



Course Syllabus: Introduction to Research
College of Education
EDUC 5053 Section X10
Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Matthew Capps
Office: BH104D
Office hours: M 9-11 T 9:00-11 W 10:00-11:00
Office phone: (940) 397-4138
Cell Phone: 940-613-6884
E-mail: matthew.capps@msutexas.edu

Course Description

Fosters an understanding of the scope of social science research including methodologies appropriate to issues impacting human social interaction while preparing them to understand, analyze, synthesize, and critically evaluate contemporary research.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required: Locke, L.F., Silverman, S.J., Spirduso, W.W.(2010). *Reading and Understanding Research*. (3rd). Los Angeles: Sage

Recommended American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

This is an online course so attendance is not part of the requirement. However, the course is challenging. If you do not stay on top of the reading, you will quickly get left behind.

General guidelines for time commitment are as follows.

2-3 hours per hour of course credit for class preparation (reading)

1 hour per hour of course credit for course engagement (course engagement, watching videos, discussion etc..)

This means for a 3 hour course you should expect to devote 10-12 hours per week. This does not include time spent working on the literature review.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

More specifically, plagiarism can occur in many ways. If a student uses another student's work and presents it as the student's own, that is considered plagiarism and will result in a 0 on the assignment. If a student has a significant amount of narrative from other sources presented as his/her own (determined by % match in Turnitin), that is considered plagiarism and will result in a 0 on the assignment. Each draft submitted will have an associated plagiarism match provided by Turnitin. You may have one direct quote (cited in APA format). All other material must be cited AND original to the student.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) advances have now provided generative and creative applications such as Chat GPT, Google Bard, Guru, Microsoft Copilot, and others. Indeed, these tools can be helpful in the learning process; however, the content they generate does not represent the student's effort and learning. Submitting AI-generated work in place of the student's original and genuine work will be considered a form of academic misconduct and will fall under the plagiarism rule.

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Course Grade - List all graded assignments with their point value and or percentage of total grade. Letter Grade Scale indicate the overall points or % to letter grade scale for example 1270 to 1137 = A.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Reading Quizzes (6 at 10 pts each)	60
Homework Assignments (3 at 25 points)	75
Research topic	15
Synthesizing Literature	30
Final Literature Review	72
Total Points	252

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	226.8-252
B	200-226.7
C	176.4-199.5
D	151.2-176.3
F	You have got to be kidding.

Homework

One of the main purposes of this class is for you to understand what it is you are reading as you peruse the literature on your topic. After you have read, we will discuss various aspects of research in class. In addition, each unit of study will have several papers with questions for you to answer to check for understanding. You may work on these when you think you are ready, but you will only have 24 hours to complete them. Note the deadlines for each in D2L. You may work together if you think that will help. They are worth 25 points each and represent an assessment of your understanding. These are multiple-choice questions from several articles.

Quizzes

After you review read and review the material in a module, there will be a short quiz over the presentations, notes, etc. There are 10 questions in T/F, multiple choice, or multi-answer format. You have 1 hour to complete a quiz. You may do those anytime you feel ready BUT please note the deadlines for each in D2L.

Synthesizing Literature

In the past, you have likely written papers that are summaries from research articles. That is not our purpose here. You will learn to analyze articles, summarize the meaning, and then combine those to create an original paragraph. This activity will provide an opportunity to practice this skill prior to implementing the skill in an actual literature review. It is scored in three parts: 10 points for the research analysis table, 10 points for the article summary, and 10 points for the single-page synthesis. Please submit as a word document for editing and feedback. Note the deadline.

Mini Literature Review

You will identify a research question with a clearly defined independent and dependent variable. You will then research articles related to this variable to help the reader better understand what is known about the topic. The literature review should be 8-10 pages in length, not including the cover page or reference page(s). 7.5 pages of writing is not 8 pages. Writing is a development skill, especially in the context of research. Part of this process includes writing multiple drafts. This is the same process every writer goes through. To that end, this assignment is graded on a competency-based format. This means I will provide feedback up to three times, leading to your final grade (i.e., you submit, I give edits/feedback, you correct that submission again, and I give edits/feedback, then you correct for a final version).

Submit as a Word document for editing and feedback. A PDF will not receive feedback.

The final draft submitted for a grade will be a Word document. Anything else will be a 0. You will also include a zip file containing the first page of each primary source used in the development of your literature review.

Due dates for drafts (drafts are not required and there is no grade).

October 19th (1st)

November 2nd (2nd)

November 16th (3rd)

December 7th (Final)

Extra Credit

Not available

Late Work

Late work is not accepted for any reason. A due date may be extended depending on coverage of material, but once the due date is set, no assignments will be accepted beyond that point

Pay attention to the due dates and times. Written assignments are due in the mornings at 9:00 AM. This allows me to review them and get them back to you generally the next day.

Make Up Work/Tests

Not available

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: September 7 Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21 Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"November 23 Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

All assignments are submitted as Word documents in D2L. **WordPress, PDF, Google Docs, etc., are not accepted and will be counted as 0.**

Attendance

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Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

The course schedule is below. The course is organized by modules. All modules, quizzes and homework assignments are open at the beginning of the class. This allows you to choose the pace at which you work. However, there are deadlines for quizzes and assignments to ensure a pace is established. Many students choose to work through the quizzes and homework at a steady pace early leaving time towards the end to focus on the literature review.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Module 1 August 24-Aug 31	Introduction Course Requirements and Expectations: Selecting A Topic for a Literature Review	Research Topic – Due Sept 7
Module 2 Sept 1-Sept 14	The Research Report and Staying Organized When Reading Research Reviews; Synthesizing Literature Chapters 1 and 13	Quiz 1 Synthesizing Literature – Due Sept 21

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Module 3 Sept 16-Sept 22	When to Believe What You Read: The Sources of Credibility Chapter 2	Quiz 2
Module 4 Sept 23- Oct 6	How to Select and Read Research Reports; The Use, Misuse, and Misunderstanding of Research; Types of Research: An Overview Chapters 3-5	Quiz 3 HW#1- Credibility and Misunderstanding Research
Module 5 Oct 7-Oct 20	Quantitative Research Designs Chapter 6 and Appendix B	Quiz 4
Module 6 Oct 21-Nov 3	Staying Organized When Reading and Reading Report of Quantitative Research Chapters 7 & 9	Quiz 5 HW – Quantitative Studies
Module 7 Nov 4-Nov 17	The Paradigms of Qualitative Research Staying Organized When Reading Qualitative Reports Chapters 10-12	Quiz 6 HW – Qualitative Studies
Nov 17-Dec 5	Editing Literature Review	
Finals Dec 7		Final Mini Lit Review Due Dec 7

***Important note:** Tables are already set up for ADA compliance. If you wish to add another table, make sure do the correct compliance setup for tables which you can find in the [How To – Word Doc ADA Compliance PDF](#).