

ERSH 6200 E
Methods of Research in Education
Fall 2008

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General Information

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the fundamental concepts and techniques of research design and methods.

This class is designed for you to do all of the work online . We will meet online together using Horizon Wimba several times during the semester for you to have a chance to ask questions, especially about the statistical content of the course. We will also have a special session with a reference librarian online using Wimba. She will teach you tips about doing good literature searches. Other than that, you will be able to access all the chapter powerpoints with their corresponding audio files whenever your schedule allows. You will need to have Macromedia Flash downloaded to your computer in order to hear the audio files. I made several small files for ease of downloading instead of one long file. Thus, for example, for any chapter you might have powerpoint files A, B, and C. Most chapters have audio files for you to listen to. A few, such as Ch. 2, do not because the material is simple and self-explanatory.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about this material.

1. Required Texts:

1. Fraenkel, JR., & Wallen, N.E. (2008). *How to Design and Evaluate Research in Education* (6th or 7th ed.). Washington, DC: McGraw-Hill. ISBN-0072981369 (6th. edition).

or

ISBN-13 9780073525969 (7th. edition)

2. Student Mastery Activities Book ISBN-13 9780073326559 or 9780073207278 or 9780072981849

You can check out www.bestwebbuys.com to see best deals.

I just checked Amazon and they have 24 used copies of the 6th edition. The price ranges as low

as \$28. You can also get the workbook for less than \$2.00. Of course, that doesn't include the CD. If you want the newer Student Mastery Book and CD you will spend \$49.00. In the old edition it's called the Student workbook, instead of the Student Mastery Activity Book. It's the same thing.

Since the text is so cheap you can pay for next day air and get it very quickly.

See also the following website which accompanies the Huck text listed on the next page: <http://www.readingstats.com/fourth/index.htm> for help with statistical understanding.

Suggested Supplementary Texts

Huck, S. W. (2004). *Reading Statistics and Research* (4th ed.). New York: Addison Wesley Longman.

American Psychological Association (2001). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

2. Course Description and Objectives:

The overall goal of this course is to prepare students to be producers and consumers of published research in education and the social sciences. The content of the course is divided into three components:

1. The process of conducting research
2. Types of methods for conducting research
3. Interpretation and review of research.

The course will involve reading of the text, in-class assignments, homework assignments, a research project, and 2 tests.

3. Reading Assignments

The reading for this course is basically of two types: 1) material in the textbook, and 2) handouts.

4. Problem Sheets

Problem sheets, which are found at the conclusion of each chapter, will be required to help understand the fundamentals of research and apply the techniques to your own work and interests. Due dates for problem sheets will be provided later in the semester. These can be found in Student Mastery Activities Book and online on the student support site www.mhhe.com/fraenkel6e. Click on the forms on the left hand side under "Course Wide Content" or use the following link http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072981369/student_view0/forms.html. You can download these on to your computer, fill them out and then email them back to me. The support site mentioned above has some helpful exercises and additional explanations. It will be useful to you.

5. Evaluation Sources

- Individual Project:** An individual project will be required which includes an introduction, brief literature review, methodology, and results section. The project is designed to be ongoing and will be discussed throughout the course. Reading Ch. 24 will help you understand what is expected. In the next few days, There is a link on the webpage where you can access more directions for this project. In addition, I will be putting a couple of sample projects written by previous students on the webpage so you can see good models.
- Quizzes:** There will be a short online quiz for almost all the chapters. Each quiz will have approximately 15 questions which you have to answer in 30 minutes. You will have the week-end. through Wed. to read the chapters in the text, view the powerpoint for each chapter, and complete the assignments in the Student Mastery Activities Book (the answers are in the back of the book). The quizzes will be available every Thursday from 7 am until 11 pm. The points will be added and weighted so that they count approximately 20% of your grade.
- Exams:** There will be one exam and a final. These online exams will consist of short answer questions at an application level.
- Grades:** Grades will be assigned based on completion of the required course work and in accordance with the UGA grading scale.

<u>Assignments:</u>	<u>Points:</u>
Quizzes	80 points
Individual Project	110 points
Midterm	100 points
Final	100 points
Total	390 points

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	371 - 390 points
A-	351 - 370 points
B+	339 - 350 points
B	324 - 338 points
B-	312 - 323 points
C+	304 - 311 points
C	285 - 303 points
C-	273 - 284 points
D	234 - 272 points

Even though this is an online course and you can do your work any day of the week, the calendar below reflects the beginning and ending date as the first and last day of the semester. There will be specific due dates for the problems sheets, tests and the project. As mentioned previously, I will be scheduling several Horizon Wimba sessions with you.

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>CHAPTERS</u>
<u>Aug.</u> 18 -22	Educ. Research Writing Research Reports	1 24
. 25 - 29	Research Problems	2
<u>Sept.</u> 1-5	Variables and Hypotheses	3
8 - 12	Ethics	4
15 - 19	Literature Review session with Carla Buss on Wimba	5
22 – 26	Sampling	6
29 to Oct. 3	Instrumentation	7
<u>Oct.</u> 6 - 10	Validity & Reliability	8
13-17	Internal Validity	9
20 -24	Descriptive Statistics <u>Midterm Posted- Due Oct. 27th</u> <u>Send by WebCT by 5 pm</u>	10 1 – 10
27 -31	Inferential Statistics	11
<u>Nov.</u> 3 -7	Stats in Perspective APA Style, Principles of Interpretation, Writing Statistics, T and other tables	12
10 - 14	Experimental, Correlational Causal Comparative Research	13, 15, 16
17 – 21	Qualitative Research	18, 19
<u>Dec.</u> 1 – 5	Qualitative Research <u>Final Posted</u>	20, 21

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Final Due Dec. 8th send by WebCT by 5 pm 11 - 21

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Project Due Dec. 10th send by WebCT by 5 pm