ERMA 7200

# Basic Methods of Education Research

Instructor: Dr. Ann Gulley

## Course Description:

This course will provide you with the basic tools you need to engage in educational research competently and ethically. Together we will examine the tenets of several research methodologies and evaluate the strengths and limitations of each approach. A variety of graded assignments will be given to help you engage thoughtfully with the material. The primary scholarly activity for this course will be the development of a mixed methods social science research proposal. This will be a semester long project in which you will review pertinent literature, ask appropriate research questions, and design a feasible study that could answer those questions. You will not be conducting the research you propose as a part of this course.

## Class Meetings:

* Day / Time: Thursdays from 5:00 pm - 7:50 pm
* Place: 3133 RBD Library
* Date Range for Class Meetings: August 18 - December 1
* **No class meetings on September 22, October 6, and November 24**

## Required Text:

Introduction to Educational Research 3rd ed. by Mertler (2022)  ISBN 978-1-5443-8831-1

* E-book is pre-loaded into this Canvas Course through VitalSource
* Students may Opt-Out of the VitalSource rental if they prefer to buy either a digital or paperback copy of the book on their own

## Recommended Text:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 7th ed. (2020)   ISBN-13: 978-1433832154

# Course Policies

## Accommodations:

* Auburn University is committed to providing its students with an accessible campus and equitable learning environment.  If you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, access to assistive technology training, or support services, contact the Office of Accessibility for additional information, 1228 Haley Center; 334-844-2096 (Voice/TT) or visit the Office of Accessibility website at [https://accessibility.auburn.edu/](https://accessibility.auburn.edu/%20)
* Email me before or during the first week of class so we can schedule a meeting to talk about appropriate accommodations.

## Communication:

* If you need to talk to me outside of class, please send me an email and we can schedule a time to talk. I will respond to all emails within 2 business days. [apg0016@auburn.edu](mailto:apg0016@auburn.edu)

## Attendance:

* Group collaboration is an integral part of this class and class attendance is mandatory.
* Absences will be excused as per the [policy in the AU Handbook](https://bulletin.auburn.edu/Policies/Academic/classattendance/). It is your responsibility to find out what you missed if you are out due to an excused absence.
* If you are absent and the absence is unexcused, you will be given a 0 for any in-class, graded assignments that were due during that class meeting.
* If you are absent and the absence is excused, you will be given the opportunity to do any in-class assignment(s) independently for a grade. It is your responsibility to check with the instructor about any modifications to the instructions and your adjusted due date for the missed assignment(s).

## Late Work:

* If you have an excused absence, you may be given extra time to turn in an assignment depending on the reason for the absence and how long you have had the assignment. Make sure to email the instructor to request an extension.
* Individual assignments that are turned in late and are not the result of an excused absence will be penalized 10% for each day the assignment is late.

## Class Participation:

* In class group work discussion assignments will be graded and they are an important part of this class. You are expected to be up to speed with all course content so your contributions will be meaningful and helpful to others. Your grades will reflect the quality of your contributions.

## Academic Honesty:

* All the assignments you turn in for this class must be your own, original work.
* All ideas, theories, statements that originate from another source must be properly cited using APA 7th standards.
* Make sure you understand the AU Academic Honesty policies by reading the review about [Academic Honesty from the Provost’s Office](https://bulletin.auburn.edu/Policies/Academic/classattendance/).

# Assignment Types and Weights

*Note: The number of assignments in each category may change at the discretion of the instructor.*

## In-Class Group Work Assignments:

* ***17 assignments worth a total of 25%***
* During almost all of our class meetings, you will have 1 or 2 in-class group work assignments. Each assignment is designed to give you practical experience working through concepts that are foundational to the research proposal assignments you will do independently outside of class.

## Reading Reflections:

* ***12 assignments worth a total of 20%***
* For most of the chapters in the book you will write a 400 word (minimum) response to specific prompts designed to help you connect what you learn in your reading to your chosen topic of interest.

## Pre-Writing Assignments:

* ***4 assignments worth a total of 15%***
* Four assignments given during the first four class meetings will provide the scaffolding structure you will need to write a strong Review of Literature.

## Review of Literature:

* ***1 assignment worth 15%***
* This is the largest individual writing assignment of the semester. You will explore the literature related to your chosen topic of interest and synthesize the literature into a cohesive story that forms the backdrop and justification for the research you are proposing.

