

Augusta State University
College of Education Dept. of Educational Leadership, Counseling, and Special
Education
Summer 2012 [section A4]

Course: EDUC 6021: Introduction to Educational Research
Time: W 4:30 [5/15-7/6]
Instructor: Dr. Philip Smith
Office: UH 304
Telephone: 667-4492 ; Email: psmith28@aug.edu
Office Hours: W: 3:00-4:15 or by appointment.

Required Text:

Gay, L.R., Mills, G.E. & Airasian, P. (2008) *Educational Research: Competencies for Analysis and Applications*, 9th Edition, NJ: Pearson

There is an electronic version of this text (ebook) that is considerably cheaper than the bound paper copy. It can be ordered at CourseSmart.com: **ISBN-10: 0132788845** **ISBN-13: 9780132788847**. You will need to establish an account with CourseSmart in order to purchase. **Be sure you read the CourseSmart restrictions on printing and the compatible devices before you purchase the ebook.**

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to empower students to read, interpret, and evaluate research literature as one means of making sound decisions concerning the choices they make in their professions. Students will be introduced to the process of research in educational contexts and the diverse methodologies that are employed in these contexts (e.g., historical, causal-comparative, correlational, quasi-experimental, experimental, single-subject and qualitative). The course will focus on key elements of the design, conduct and interpretation of educational research. All content will be grounded in the contexts of journal readings (or other literature) reporting research results or dealing with research on educational issues.

Prerequisite: Admission to graduate program in education.

LiveText. All students admitted to degree programs in the College of Education are required to purchase *LiveText* software through the ASU bookstore. *LiveText* is an electronic, web-based data management service that allows students and faculty to create, store, and publish documents online using a word-processing format. When required, all students will upload assignments, their portfolio, and other required documents into *LiveText*. *LiveText* works better with the Mozilla Firefox browser rather than Internet Explorer. Students may Google Mozilla Firefox and download it to their computers. **LiveText will not be used in this course.**

WebCT/GeorgiaView. All course materials, including assignments, readings and data sets will be posted on WebCT/GeorgiaView. If you do not know how to use this

resource, you are encouraged to seek help with IT or consult other students who know how to use it. A brief introduction will be given during the first class. Evaluations will be done on WebCT/GeorgiaView. All assignments may be submitted through WebCT/GeorgiaView as Microsoft Word documents. When doing an assignment in Word to turn in via WebCT/GeorgiaView, be sure that your file name begins with your last name and first initial [e.g., **SmithPassignment1.doc**] so that I can identify it.

Specific Objectives:

The students will be able to:

- (a) *read, interpret* and *evaluate* research literature
- (b) *perform* basic data analyses essential to the conducting of educational research
- (c) *explain* research-based data and recommendations for professional practice to colleagues, parents, and agencies in the larger community
- (d) *become* a reflective practitioner who uses research in evaluating his/her professional practice

College of Education Conceptual Framework

The preparation of teachers and other school personnel is critical to all other professions, and to communities, the state, and the nation. The professional educator plays an essential role in student learning. The Conceptual Framework of the professional education unit at Augusta State University consists of a mission and vision with an overarching theme to produce **prepared, able, and responsive** professionals to teach and support diverse learners.

This mission and vision requires a partnership between the professional education unit including the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, the local community educational system, community agencies, and the Professional Development School Network.

Conceptual Framework: Mission

Our mission is to educate prospective school professionals to be knowledgeable, effective, and ethical practitioners.

Conceptual Framework: Vision

Our vision is to prepare school professionals who transform P-12 learners into thinking, productive citizens.

Standard: Prepared

Disposition: To think critically about the process of teaching, learning and assessment.

Competencies: Candidates who are prepared will:

- P2 - use self assessment and analysis as a basis for collaboration with colleagues, continuing professional development and lifelong learning.
- P3- possess an understanding of the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) or professional field of study and create learning experiences that enable all students to learn.
- P5- demonstrate knowledge about how to use information and technology effectively to foster active inquiry, collaboration, and supportive interaction in educational settings.

Standard: Able

Dispositions: To be creative, challenging, and flexible in teaching/professional practices.

Competencies: Candidates who are able will:

A4- understand and use authentic assessment to evaluate and ensure the continuous development of the learner.

Standard: Responsive

Disposition: To act in a manner that is empathetic, responsive, enthusiastic, inclusive, and reflective in relations with students, parents, peers, and others.

Competencies: Candidates who are responsive will:

R1- respect the dignity of all persons believing that all children can learn and have the right to an opportunity to do so.

R5 reflect on practice and continually evaluate the effects of choices and actions on others (students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community).

Method of Instruction. The primary method of instruction will be lecture with discussion.

