



**Virtual Campus – Summer 2009
May 26 – August 8**

Mission: Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, lifelong learning and service to God and humankind.

COURSE NUMBER, SECTION AND TITLE: EDUC 5302; VC01; Research Methods in Education

TERM AND DATES: Summer 2009; May 26 – August 8, 2009

OFFICE HOURS (days, times, building, and location): MW 10:00-12:00 and M-R 3:00-4:30; Van Howeling Education Complex; Plainview Campus; Room 201

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Suzanne Nesmith

OFFICE PHONE NUMBER(S): 806-291-1047

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CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION: Development of research skills in educational settings.

PREREQUISITES: Graduate standing

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Mills, G. O. (2007). *Action research: A guide for the teacher researcher*. (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

OPTIONAL MATERIALS:

REQUIRED FIELD EXPERIENCE HOURS (minimum requirement): 0 hours

***Successful completion of field experience hours is required for course credit.**

COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. Overview of Educational Research
 - a. Quantitative Research
 - b. Qualitative Research
 - c. Mixed Methods Research
- II. Action Research
 - a. Area of focus
 - b. Related literature
 - c. Data collection
 - d. Ethics
 - e. Data analysis
- III. Analyzing/Critiquing Action Research
- IV. Writing up Action Research
- V. Sharing Action Research

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. The student will create an autobiography which is indicative of his/her prior, current, and future educational experiences and plans. The article may be prepared in narrative or power point form, and must allow the instructor and peers to get to know you, your history, and your goals as they relate to possible areas of educational research.
2. The student will participate in a variety of discussions related to posted research questions, scenarios, and requirements via Blackboard Discussion Board format.
3. The student will conduct a non-participant observation experience and will provide a 2 page write-up of the experience. Format, requirements, and an example will be provided.
4. The student will explore an artifact set, analyze the artifacts, and provide a 2 page write-up of the analysis.
5. The student will prepare a 7-10 page action research proposal which has the potential of being utilized as part of a full action research study.

COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES:

1. Students will synthesize the means by which research, specifically action research, may be utilized to address educational problems, needs, issues, and concerns.
2. Students will recognize, operationally define, and incorporate the basic components of action research.
3. Students will analyze and formulate the methods and processes utilized in the interpretation and evaluation of action research reports.
4. Students will recognize the role of all participants, including the researcher, in the development, process, and resultant impact of research.
5. Students will exhibit continuing growth in the development of their educational professionalism.

MEANS FOR ASSESSING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES:

1. Autobiography (Outcomes 1, 4, 5)
2. Data Collection/Interpretation Activities (Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5)
4. Action Research Proposal and Presentation (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

1. Campus Attendance Policy

The University expects students to make class attendance a priority. All absences must be explained to the instructor who will determine whether omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches the number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the dean at the campus where the course is offered. Any student who misses 25% or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of "F" in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university's attendance policy. A student may petition the Academic Council for exceptions to the above stated policies by filing a written request for an appeal to the provost/academic vice president.

Attendance for this online course will be documented by the student's participation in class discussions and submission of assignments. The last date of attendance will be determined by student's most recent participation in course activities – not the last log-in.

EVALUATION: Grades for the course shall be recorded by the symbols below:

UNIVERSITY GRADING SYSTEM:

A	900-1000	Cr	for Credit
B	800-899	NCR	No Credit
C	700-799	I	Incomplete*
D	600-699	W	for withdrawal
F	below 600	WP	Withdrawal Passing

WF	Withdrawal Failing
X	No grade given
IP	In Progress

A grade of “CR” indicates that credit in semester hours was granted but no grade or grade points were recorded.

*A grade of incomplete is changed if the work required is completed prior to the date indicated in the official University calendar of the next long term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to the grade of F. An incomplete notation cannot remain on the student’s permanent record and must be replaced by the qualitative grade (A-F) by the date specified in the official University calendar of the next regular term.

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA:

All assignments will be posted and available at the beginning of the term. Assignments and exams MAY be completed and submitted prior to the stated due date, yet MUST be completed by the due date provided in the syllabus. Assignments not completed and submitted by the stated due date/time will reflect a lowered grade of 10% deduction per day minimum. Late work will NOT be accepted after 7 calendar days, therefore any assignment submitted after the 7 day grace period will receive a grade of 0.

Assignment	Point value	Points Earned
Autobiography	50 pts	
Discussion Board Postings (see rubric) Types of research – 50 pts Areas of research and references – 50 pts Action research preliminary plan – 50 pts Data collection ideas and relevance – 50 pts Review of related literature – 50 pts Ethical considerations – 50 pts	300 pts	
Observation Report (see rubric)	200 pts	
Artifact Analysis Report (see rubric)	150 pts	
Action Research Proposal (see rubric)	300 pts	
Total Points Possible for Course	1000 pts	

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Wayland students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. Disciplinary action for academic misconduct is the responsibility of the faculty member assigned to the course. The faculty member is charged with assessing the gravity of any case of academic dishonesty and with giving sanctions to any student involved. The faculty member involved will file a record of the offense and the punishment imposed with the dean of the division, campus dean, and the provost/academic vice president. Any student who has been penalized for academic dishonesty has the right to appeal the judgment or the penalty assessed.

Plagiarism

“Plagiarism — The attempt to represent the work of another, as it may relate to written or oral works, computer-based work, mode of creative expression (i.e. music, media or the visual arts), as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student.

