

Research Studies: Social Science Education

CTSE 7510: Fall 2013

Credit Hours: 3 semester hours

Prerequisites/ Corequisites: None

Instructor:

John Saye
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Class Sessions:

Haley Center

Monday; 4-6 p.m

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 9:30-11,

Wednesday: 1:30-3:00 and
by appointment

Texts:

Patton, Michael Q. (2002) *Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Rudestam, Kjell E. & Newton, Rae R. (2001). *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Levstik, L. & Tyson, C. (Eds.) (2008). *Handbook of Research in Social Studies Education*. New York: Routledge.

Course Description:

This class will focus on research methodology, landmark studies, and critique and application of research in social science education.

Course Objectives:

For students to:

- A. Know major lines of inquiry in Social Science Education.
- B. Evaluate research studies in Social Science.
- C. Conceptualize the preparation process for independent research project.
- D. Complete the first draft of a lit review on an independent research project
- E. Outline a research proposal

Course Content and Schedule:

Week 1 Organization of work for course. Identify possible areas for research study

Weeks 2-6 Evaluate and critique research in social science education
Topic A: The Social Science Disciplines
Topic B: Teacher Knowledge and Practice
Topic C: Civic Competence
Topic D: Social Justice
Topic E: Social Science Research in Assessment and Technology

Week 7: Preparing for Independent Research
Rudestam & Newton: Chaps 1-4; Boote & Beile

Week 8: Literature Review I; Patton Chaps 1-3

Week 9: Literature Review II; Article critiques from Lit Review

Week 10: The Research Proposal; Article critiques from Lit Review

Weeks 11-13

Article critiques from Lit Review

Week 14 Presentation of field project proposal.

Week 15 Submit lit review draft

Week 16 Individual conference on lit review and field project proposal

Course Requirements/Evaluation:

- A. Read and critique at least 8 research articles from journals (dealing with social Science).
- B. Read and critique at least 2 student research projects on some phase of social science/Science education.
- C. Complete the first draft of a literature review on a potential field project topic
- D. Complete an outline for a field project proposal.

Evaluation:

- A. Critiques of journal and dissertation research (50%)
- B. Literature review. (40%)
- C. Outline for field project proposal. (10%)

Grades are calculated on a 10 point scale.

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

D = 60 - 69

F = 59 or below

Class Policy Statements:

1. Participation: Students are expected to participate in all class discussions and in all exercises. Texts will be heavily used in class. BRING TEXT EACH DAY. Assignments are due on announced dates. Unexcused late assignments are unacceptable. Students are responsible for initiating arrangements for missed work due to excused absences as outlined in the *Tiger Cub*.
2. Attendance is required. Punctuality is essential. Those with more than one unexcused absence can receive no more than a "D" for the course. Three unexcused tardies are the equivalent of an absence. E-mail or phone and leave a message at my office number above if you are going to miss class.
 - I. Excused absences: Students are granted excused absences from class for the following reasons: illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family, the death of a member of the student's immediate family, trips for student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for university classes, trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoena for a court appearance, and religious

holidays. Students who wish to have an excused absence from class for any other reason must contact the instructor in advance of the absence to request permission. The instructor will weigh the merits of the request and render a decision. When feasible, the student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of any excused absences, but in no case shall such notification occur more than one week after the absence. Appropriate documentation for all excused absences is required. Please see the *Tiger Cub* for more information on excused absences.

- II. Make-Up Policy: Arrangement to make up missed work due to properly authorized excused absences must be initiated by the student within one week of the end of the period of the excused absences(s). Except in unusual circumstances, such as the continued absence of the student or the advent of university holidays, make-up work will be completed within two weeks of the date that the student initiates arrangements for it. Except in extraordinary circumstance, no make-up work will be arranged during the last three days before the final exam period begins.
3. Academic Honesty Policy: All portions of the Auburn University student academic honesty code (Title XII) found in the *Tiger Cub* will apply to university courses. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations of the SGA Code of Laws will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee. Social Science Education majors are expected to follow the Auburn University Oath of Honor: "In accordance with those virtues of Honesty and Truthfulness set forth in the Auburn Creed, I, as a student and fellow member of the Auburn family, do hereby pledge that all work is my own, achieved through personal merit and without any unauthorized aid. In the promotion of integrity, and for the betterment of Auburn, I give honor to this, my oath and obligation."
4. Disability Accommodations: Students who need special accommodations in class, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act, should arrange for a confidential meeting with the instructor during office hours in the first week of classes (or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately). The student must bring a copy of their Accommodations Letter and an Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. If the student does not have these forms, they should make an appointment with the Program for Students with Disabilities, 1288 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).
5. Course contingency : If normal class and/or lab activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.
6. Professionalism: As faculty, staff, and students interact in professional settings, they are expected to demonstrate professional behavior as defined in the College's conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are listed below:
 - Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices
 - Contribute to collaborative learning communities
 - Demonstrate a commitment to diversity
 - Model and nurture intellectual vitality

Course Guidelines

A. Guidelines for Critique of Research Articles: pp. 60-61, Rudestam & Newton

B. Guidelines for Critique of Literature Reviews

- Lit Reviews are arguments
- Lit Reviews are syntheses; not descriptions
- Authority?
- Central Thesis or Focus?
- Evidence to support assertions?
- Selectivity vs. Comprehensiveness
 - i. Adequacy of coverage?
 - ii. Address contrary literature?
- Significance?

C. Weeks 2-6: Readings from Handbook of Research in SSE

Social Science Disciplines

History: Barton; Reisman (Curriculum Inquiry)

Geography: Segall

Economics: Miller

Teacher Knowledge and Practice

Continuity and change in ss curriculum: Thornton

Research on K-12 social studies practice: Levstik

Teacher education: Adler

Professional development: Van Hover

Civic Competence

Knowing and doing in democratic citizenship education: Parker

International political socialization: Hahn

Service Learning: Wade

Controversial issues: Hess

Social Justice

Diversity and citizenship: Banks

Social Justice: Bickmore

Gender and sexuality: Crocco

Global Education: Zong

Other Areas

Assessment: Grant

Technology: Swan