## Non-Lit Review Proposal Assignments:

* ***8 assignments worth a total of 20%***
* Several small writing assignments will comprise the Methods and Discussion sections of your research proposal. The last assignment in this group is the compilation of all proposal pieces into your final research proposal.

## CITI Training:

* ***1 assignment worth 2%***
* This university provided ethics training is available to AU students at no cost. You will earn a CITI Training certificate after completing this assignment that will remain active for 3 years.

## Proposal Presentation:

* ***1 assignment worth 3%***
* On the last day of class you will give a 10 minute presentation on the research proposal that you completed this semester.

# Success in Writing

## Instructor Recommendation for Course Success:

*This is a writing intensive course and the expectation is that all written work submitted for the Proposal will be in proper APA 7 format. All written work is expected to be grammatically correct and to follow the well-established principles of good writing. These include appropriate use of thesis statements, supports, citations, transitions, summary statements, and references. I strongly recommend that each of you schedule an appointment with the Miller Writing Center while developing your Review of Literature as well as other sections of your proposal. Writing center tutors can help you evaluate your paper’s organization, structure, and fidelity to the assignment. Online appointments are available.*

*Visit the*[*Miller Writing Center*](https://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/university-writing/miller-writing-center/index.php) *website for appointment instructions.*

# Grading Scale

| Percent Range | Letter Grade |
| --- | --- |
| 90.00 – 100.00 | A |
| 80.00 – 89.99 | B |
| 70.00 – 79.99 | C |
| 60.00 – 69.99 | D |
| 00.00 – 59.99 | F |

# Fall 22 Course Calendar

*Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor*

| Date | Topics | Due Before Class | Due at the End of Class |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aug 18 | ***Class Intro, Research Basics, Selecting a Topic, Writing RQs*** |  | Group Work: Narrowed Topic + Quant and Qual RQs |
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| Aug 25 | ***Literature Searches, Lit Matrix, APA 7 Guidelines*** | Reflection: Ch 1 & 2  Narrowed Topic + Quan and Qual RQs | Group Work: Literature Matrix |
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| Sep 1 | ***Annotated Bibliography & Synthesis of Literature*** | Reflection Ch 3  Literature Matrix | Group Work: Annotated Bibliography  Group Work: Synthesizing Literature |
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| Sep 8 | ***Review of Literature, More APA 7 Guidelines*** | Reflection Ch 5  Annotated Bibliography  Outline Review of Literature | Group Work: APA 7 Formatting, Citations, References |
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| Sep 15 | ***Quant & Qual Research Designs and Instrument Development*** | Reflection Ch 7 | Group Work: Designing Quant Studies  Group Work: Designing Qual Studies |
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| Sep 22 | ***No Class Meeting – Work on Lit Review due 9/29*** | Reflection Ch 6 |  |
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| Sep 29 | ***Statement of Problem, Research Purpose, RQs*** | Reflection Ch 8  Review of Literature | Group Work: Statement of Problem, Research Purpose, & RQs  Group Work: Research Design, Population, & Sampling |
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| Oct 6 | ***Fall Break – No Class Meeting*** | Statement of Problem, Research Purpose, & RQs  Research Design, Population, & Sampling |  |
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| Oct 13 | ***Quant and Qual Methods - Protocol*** | Reflection Ch 12 | Group Work: Protocol – Quant Research Plan & Instrument Prep  Group Work: Protocol – Qual Research Plan & Instrument Prep |
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| Oct 20 | ***Validity & Trustworthiness, Data Collection & Analysis*** | Reflection Ch 11  Protocol – Quant Research Plan & Instrument Prep  Protocol – Qual Research Plan & Instrument Prep | Group Work: Quant & Qual Data Collection and Analysis |
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| Oct 27 | ***Theoretical Grounding, Limitations, & Future Research*** | Reflection Appendix B  CITI Training  Quant & Qual Data Collection and Analysis | Group Work: Theoretical Grounding, Limitations, & Future Research  Group Work: Article Critique Appendix B |
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| Nov 3 | ***Research Proposal Introduction*** | Reflection Appendix A  Theoretical Grounding, Limitations, & Future Research | Group Work: Introduction  Group Work: Article Critique Appendix A |
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| Nov 10 | ***Action Research*** | Reflection Ch 9  Introduction | Group Work: Action Research |
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| Nov 17 | ***Semester in Review*** | Reflection Ch 4  Compiled Proposal |  |
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| Nov 24 | ***Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class Meeting*** |  |  |
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| Dec 1 | ***Research Proposal Presentations*** | Proposal Presentation |  |