

**EDP 656 -- Methodology of Educational Research  
Syllabus -- Spring 2000**

Instructor: Doris Stilwell  
Office: 13 DH (basement)  
Office hours: Wednesday 1- 3  
                  Thursday 2:15 - 4:15  
After class and by appointment

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**I. Nature of the course:**

The principle aim of EDP 656 is to enhance each student's understanding and effective use of research methods and techniques as employed in education and the social sciences generally.

**II. Competency goals of the course:**

- A. An understanding of the concepts, terms and symbols used to describe research methodology;
- B. The ability to read, understand and critique research articles/reports;
- C. The ability to plan and write a research proposal; and
- D. Develop an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of various research designs and methods.

**III. Course activities:**

- A. Take midterm and final examinations;
- B. Write a 2-3 page paper on ethics in research;
- C. Write critiques of two journal articles (no more than 3 - 4 pages);
- D. Write a research proposal (no more than 10 pages) and present to the class (no more than 10 minutes), proposal is due the day of the presentation;
- E. Participate in class discussions.

**Note: All papers should be typed, double spaced and written in accordance with APA guidelines, points will be deducted if APA format is not followed.**

**IV. Grading:**

A.	Test I	- 15%	
2.	Test II		- 20%
C.	Ethics Paper		- 10%
4.	Critique 1		- 10%
E.	Critique 2		- 15%
6.	Proposal		- 25%
G.	Oral Presentation of Proposal		- 5%

**Note: Attendance is important - one-half point will be deducted from the final grade for each**

absence.

**V. Texts:**

Mason, E.J. & Bramble, W. (1997). Research in education and the behavioral sciences: Concept and methods. Madison, WI: Brown and Benchmark.

American Psychological Association (1994). Publication Manual (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

**VI. Course Planning Guide:**

1/13 Overview of the course

1/18 - 20 Ethics in Research

1/25 - 27 Computer Searches or Chapter 1

Chapter 2: Modes of Research and the Scientific Method

Chapter 3: Making Problems Researchable

**2/3 Ethics Paper Due**

Chapter 4: Understanding and Designing Experimental Studies

Chapter 5: Quasi-Experimentation - When there can be no Random Assignment

**2/24 First Journal Article Critique Due**

Chapter 6: Some Fundamental Quantitative Tools

Chapter 7: Making Inferences from Data

**3/2 Mid-Term Exam**

Chapter 12: Putting it all Together

Chapter 13: Writing about Research

**3/14 - 16 SPRING BREAK**

Chapter 8: Observing and Measuring

Chapter 9: Methods of Measuring and Observing

Behavior

**3/30 Second Journal Article Critique Due**

Chapter 10: Qualitative Research

Chapter 11: Evaluation

Catch-up and Review

**Proposals Due on the Day of Presentation**

4/11 - 20 Proposal Presentations

4/25 - 27 **AERA** (no class)

5/4

Final Exam Time: Thursday @ 10:30 a.m.