Course Outline:

Course Preliminaries: Course information may be found in various folders on WebCT/GeorgiaView. 1) You must complete the CITI certification before the 3rd week of class. See the "CITI Certification" sheet in the *Preliminary Activities* folder for details. Once you have completed the training or if you have previously completed this certification, submit your completion certificate using the appropriate link in the *Submit Assignments Here* folder. 2) Submit two essays [ungraded; due by 5/30] to serve as data for other course exercises. See the "Essay 1 Assignment" and "Essay 2 Assignment" in the *Preliminary Activities* folder. You will get assignments 6 & 7 early in the course and may begin any time after you complete the CITI Certification. Assignment 6 is partially a group assignment [your instructor will assign you to a group]. You will find Assignments 6 & 7 in the *Course Long Assignments* folder. Weekly assignments are in the *Weekly Assignments* folder. All assignments submitted electronically should be done so through the appropriate link in the *Submit Assignments Here* folder.

Tentative Schedule

Topic 1 [5/16]: Philosophical Distinctions & Modes of Inquiry. Ch1-4. [Assignment 1; begin CITI Certification; two one page essays (ungraded)]

Topic 2 [5/23]: Measurement, Sampling, Descriptive Studies Ch 5, 6, 7 [Assignment 2, Evaluation 1]

Topic 3 [5/30]: Correlational Studies & Descriptive Statistics. Ch. 8, 12 [Assignment 3]

Topic 4 [6/6]: Causal-Comparative and Experimental Paradigms and statistical inference Ch. 9-11,13 [Assignment 4]

Topic 5 [6/13]: Intro to Qualitative Methods. Ch 14-17 [Assignment 5, Evaluation 2]

Topic 6 [6/20]: Qualitative Data Analysis Ch. 18 [Assignment 6(20)]

Topic 7 [online]: Mixed Methods and Action Research. Ch. 19-20 [Assignment 7(20), Evaluation 3]

Note: The topics listed above will correspond roughly to the 7 class sessions.

Assignments listed in brackets will be due the following week, either submitted on WebCT/GeorgiaView or handed in at the beginning of class. More specific directions about these assignments will be given in class. Students are required to attend classes regularly and punctually. If a student is absent for more than three hours, he/she may be asked to withdraw from the class. Unsatisfactory attendance of classes and participation in class activities will affect your grade adversely. **No assignment will be accepted more than 24 hours past the due date. Those assignments submitted late (within 24 hours) will have a maximum of half credit.** You are advised to complete the readings and assignments, meet regularly with other students to discuss issues, and see the Instructor if you have any problems. Examinations could be in-class, take-home, or both. Requests to do make-up examinations, or to take an examination before or after the scheduled date, should be made (in writing) only in cases of absolute necessity. **Turn off your cell phones, please.** Children and other relations are not permitted in class.

Evaluation Course Grading Procedure:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following

Class Participation & Attendance	10pts.
Evaluations (3):	90 pts.
Assignments (7)	90 pts.
Total	170pts.

Final grading will be based on total points as follows:

A: 165-190

B: 145-164

C: 130-144

D: 115- 129

F: 0- 104

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to read and strictly adhere to the entire Academic Honesty policy found in the 2011–12 *Augusta State University Catalog*. In part, the policy reads:

Academic honesty requires the presentation for evaluation and credit of one's own work, not the work of others...Plagiarism is the failure to acknowledge indebtedness. It is always assumed that the written work offered for evaluation and credit is the student's own unless otherwise acknowledged. Such acknowledgement should occur whenever one quotes another person's actual works, whenever one appropriates another person's ideas, opinions, or theories, even if they are paraphrased, and whenever one borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative materials unless the information is common knowledge.
(p.46)

MyASU Account

MyASU is a web based portal that contains a variety of information and services. A myASU account is created for all new applicants and stays with the student throughout their time at ASU and after graduation. MyASU gives you

- Access to JagMail (web-based Email system)
- Classroom tools such as class bulletin boards and class chat rooms
- Campus & Personal Announcements
- Access into ELROY (your personal student information)
- Access to [GeorgiaVIEW Vista](#) (An On-Line Course management system)

Students are encouraged to check their JagMail account daily. Students are responsible for any assignments or deadlines sent to them via JagMail. If you have trouble accessing your myASU account, you should contact Information Technology Services at 737-1676. Computers and printers are available free of charge in computer labs throughout campus as well as the library and campus Internet cafes for students who do not have access from a home computer.

Writing Center

You may contact the ASU Writing Center (737-1402) for help with developing and improving composition skills. If you would like additional help with writing or with learning APA style, inform the class instructor.

Students with Disabilities

Candidates with disabilities must meet with the Office of Disability Services in order to arrange for accommodations. Once the candidate has arranged for an accommodation letter from the Office of Disability Services, it is the candidate's responsibility to schedule an appointment with his or her instructor within two weeks in order to discuss accommodations. If the candidate does not initiate this meeting, it is assumed no special accommodations or modifications will be necessary to meet the requirements of this

course. You may make an appointment with Testing and Disability Services by calling (706) 737-1469 or by visiting their office located in Galloway Hall.

Student Safety

Student safety is of primary importance. Students leaving classes late in the evening are encouraged to stay in groups of two or more and to report all suspicious behavior or persons to the ASU Office of Public Safety (emergency number 706-729-2911; non-emergency 706-737-1401). Emergency telephones are located in the University Hall parking lot and various other locations on campus.

Cell Phones

The use of cell phones for calls, text messaging, or other tasks is prohibited in class.