

Research Methods and Design for Educational Leaders
EDLD 712: Syllabus
Western Kentucky University
Spring, 2024

General information

Instructor: Kimberlee Everson, Ph.D.

Office: Gary Ransdell Hall 3082

Office hours: **Please make appointments when possible regardless of official posted hours:**

Wednesday 11:30-2:30

Thursday 11:30-2:30

Friday 9-12:30

Email: kimberlee.everson@wku.edu

Office Phone (landline): 270-745-2115

Cell Phone (for text): 801-505-3932 (Text only. I do not pick up unknown numbers)

Zoom instructor room for class sessions: bit.ly/EversonZoom

Required Virtual Class Sessions (Over Zoom at bit.ly/EversonZoom)

Please be aware that you will be required to have your camera on during the entire class session, and you will be expected to unmute and participate when asked.

Jan 27, 9am-12 central

Feb 24, 9am-12 central

Mar 9, 9am-12 central

Apr 6, 9am-12 central

Catalog Description

Quantitative and qualitative research methods and design; survey design and administration; and analysis of research reports. Students will critically read research in educational leadership and critique the applications of the findings.

Course Description

EDLD 712 is a doctoral level course in social science research design. The content is focused on methods of quantitative design and qualitative design, plus the creation of literature reviews. The class provides opportunities for students to read and discuss research studies from the literature, examining the rationale for the design, methodology, and statistical procedures used by the authors. These skills will aid in the preparation of students' research whether for their dissertation or other demands and opportunities. Students will be required to read, summarize, and report on professional journal articles in their field. Additional course content will include an overview of the research process, identification of possible research topics, and understanding how scholarship helps advance a given field of study. Students will be expected to participate actively in class activities. At a general level, students will engage in and do exercises related to quality of scholarship, including writing and use of APA--all focused on greater awareness of and skills in self-learning and individual growth.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to do the following:

1. Use library databases to locate peer-reviewed journal articles, using Boolean searches, and specified inclusion/exclusion criteria.
2. Conduct a rigorous, analytical review of the literature on a topic.
3. Write an academic paper, such as a journal article or dissertation, in APA format.
4. Write papers using correct grammar, college-level vocabulary, skilled writing style and fluidity, and clear organization.
5. Describe the principles and processes of improvement science.
6. Apply improvement science to problems of practice.
7. Describe a problem of practice and the context surrounding it, including variability, clearly.
8. Describe the differences between quantitative and qualitative research.
9. Define terminology related to quantitative research, statistics, and qualitative research.
10. Calculate statistics and conduct statistical analyses including descriptive statistics, basic graphics, t-tests, chi-square tests of association, oneway ANOVA, and simple linear regression.
11. Use generative AI ethically to assist in developing ideas and written documents.

Required Texts

The following texts will be used during the course. Please get the indicated edition (not an earlier edition):

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th Ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Everson, K. (2024). *Research 1: Introduction to Research Methods for Improvement Scientists*. (Free opentext. Pdf available on blackboard.)

Grading

Unit Homework Assignments (5 units @ 100 each)	500
Problem of Practice Assessment	100
Rough Draft of Chapter 1	100
Total	700

Standard grading scale: 100%-90% - A; 89%-80% - B; 79%-70% - C; 69%-60% - D; 59%-0% - F

Required Software

JASP (Free statistical software). Available at: <https://jasp-stats.org/download-pre-installed-version-jasp/>

Please have JASP downloaded before our first Zoom class session.

Description of Major Assignments

Unit Assignments

For all 5 units, assignments will include readings, quizzes, writings, discussion boards and practical exercises.

Problem of Practice Assignment

You will be required to have your problem of practice evaluated by both the course instructor and your committee chair.

Dissertation Chapter 1 Assignment

By the due date in the course, you are to turn in a rough draft of your chapter 1 for your dissertation. This chapter 1 will be revised as your progress through the program and will not be “done” after this course.

Late Assignments - Late assignments will be deducted 10% for each week they are submitted after the due date, regardless of the reason for the late submission. For example, an assignment submitted 1 minute to 1 week after it is due will receive a maximum score of 9/10. It is recommended that you do not wait until the last minute to do your assignments in case you have a last-minute emergency.

Artificial Intelligence (ChatGPT or similar)— *This instructor requires the use of ChatGPT, Microsoft Bard, or similar on some assignments (see Blackboard).* She allows the use of these A.I. tools in this course on other assignments so long as the use is credited, the response is rephrased in your own words, and the accuracy of the information is checked.

Study Groups – Peers can often be an excellent resource when reviewing concepts, especially with complex material. Students are invited to work together with others, with the exception of quizzes and the final exam, provided each student completes each analysis and write-up on their own computer.

Student Policies

The School of Leadership & Professional Studies expects all undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students to demonstrate academic integrity and not participate in academic misconduct as defined by the University (<https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/process-for-academic-dishonesty.php>). The SLPS has developed two tiers for academic misconduct. Examples of academic offenses include (but are not limited to) any act of plagiarism, cheating, or falsification or misuse of academic records.

Tier 1 Violations

Acts of plagiarism that involve not citing all sources and/or using papers previously written and submitted in other courses are considered a Tier 1 violation. Students committing violations in Tier 1 will meet with the instructor to discuss the incident and work toward a resolution. Students may receive a zero on the submitted work with feedback stating the issue; students are responsible for checking grades and reading feedback. Instructors will follow the policy for Tier 2 violations for additional Tier 1 violations.

Tier 2 Violations

Tier 2 violations include but are not limited to using artificial intelligence programs, content generators or websites to complete an assignment in ways not allowed by the instructor as described by the course syllabus, sharing passwords and login information with individuals not enrolled in the course, failing to cite any sources in submitted work when outside sources were obviously used, cheating on an assignment or test, employing a person to complete an assignment, and/or committing a second Tier 1 violation.

Students committing violations in Tier 2 will meet with the instructor to discuss the incident and review evidential materials. If the instructor determines a Tier 2 violation has occurred, the instructor should report the student to the Office of Student Conduct and request that the Office of the Registrar issue a failing grade for the course. If the academic misconduct is severe and flagrant, the student may be dismissed from the program. Students who wish to dispute the allegation, dismissal, or grade should follow the Student Complaint Policy (<https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-complaint.php>).

Accommodation of Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room 445, Potter Hall. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Affirmative Action:

Western Kentucky University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or military service. Inquiries or comments regarding these issues should be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity/504/ADA Compliance, Western Kentucky University, 1906 College Heights Blvd., Bowling Green, KY 42101, Telephone (270) 745-5121, TTY (270) 745-3030.

Extra Help:

The instructor will be available as need is indicated. Students are encouraged to discuss any questions or problems with the instructor.

Course Adjustments:

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course requirements, schedule, and syllabus. The syllabus and schedule for this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. No change will occur, however, *unless* proper and prior notice is given to students.

Date Prepared and by Whom:

Course syllabus prepared January 15, 2024 by Kimberlee Everson

Course Timetable

Unit of Study:	Assignments Due Each Saturday by Midnight
What is research?	1/20, 1/27, 2/3
How does I.S. compare to traditional research?	2/10, 2/17
What is descriptive statistics and how can I use it in I.S.?	2/24, 3/2, 3/9
What is qualitative research and how can I use it in I.S.?	3/16, 3/30, 4/6
What should chapter 1 of my dissertation look like?	4/13, 4/20, 4/27