

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Teacher Development and Educational Studies**

**Introduction to Educational Studies**

EST 6000 – CRN 15486

SUMMER 2018

**Catalog Description**

Investigates current educational research, technology, and instructional techniques, and methods of implementing them in effective teaching and leadership practices.

**Credits**

3 or 4 credits hours

**Prerequisites**

Admission to M. Ed. or M.A.T. in Teacher Development and Educational Studies or permission of the instructor.

**Instructor**

Dr. Carolyn O'Mahony

485C Pawley Hall

Skype: carolyn.omahony

Email: omahony@oakland.edu is the best way to reach me. Include EST6000 in Subject line.

Office hours: Email for an appointment - 2:00pm – 11pm most days (including weekends) by Skype, Goggle Meetings (through OU email addresses), or telephone

**Texts**

Required

Fraenkel, J. R., & Wallen, N. E. (2003). *How to design and evaluate research in education* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). NY: McGraw-Hill Higher Education. ISBN-13: 978-0072860917 ISBN-10: 007286091X

*Note – this is an old edition but is 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the price of the current one. It covers the basics you will be studying and will leave you funds for the recommended texts. Also, I add many extra resources onto Moodle.*

Recommended

Bracey, G. (2006). *Reading educational research: How to avoid getting statistically snookered*. Portsmouth NH: Heinemann

Good, T., and Brophy, J. (2008). *Looking in classrooms* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston MA: Pearson

Pan, M. L. (2008). *Preparing literature reviews: Qualitative and quantitative approaches* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Los Angeles: Pyczak Publishing.

Weston, A. (2009). *A rulebook for arguments*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett.

## Course Objectives and Essential Questions

- 1) Underlying theoretical approaches to education: What kind of educator am I?
- 2) Finding educational research: Where is the scholarship?
- 3) Pondering my classroom: How do I articulate an informed opinion on topics and dilemmas in education?
- 4) Understanding educational research as a way of knowing: What is good scholarship?
- 5) Approaches to research: What is truth?
- 6) Educational scholars: Where does all this research come from?
- 7) Evaluating educational scholarship: How can I be a good consumer of research?
- 8) Evaluating the quality of scholarship: Can I really criticize something published?
- 9) Use of research in educational decisions: How do all these studies help me become a better educator?
- 10) Research design in education: What do all these graphs really mean?
- 11) Forming a researchable question: You mean I've really been doing research all along?
- 12) Writing a Literature Review: How does all the research fit together?

## Modes of Instruction:

This is a fully online course. Students who need any technological assistance are highly encouraged to contact OU e-Learning and Instructional Support Office at 248-370-4566 or e-mail. Projects are designed to allow for reflection on the connections between theory and practice leading to the construction of new knowledge and skills. Readings and assignments facilitate reflection and revision of new understandings.

Online classes can become overwhelming if you don't set aside time each week to work on them. For this reason students who live near each other may find it beneficial to organize themselves into a study group.

## Academic Conduct:

As graduate students at Oakland University, students are expected to conduct work in conformity with the university's policy on academic conduct, including provisions about plagiarism, which appears in the Graduate Catalog. Students are expected to read and comply with the guidelines provided in the catalog.

## Attendance and Participation/Communication

All students are expected to participate in all online activities. In the online discussions and other activities, students contribute their knowledge to other students' and the instructor's understandings. We will all miss your active participation. The quality of the discussion and activities is dependent on all of our participation so tardiness in posting (unless approved in advance by the instructor) will result in a loss of 5 points per session. Please contact the instructor regarding any extenuating circumstances as three unexcused missed sessions may result in a grade of 0.0.

*Note: Students in other online courses I have taught have found the community created in the class to be a wonderfully supportive professional group. I hope that we can create that type of community this semester.*

## Assignments

1. *Online Assignments and Activities:* Each week in Moodle there will be new activities created to deepen your understanding or ability to articulate concepts covered during that or previous weeks.

2. *Online Participation:* Students are expected to participate in the online discussions. The clarity and timeliness of participation will, of course, influence instructor judgement of participation.
3. *Critical Response to Educational Research:* This assignment is designed to demonstrate your ability to read and respond to educational research. Choose an article published in an educational journal. You may find various educational journals through the Kresge Library portal or research search engines such as google scholar. Write a 2 to 3 page (double-spaced) response paper to the article. Additional resources and guidelines for this assignment will be supplied via Moodle.
4. *Well Remembered Event:* In this you are asked to describe a particular classroom, school, or educational event that struck you as important, fascinating, disturbing, and worthy of further critical reflection. The purpose of this assignment is to help you begin to develop critical reflection skills, which is essential in developing a research question/problem. The well remembered event can be incorporated into the introductory section of your literature review (final course project). The suggested format:  
Part 1) a description of the event and the context in which it occurred.  
Part 2) a statement of the dilemma  
Part 3) a description of any articles, book chapters, etc. that relate to the event and  
Part 4) the outcome and your reflection.

