Basic Methods in Education Research

ERMA 7200 (3 Credit Hours)

Spring 2022 In-Person Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Ann Gulley, Ph.D. [ann.gulley@auburn.edu](mailto:ann.gulley@auburn.edu)

**Office Hours:** Email me to request a Zoom appointment.

**Class Meetings:** This is an in-person class that meets on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 – 7:50pm in 2435 Haley Center. Regular Assignments will be due on Mondays, the day before class, at 11:59 pm (CT). In class and group discussion assignments will due during our class meetings.

**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.

**Required Text:**

Introduction to Educational Research 3rd ed. by Mertler (2022)

ISBN 978-1-5443-8831-1 (E-book and paperback both available)

**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 [accessibility.auburn.edu.](https://accessibility.auburn.edu)
* Email me before or during the first week of class so we can schedule a meeting to talk about appropriate accommodations.

Attendance

* Group collaboration and peer review are a huge part of this class and therefore attendance is mandatory. Absences will be excused as per the policy in the AU Handbook. 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. [AU Handbook Absentee Policy](http://bulletin.auburn.edu/Policies/Academic/classattendance/)

Class Participation

* In class assignments and group discussions 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.

Assignments

* All assignments must be uploaded (or posted) by the date and time indicated in the assignment.
* I will not accept any assignments through email.
* **Late individual assignments will be penalized by 10% for each late day.**
* **In-class assignments are due during the class period in which they are assigned. No late in-class assignments will be accepted, except in the case of an excused absence.**

Communication

* If you need to talk to me outside of class, please send an email and we can schedule a time to talk. I will respond to all emails within 2 business days.

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 ed. standards.
* Make sure you understand academic honesty be reading the review provided to AU students from the Provost’s Office: [AU Academic Honesty Overview](https://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/academic-honesty/)

**Types of Assignments:**

Areas of Research Interest Statement

* You will start the semester off by posting a paragraph in Discussions indicating the areas of social science or educational research and a description of why those areas interest you.

CITI Training – This training is **FREE**.

* The Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative provides training about the ethics associated with research. Auburn requires CITI certification for all students or employees who conduct research. The certification is valid for several years.

Lecture Uploads

* During my lectures, I will occasionally give verbal instructions for Lecture Upload assignments. You will complete these assignments at that time and you will upload them to Canvas during our class meeting. No late Lecture Uploads will be accepted, except in the case of an excused absence. It is your responsibility to ask me if there was a Lecture Upload assignment given during a class that you missed due to an excused absence.

Reading Reflections

* For several of the chapters in the book you will provide a 350 word minimum written response to specific prompts that I will give in the assignment.

In Class and Online Discussions

* Students will participate in graded discussions that will focus on collaborative work and peer review. These assignments will be completed in class. Clear criteria for grading will be included with each discussion assignment.

Idea Matrix & Top 2 Ideas

* You will fill out a document indicating 5 areas of social science research that interest you. Based on instructor and peer feedback, you will narrow the list down to two areas of interest and add one or more quantitative Research Questions for each area of interest.

Literature Matrix

* You will fill out a document with required information about 10 empirical, peer reviewed articles related to your topic of interest.

Annotated Bibliography

* You will select 4 peer reviewed articles from your Literature Matrix and provide an APA style annotated bibliography for each source.

Lit Review Outline

* You will provide a detailed outline of your Lit Review that includes the APA references of the sources you will cite for each point you make.

Research Proposal **This is a proposal ONLY. (You won’t be doing the research).**

* This project counts for 50% of your grade and will have the following sections:
  + Abstract
  + Introduction
  + Review of Literature
  + Statement of Problem
  + Research Purpose
  + Research Questions
  + Research Design
  + Population Description
  + Sampling
  + Protocol
  + Data Collection
  + Data Analysis
  + Limitations
  + Future Research
  + References
  + Appendices for Instruments
* Some of the sections will be assigned out of order (and this is intentional).
* You will eventually compile all your proposal sections in the order listed above at the conclusion of the semester.

Class Presentation

* You will create a PowerPoint (or other slide) presentation based on your research proposal to present to the class. You presentation should be 10 minutes long followed by a few minutes to respond to questions your peers ask after your presentation.

**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* [*University Writing Center*](http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/university-writing/miller-writing-center/) *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 |

| Assignment Type | Number of Assignments | Total Percent for Category |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Areas of Research Interest Statement | 1 | 2 |
| CITI Training | 1 | 3 |
| Lecture Uploads | 5 | 5 |
| Reading Reflections | 10 | 10 |
| In Class & Online Discussions | 10 | 10 |
| Idea Matrix & Top 2 Ideas | 2 | 2 |
| Literature Matrix | 1 | 4 |
| Annotated Bibliography | 1 | 5 |
| Outline for Review of Literature | 1 | 2 |
| RP – Review of Literature | 1 | 15 |
| RP – Statement of Problem, Research Purpose, Research Questions, Data Analysis | 1 | 5 |
| RP - Research Design & Instruments | 1 | 5 |
| RP - Population & Sampling | 1 | 5 |
| RP - Protocol & Data Collection | 1 | 5 |
| RP – Limitations & Future Research | 1 | 5 |
| RP - Introduction | 1 | 5 |
| RP - Abstract | 1 | 5 |
| RP- Compiled Proposal | 1 | 2 |
| Proposal Presentation | 1 | 5 |
| SEMESTER TOTAL |  | **100** |

\**Additional points may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor when revisions are permitted.*

**CALENDAR**

**NOTE:** Assignments are noted as Regular Assignments (RA) or Discussion Assignments (DA).

**REMEMBER:** There will also be 5 Lecture Upload Assignments and they are **not listed** on this calendar. Lecture Upload Assignments will be given verbally during lectures and you will turn them in during class. Lecture Upload Assignments cannot be made up if you are not in class and your absence is unexcused.

