraphrasing>

Date completed: _____

_____ **Indiana University tutorial on plagiarism**
<https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>

Date completed: _____

Student signature: _____

Date signed: _____