

Education 429-4 Research for the Classroom Teacher

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SPRING, 1984

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Philip H. Winne  
Office: MPX 9611  
Telephone: 291-4858

Wednesdays, 4:30 - 8:30

LOCATION: on campus

PREREQUISITE: Education 401/402, or equivalent; or permission of the Instructor.

This course introduces prospective and practicing teachers to research methods that can be applied in classrooms. There are three main objectives of the course: (1) knowledge and skills regarding selected research methods; (2) ability to comprehend and synthesize published educational research; and, (3) application of research methods in everyday teaching. The theme of the course is that good teaching is a problem-solving activity which can be guided by treating instructional difficulties and questions as topics to be researched.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

1. What is research and what is it for?
2. Variables and constructs
  - a. Operational definitions
  - b. Measurement: scales, reliability, and validity
3. Types of research and research designs
  - a. Description: observation, ethnography, correlation, content analysis, interviews, tests
  - b. Manipulation: experiments with individuals and with groups
4. Statistics (without numbers and formulas)
5. Reviewing a body of research
  - a. Locating research
  - b. Rules for evaluating a research report
  - c. Rules for synthesizing research findings
6. Doing research
  - a. Ethics
  - b. Writing a proposal
  - c. How research really gets done
  - d. Writing a report about research

REQUIREMENTS:

1. approximately 50 pages of reading per week
2. written in-class and homework assignments (30%)
3. bi-weekly quizzes (50%)
4. research proposal (20%)

TEXTBOOKS:

Readings will consist of zeroxed materials purchased from the Faculty and items placed on reserve in the library.