*This calendar and its assignments are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*

| Wk | Date | Material Covered | Assignments Due |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Jan 18 | *-Course Introduction*  *-Syllabus Overview*  *-Guest Lecture: Literature Searches*  ***-CITI Training Explained*** | Ch 1 & 2 Reflection (RA) due 1/17  Areas of Research Interest Statement (RA) due 1/17  Areas of Research Interest Discussion (DA) 1/18 |
| 2 | Jan 25 | ***-****Empirical Research*  *-One on One Meetings*  ***Idea Matrix Assignment and Discussion Explained***  ***-Literature Matrix Assignment Explained*** | Ch 3 Reflection (RA) due 1/24  Idea Matrix (RA) due 1/24  Idea Matrix Discussion (DA) due 1/25 |
| 3 | Feb 1 | *-APA 7 Document Set Up*  *-Intro to Source Management*  ***-Annotated Bibliography Assignment Explained***  ***-Top 2 Ideas with Quant RQs Assignment Explained*** | Top 2 Ideas with Quant RQs (RA) due 1/31  CITI Training (RA) due 1/31 |
| 4 | Feb 8 | *-Guest Lecture: Writing a Literature Review*  ***-Outline of Lit Review Assignment Explained***  ***-Review of Literature Assignment Explained*** | Ch 5 Reflection (RA) due 2/7  Literature Matrix (RA) due 2/7 |
| 5 | Feb 15 | *-Quantitative Research*  *-Creating a Quant Survey*  ***-Quant Survey Discussion Post Explained*** | Chapter 7 Reflection (RA) due 2/14  Annotated Bibliography (RA) due 2/14  Outline of Lit Review (RA) due 2/14  Quant Surveys & Discussion (DA) due 2/15 |
| 6 | Feb 22 | *-Qualitative Research*  *-Creating a Qual Survey*  ***-Qual Survey Discussion Post Explained***  ***-Statement of Problem, Research Purpose, RQs, & Data Analysis Assignment and Discussion Explained*** | Chapter 6 Reflection (RA) due 2/21  Review of Literature (RA) due 2/21  Qual Surveys & Discussion (DA) due 2/22 |
| 7 | Mar 1 | *-Mixed Methods Research*  *-Quantitative Data Collection & Analysis*  *-Guest Lecture: Data Management*  ***-Requested Revisions Assignments Explained***  ***-Research Design and Instruments Assignment Explained*** | Chapter 8 Reflection (RA) due 2/28  Statement of Problem, Research Purpose, RQs & Data Analysis (RA) due 2/28  Prblm, Purpose, RQs & Data Discussion (DA) due 3/1 |
|  | Mar 8 | ***SPRING BREAK*** |  |
| 8 | Mar 15 | *-Qualitative Data Collection & Analysis*  ***-Population & Sampling Assignment Explained*** | Chapter 11 Reflection (RA) due 3/14  Requested Revisions (Lit Review) (RA) due 3/14  Research Design & Instruments (RA) due 3/14  Rsrch Design & Instrmnts Discussion (DA) due 3/15 |
| 9 | Mar 22 | *-Critiquing a Quant Article*  ***-Protocol & Data Collection Assignment Explained*** | Appendix A Reflection (RA) due 3/21  Population & Sampling (RA) due 3/21 |
| 10 | Mar 29 | *-Critiquing a Qual Article*  ***-Limitations & Future Research Assignment Explained*** | Appendix B Reflection (RA) due 3/28  Requested Revisions (RQs etc.) (RA) due 3/28  Protocol & Data Collection (RA) due 3/28  Protocol & Data Coll Discussion (DA) due 3/29 |
| 11 | Apr 5 | *-Action Research*  ***-Introduction Assignment Explained***  ***-Article Critique Discussions Explained*** | Chapter 9 Reflection (RA) due 4/4  Limitations & Future Research (RA) due 4/4 |
| 12 | Apr 12 | *-Thesis & Dissertation Process*  ***-Abstract Assignment Explained***  ***-Compiling Entire Research Proposal Explained***  ***-Proposal Presentation and Discussion Posts Explained*** | Introduction (RA) due 4/11  Article Critique #1 Discussion (DA) due 4/12 |
| 13 | Apr 19 | *-Semester in Review* | Abstract (RA) due 4/18  Entire Research Proposal Compiled (RA) due 4/18  Article Critique #2 Discussion (DA) due 4/19 |
| 14 | Apr 26 | *-Research Proposal Presentations and Feedback* | Proposal Presentation (RA) due 4/25  Proposal Presentation Feedback (DA) due 4/26 |