

**Research Methods in Educational
Psychology
D01.00**

Wednesdays 13:30-16:20
WMX 2532

PREREQUISITE:

Corequisite: Educ 220

This course is designed to elaborate the understandings of theory and research that are introduced in Education 220 by extending your knowledge and skills in interpreting and doing educational research.

The main goal of this course is to learn how to read and evaluate research studies critically. Questions you should ask when reading research articles include: Should I take this study seriously? Are the researchers credible? What flaws are there in the study? Can I believe the findings? Do the researchers draw reasonable conclusions given what they did?

Before you may profit from applying the findings of research to the classroom situation, you need to learn how to read, interpret and evaluate research. In this course, you will learn to read research articles critically, interpret them sensibly, and evaluate the validity of the research vis-à-vis specific questions you face in teaching.

As a teacher, as you interact with students, set up your classroom environment, plan instruction, teach “on the fly”, etc, you can conduct your own research to examine the effectiveness of your teaching methods. Whatever type of research you conduct, it is a cornerstone to improving education.

REQUIREMENTS

Assignment 1: Analysis of a study’s variables, hypotheses, samples, and measurements. *Worth 25% of the final grade.*

Assignment 2: Writing an article critique. *Worth 25% of the final grade.*

Midterm and Final Examinations.

The midterm and final examinations will each be worth 25% of your final grade. The format of each will be discussed approximately two weeks prior to the date of the examinations.

Late assignments will be penalized 1 mark per day (not including weekends). Missed examinations must be rescheduled with permission by the instructor.

REQUIRED READINGS

Suter, W. N. (1998). Primer of Educational Research. MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Meltzoff, Julian (1998). Critical Thinking About Research: Psychology and Related Fields. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.