

EDU 651: Understanding and Conducting Educational Research
Course Schedule: Topics, Reading Assignments and Assignment Due Dates
Spring 2007

Date	Class Topics and Activities	Readings and Assignments Due Today
Week 1 Jan.23rd	Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Community Building • Course Overview • Introduction to research in education • Ways of knowing - Epistemology and Science 	
Week 2 Jan.30th	Library Day & WebCT Training Class in the library HW: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find one “good” (in your own opinion) published article of your own interest to share with the class (for Week 3). • What seems to be your area of interest? 	2.1 Text book, Mills, Chapter 1. Understanding Action Research 2.2 Text book: Mills, Chapter 2. Deciding on an area of interest.
Week 3 Feb.06th	The Scientific Approach in Education -A Big Picture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of research • Stages/Steps of doing research HW: think about your own teaching, about your own research – identify a research focus. Hot Topic 1: Should School Homework be Abolished or not? Clashing Views in Educational Issues Class Debate Sign-up Sheet	3.1 Introduction to Educational Research – Types of Research, Gay, Mills, Airasian, (2006). Chapter I, p.2-19 3.2 What is research? How does the process of research look like? 3.3 Typical stages in Research.
Week 4 Feb.13th	Introduction to Action Research (ppt) Developing your Research Questions (I) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using Action Research to Solve a Problem: develop your research questions. • Format of a research proposal/report • Action research proposal - Course project: a big picture + Draft #1 (rubric and format) • Group work: brainstorming area of interest from your own teaching. HW: Observe your own teaching or other’s teaching for a day - for reasonable hours and write 1-page reflections “Things I learned ...” (Remember the purpose of doing this: to identify an area of interest and to frame your research questions) Hot Topic 2: Is Full Inclusion of Disabled Students Desirable?	4.1 Living the questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1.1 Why Teacher Research? 4.1.2 Little r and Big R, 4.1.3 Celebrating “ Things I learned last week” 4.2 Strategies for working toward a research question, Hubbard & Power, (1999), p31-34. 4.3 Action Research – Example#1: The Inherent Desire to Learn: Intrinsically Motivating First Grade Students. 4.4 Textbook: Mills, Chapter 1 & Chapter 2 revisit

<p>Week 5 Feb.20th</p>	<p>Developing your research questions (II) (ppt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share “what I’ve learned last week about teaching” – what research questions have you developed from your observation (& lit rev)? • Good/researchable research questions <u>10 Qualities of good research question (PDF)</u> (developed by Shufang’s Class) • Refine your research questions • Outlining a quantitative or qualitative research proposal. <p>Hot Topic 3: Do High-Stakes Assessments Improve Learning?</p>	<p>5.1 The Research Problem (Characteristics of good research questions), Fraenkel & Wallen, 2006, p26-33. 5.2 How to refine a research question, Hubbard & Power, (1999), p28-29. 5.3 Steps in doing a research study – preparing a research proposal, Gall et all (2005), p17-21; p523-525. 5.4 Outlining action research master’s thesis (PDF) 5.5 Action research examples - Networks - an on-line journal for teacher research (PDF)</p>
<p>Week 6 Feb.27th</p>	<p>Literature review (I) (ppt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition, purpose & guidelines • Examples and analysis • Literature Review Draft #2 Rubric <p>Research Proposal Draft #1 Introduction due</p> <p>Hot Topic 4: Is Home Schooling a Danger to American Society?</p>	<p>6.1 Literature Review- An Overview 6.2 Writing Literature Review, Galvan, 2006, 6.2.1 Analyzing Qualitative Research Literature (Chapter 6) 6.2.2 Guidelines for writing a first draft (Chapter 7) 6.2.3 Guidelines for developing a coherent essay (Chapter 8)</p>
<p>Week 7 Mar.6</p>	<p>Library Time Individual Meeting with Instructor (I)</p>	<p>7.1 Textbook: Mills, Appendix A: A Case Study of Curtis Elementary. 7.2 Action Research – Example#2. 7.3 Literature Review Examples.</p>
<p>Week 8 Mar.13th</p>	<p>Literature review (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of Research Articles • Anatomy of a published study • APA <p>Individual Meeting with the Instructor (I)</p> <p>Hot Topic 5: Do computers Negatively Affect Student Growth?</p>	<p>8.1 Types of Research Articles 8.2 Text Book: Concise Rules of APA (constantly consulted) 8.3 APA handouts</p>
<p>Week 9 Mar.20</p>	<p>Literature Review (III) Research Proposal Draft #2 Literature Review due</p> <p>HW: Observation of your own teaching – looking for potential data sources.</p> <p>Hot Topic 6: Does School Violence Warrant a Zero-Tolerance Policy?</p>	<p>9.1 Text Book: Concise Rules of APA (constantly consulted) 9.2 Action Research – Example#3</p>
<p>Week 10 Mar.27th</p>	<p>Methodology (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit qualitative method – a general picture • Elements of methodology (draft #3) 	<p>10.1 Revisit Qualitative Approach 10.2 Text book: Mills, Chapter 3. Data collection techniques, p50-79.</p>

Week 11 Apr.3 rd .	Methodology (II) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each group practices designing one study • Strategies for Data Collection – role play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interview ○ Artifacts ○ Observation <p>Hot Topic 7: Is Constructivism the Best Philosophy of Education? (TBD)</p>	11.1 Text book: Mills, Chapter 4. Data collection considerations: Validity, Reliability, and Generalizability. 11.2 Text book: Mills, Chapter 5. Ethical issues
Week 12 Apr.10 th	Methodology (III) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for Data Analysis • Ethical Issues <p>Research Proposal Draft #3 Methodology due</p>	12.1 Text book: Mills, Chapter 6. Data Analysis and Interpretation.
Week 13 Apr.17 th	Wrap up the Action Research Relating your research to you teaching: action plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two ends of a proposal: Abstract & Discussion. • Reflections on teaching & action plans • Final project and final submission 	13.1 Abstract 13.2 Evaluating Discussion Sections 13.3 Revisiting research proposal and research report 13.4 Text book: Mills, Textbook, Chapter 8. Writing up Action Research
Week 14 Apr.24 th	Grow up as a professional Research Critique: Critique your own research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Effective professional presentations • Writing for funding, conference presentation and publication • APA rehearsal <p>Individual Meeting with the Instructor (II) (TBD)</p>	14.1 Ten Rules for Keeping Your Audience Awake During Conferences 14.2 Making academic presentations effectively 14.3 Understanding and evaluating educational research: research critiques.
Week 15 May.1 st	TBD Research Proposal Final Submission due	
Week 16 May 8 th & Week 17 May 15 th	Final presentation	

Note: This syllabus is only a guideline. I reserve the right to make adjustments along the way depending on such variables as class levels, schedules, interests, special events, or other factors. Be flexible!