1. When a student submits oral or written work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, *the source of that information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate, and specific references*, and, if verbatim statements are included, through use of quotation marks as well. By placing one’s name on work submitted for credit, the student certifies the originality of all work not

otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgements. *A student will avoid being charged with plagiarism if there is an acknowledgement of indebtedness.*"

Source: <http://www.spjc.cc.fl.us/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm#plag>

DISABLED PERSONS:

It is University policy that no otherwise qualified disabled person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the University. Students should inform the instructor of existing disabilities the first class meeting.

COURSE SCHEDULE (meeting dates, times, and assignments):

Readings are to be completed during the week in which they are listed, and all assignments are due by midnight on Sunday of the indicated week (for example, during the week of May 26 through May 31 you need to read the article about educational research and read Chapter 1 in the textbook, and by midnight on Sunday, May 31, you will need to submit your autobiography on the Discussion Board thread labeled "Autobiography" and you will need to post your response and respond to the postings of at least 2 peers to the Discussion Board question(s) labeled "Types of Research")

You will provide and will be provided feedback throughout the term on your developing action research plan. This is a "work in progress" and I want you to use the feedback to make necessary modifications and adjustments to your research plan proposal. Once submitted and graded, you will not have an opportunity to resubmit the same assignment for additional points, but, again, you are encouraged to incorporate feedback so as to improve subsequent assignments.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics/ Activities/Assignments
Week 1 May 26 – May 31	<p>Overview of Educational Research (located in "Course Documents") Chapter 1: Understanding Action Research <i>I may need to contact you by phone.</i> On Blackboard click on <u>personal information</u>, which is located at the bottom of the box labeled TOOLS. <u>Edit Personal Information</u> so I will have your mailing address and phone numbers. Due: Autobiography (Post your autobiography as an attachment on Discussion Board "Autobiography" by midnight May 31. Get to know each other by exploring the autobiographies of your classmates.) Due: Discussion Board: Types of Research (Respond to the questions posted on Discussion Board "Types of Research" AND provide specific feedback/response to the postings of at least 2 peers by midnight May 31.)</p>
Week 2 June 1 – June 7	<p>Chapter 2 Deciding on an Area of Focus (pp. 22-43) Chapter 8 Writing Up Action Research (examine provided example and APA reference format p. 165) Due: Discussion Board: Action Research Ideas and References (List at least 3 possible areas for your action research; include the purpose of each (why it's important to you), and, for each, locate and list at least 5 related references [use APA citation format]. Post AND provide specific feedback/response to the postings of at least 2 peers by midnight June 7.)</p>
Week 3 June 8 – June 14	<p>Chapter 2 Deciding on an Area of Focus (pp. 44-49) Chapter 8 Writing Up Action Research (examine example provided and APA reference format p. 165) Due: Discussion Board: Preliminary Plan (Prepare and post your preliminary action research plan on Discussion Board "Preliminary Plan" AND provide specific feedback/response to the plans of at least 2 peers</p>

	by midnight June 14. Your preliminary action research plan is to include the following elements: Introduction (background and context of the study), area of focus statement, definition of variables, and research questions.
Week 4 June 15 – June 21	Chapter 3: Data Collection Techniques Appendix B: Descriptive Statistics and Action Research Due: Blog of Observation Assignment (Examine the observation write up provided in the “Course Documents” section. Conduct a 15 minute passive observer observation, prepare a 2 page write-up of the observation, and post the observation within the Observation Blog located in the “Assignments” section by midnight June 21.)
Week 5 June 22 – June 28	Chapter 4: Data Collection Considerations Due: Discussion Board: Data Collection (Post on Discussion Board “Data Collection” possible data collection sources for your research and how/why you believe that these are relevant sources. Post AND provide specific feedback/response to the postings of at least 2 peers by midnight June 28.)
Week 6 June 29 – July 5	Due: Review of related literature (Post on Discussion Board “Review of Related Literature” your previously posted preliminary action research plan with the addition of your literature review. Post your updated plan AND provide specific feedback/response to the updated plans of at least 2 peers by July 5.)
Week 7 July 6 – July 12	Chapter 5: Ethics Due: Discussion Board – Ethics (Respond to the question posted on Discussion Board “Ethics” AND provide specific feedback/response to the postings of at least 2 peers by midnight July 12.)
Week 8 July 13 – July 19	Appendix A: Action Research in Action/Article Critique (Explore the article critique provided in Appendix A of the text. This will assist you in the writing of your own action research proposal.)
Week 9 July 20 – July 26	Chapter 6: Data Analysis and Interpretation Due: Artifact analysis assignment (Examine the artifact set provided under “Course Documents” and write a 2 page narrative detailing your interpretation of the artifacts. Post the narrative within the Artifact Analysis Blog located in the Assignments section by midnight July 26.)
Week 10 July 27 – August 2	Chapter 9 Sharing, Critiquing, and Celebrating Action Research Online Due: Action research proposal (Prepare and post the final version of your action research plan within the Action Research Proposal Blog located in the Assignments section AND submit the proposal as an email attachment to nesmiths@wbu.edu by midnight August 2. Your action research plan is to include the following elements: Title, purpose [write in future tense; The purpose of this study will be to . . .], introduction, area of focus statement, definition of variables, research questions, review of related literature, data collection/sources, data analysis methods, and references.
Week 11 Aug 3 – Aug 6 *note the date; this is not a full week	Chapter 9 Sharing, Critiquing, and Celebrating Action Research Online Celebrate your accomplishments. Respond to peers about what you have learned in this course about action research and how you are planning to incorporate your preliminary proposal into an action research study in EDUC 5366.

(I reserve the right to amend the tentative course calendar as needed.)