ERMA 7200

# Basic Methods of Education Research

Instructor: Dr. Ann Gulley **Email:** <apg0016@auburn.edu>

## 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: Asynchronous
* Date Range for Course: Jan 11 – April 26
* **No assignments due the Sunday after Spring Break week (Sunday, March 12)**

## 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 would like to talk to me, please send an email and we can schedule an appointment. During the week (M-F) will try to respond to emails within a day. I generally don’t answer emails over the weekend or holidays so you will want to look at assignments early in the week and ask any questions before the weekend. [apg0016@auburn.edu](mailto:apg0016@auburn.edu)

## Excused Late Work

* Late assignments will be excused as per the [policy in the AU Handbook](https://bulletin.auburn.edu/Policies/Academic/classattendance/).
* Email me immediately if you are unable to complete an individual assignment by the due date and you believe you have an “excused absence.” If your excuse is approved, you will be given an adjusted due date.
* Email me immediately if you are unable to contribute fully to a collaborative group discussion and you believe you have an “excused absence.” If your excuse is approved, you will be given a modified discussion assignment to do independently for a grade.
* *It is your responsibility to check with the instructor about assignment modifications and adjusted due dates for any excused individual or collaborative assignments.*

## Unexcused Late Work:

* Individual assignments that are turned in late without an instructor approved excuse will be penalized 10% for each day the assignment is late.
* Group Work Discussion Assignments must be posted on time. If a group does not post by the due date/time, all members will receive a 0.
* If you do not contribute to a collaborative group discussion assignment and you do not have an approved excuse, you will be given a 0.

## Class Participation:

* Collaborative group 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.
* You will work in different small groups on several assignments throughout the semester. Groups may decide on the platforms that will help their group work together effectively (i.e. Google Docs, One Drive, Zoom, Teams, email, etc.)
* For collaborative group discussion assignments, you are each required to make an individual post describing your contributions to the collective effort.

## 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.*

## Quizzes

* ***4 quizzes worth a total of 1%***
* A series of quizzes given in the Week 1 Module will assess your understanding of the course structure, content, approach to learning, and types of assignments.

## Group Work Discussion Assignments:

* ***12 assignments worth a total of 25%***
* During most weeks of the semester you will participate in a collaborative group discussion assignment. 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:

* ***13 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 6 weeks 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:

* ***6 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 2%***
* During the final week of class you will record and upload a 10 minute presentation based 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 |

# Calendar

# *(The calendar is on the next page)*

*Note – The calendar is designed to give a broad overview of the scope and sequence of the course. Topics and assignment due dates may change at the discretion of the instructor.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **WEEK** | **TOPIC** | **ASSIGNMENTS DUE** |
| Week 1 *partial*  (1/11- 1-15) | Course Introduction | Reflection Ch 1&2 |
| Week 2  (1/16 – 1/22) | Empirical Research; APA 7; Research Questions | Reflection Ch 3; Group Work #1 |
| Week 3  (1/23 – 1/29) | Library Searches; Annotated Bibliography | Reflection Ch 5; Group Work #2; Individual Assignment: Narrowed Topic + RQs |
| Week 4  (1/30 – 2/5) | Quantitative Research; Writing an Outline | Reflection Ch 7; Group Work #3; Individual Assignment: Literature Matrix |
| Week 5  (2/6 – 2/12) | Qualitative Research; Synthesizing the Literature | Reflection Ch 6; Group Work #4; Individual Assignment: Annotated Bibliography |
| Week 6  (2/13 – 2/19) | Mixed Methods Research | Reflection Ch 8; Individual Assignment: Outline for Lit Review |
| Week 7  (2/20 – 2/26) | Data Management; Concluding the Lit Review | Reflection Ch 12; Group Work #5 |
| Week 8  (2/27 – 3/6) | Research Design, Population, & Sampling | Reflection Ch 11; Group Work #6; Individual Assignment: Review of Literature |
| **SPRING BREAK** | **NOTHING NEW** | **NOTHING DUE** |
| Week 9  (3/13 – 3/19) | Quant & Qual Instruments; Validity &Trustworthiness; CITI Training | Reflection on Validity and Trustworthiness; Group Work #7; Individual Assignment: Conclusion to Lit Review |
| Week 10  (3/20 – 3/26) | Validating Instruments; Procedures & Data | Reflection on Validity in Appendix A; Group Work #8; Group Work #9; Individual Assignment: Quant & Qual Instruments |
| Week 11  (3/27 – 4/2) | Theoretical Grounding, Limitations & Future Research | Reflection on Trustworthiness in Appendix B; Group Work #10; Individual Assignment: Procedures & Data |
| Week 12  (4/3 – 4/9) | Proposal Introduction; | Reflection Ch 9; Group Work #11; Individual Assignment: Theoretical Grounding, Limitations & Future Research; CITI Training |
| Week 13  (4/10- 4/16) | Ethics in Research | Reflection on Ethics in Research; Individual Assignment: Introduction |
| Week 14  (4/17 – 4/23) | Compiling the Proposal; Proposal Presentation; Peer Feedback | Compiled Proposal; Group Work #12 |
| Week 15 *partial*  (4/24 – 4/26) |  | Proposal Presentation |