Pick an incident that occurred in your prior schooling or current practice. Describe the incident to me adding enough background so I can see the scene through your eyes and indicate a dilemma (or dilemmas) this incident presented for you.

5. *Annotated Bibliographies:* This annotated bibliography should include at least five articles and five web/technology-based resources. You need to summarize/appraise each article and/or website in one or two paragraphs. When you submit each annotated bibliography, please submit the original abstracts of the articles you annotate as well as the urls for websites.
6. *Literature Review (Final project):* Develop a researchable question and literature review based on your practice. You may begin with your Well Remembered Event or you may find another question more intriguing. Either way, it should be an issue that is critical to you. The literature review is constructed around a researchable question with the potential to be further investigated in EST 609. More details and rubric will be available on Moodle.
7. *Responsible Conduct of Research Training through CITI (4 credit option):* As an OU student you may do this for free. It is an internationally recognized qualification that will enable you to apply for research opportunities and funding. It is a series of modules that you work through independently. It takes a few hours but is not difficult. At the end you earn a certificate. Send a copy of your certificate to me. Keep a copy, and your id number. Should you decide that your research design is so good that you might like to publish the results of your study when you complete it in EST6500, you will need evidence that you have completed CITI training when you go through the Institutional Review Board process at OU.  
<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/research/compliance/>
8. *Extra Credit:* Teachers are active people. If you are having challenges participating in the weekly online forums let me know. If you are taking EST6000 for three credits you may complete the CITI training (per the four credit option) for extra credit. If you are already involved in a research project or would like to describe your work, or write up a small case study, you may apply for extra credit.

The due date of each assignment is noted in the *Schedule*. However, for various reasons, these dates may change. Therefore, the Schedule to follow for absolute due dates is posted in Moodle.

The quality of each assignment will be considered during the evaluation process. Quality refers to, but is not limited to the following: Standard English usage, neatness, manner of presentation, degree of professional insight (knowledge that needs to be demonstrated in each assignment), organization, logical progression of ideas, clarity, creativity, correct use of mechanics, and timeliness. Please type all assignments in 12-point font and follow APA format (6<sup>th</sup> edition).

*Note that a first draft is typically not a quality paper. This is particularly true for the final project. Be prepared to revise your work several times.*

*Tip: to help you with clarity and correct use of mechanics, prior to submitting work: 1) read it out loud to an appreciative other (even the dog); and 2) have it proofread by other people who are themselves competent readers.*

### Methods of Evaluation for 3 credits

Session posts	240
Well Remembered Event	30
critical response to research report/article	50
annotated bibliography	30
final paper	100
professional participation and communication (instructor judgment)	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500 points</b>

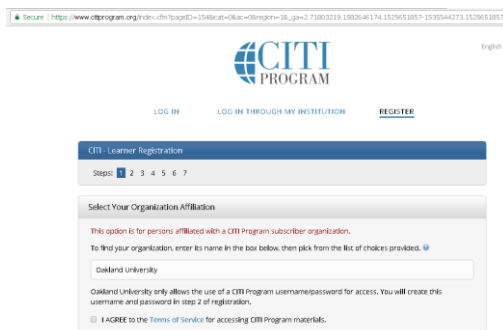
### Methods of Evaluation for 4 credits

As for 3 credits

PLUS

Successful completion of Responsible Conduct of Research Training through CITI. This is an internationally recognized qualification that will enable you to apply for research opportunities and funding.

<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/research/compliance/>



### Assistance with Assignments

I welcome conversations and email communications about any of the class assignments and will read drafts of your papers if received 10 days prior to due dates. *Tip: to help you with clarity and correct use of mechanics, prior to submitting work: 1) read it out loud to an appreciative other (a sleepy child is good); and 2) have it proofread by other people who are themselves competent readers.*

### Library Services

Kresge Library offers distance education services, which includes activating your library card, remote access to databases, document delivery, getting help over live chat, mailing services and interlibrary loan, and online instruction about the library. The library also offers a variety of writing resources for students at <https://research.library.oakland.edu/sp/subjects/guide.php?subject=Writing>

## References

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- Calhoun, E. F. (1993). Action research: Three approaches. *Educational Leadership*, 51(2), 62-65.
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- Campbell, D.T., Stanley, J.C. (1963). *Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for research*, USA: American Education Research Association.
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- Galvan, J. L. (2004). *Writing literature reviews: A guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Los Angeles, CA: Pyczak Publishing.
- Leedy, P. D. & Ormrod, J. E. (2013). *Practical research: Planning and design*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.
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