

EDUCATION 429 - 4

RESEARCH FOR THE CLASSROOM TEACHER

Summer Session, 1981  
Mon. & Wed. 12:30 - 4:30

Instructor: Morton Tenenberg  
Location : Campus

Major Purposes

This course has two focuses: (a) it will show how teachers can design and carry out research in their own school that will give them useful information about their teaching and how their students are going about learning; (b) it will present the major findings of recent published research on teaching and will illustrate the methods used.

The two focuses are related: knowledge of recent findings in educational research will assist teachers in selecting dimensions of their teaching, or of pupil learning, for personal investigation and possible improvement; current trends in research methodology will provide techniques that, in modified and simplified forms, are easy to apply in the context of teaching.

Course Content

The course will begin with an exploration of participants' views on research and the identification of puzzling questions about teaching and learning. A series of topics will then be explored in repeating cycles of activities. Typically a cycle will include:

1. Discussion of a published review of research on the topic, with particular attention to implications for teachers.
2. Demonstration of how the methods can be modified for classroom use, followed by practice of a simplified method with a videotaped lesson or in a simulated classroom setting.
3. Planning and discussion of related research activities that can be carried out by teachers.

The topics include:

- Direct vs. indirect instruction
- Teaching basic skills
- Classroom climate
- Discussion as a teaching tool
- How teachers make decisions
- Others identified by class participants

During the course, some current research being conducted by Simon Fraser faculty members will be presented. The question of how teachers may apply for research funds will be explored.

Assignments

1. Read reviews of published educational research.
2. Prepare two written plans for research which can be implemented in the school setting, and which are designed to provide information about one's teaching or how pupils are going about learning.
3. Provide verbal and written reactions to the plans of other class members.

Text

Peterson, P.L. & Walberg, H.J., Research on Teaching. McCuthan Publishing Corporation (1979).