



**Welcome to  
Intro to Research  
Fall 2023**  
West College of Education  
Credit Hours: 3

**Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Dr. Dittika Gupta

**Office:** Bridwell 220

**Office hours:** Virtual Office Hours - Monday 10:00-11:30am, Tuesday 10:00am-12:00pm, and Wednesday 10:00am-11:30am. The zoom link will be on the news section on D2L. You can simply click the link to join anytime during the listed office hours. I am also happy to meet outside of office hours if there is a need. Don't hesitate to contact me to find a convenient time for both of us.

**Class Hours:** Online with 2 mandatory class meetings via zoom. You will get to schedule your own time from the time slots provided.

**Office phone:** 940-397-4269

**E-mail:** [dittika.gupta@msutexas.edu](mailto:dittika.gupta@msutexas.edu)

**Instructor Response Policy**

All assignment questions and logistics will be communicated through the "**course question discussion board**". This discussion board will be on D2L and a place for you to post all your queries, confusions, and questions about the course. This is the FIRST way to contact me for any questions. This will not only allow us to be organized but also help get input from peers and clarify additional questions for the class. Peers are welcome to answer, add to the query, or follow-up.

In case you need to talk to me – Yes, sometimes it will help to talk than using the discussion board – please use my office phone number (940)397-4269 and leave a message with your phone number, name, and course number (EDUC 5053) in case you end up in a voice message box. This would be the second way of communication.

The third way of communication would be emailing at [dittika.gupta@msutexas.edu](mailto:dittika.gupta@msutexas.edu). NOTE- *I will not be answering questions regarding assignments via MSU email but those queries will receive an automatic reply of posting it on the course question discussion board.* All other queries are most welcome. During the week (Monday – Friday), I will respond

to emails within 24 to 48 hours. Do not expect a response from me on Holidays and weekends. As professionals, it's important that we implement boundaries around home and work. Please try to ask your questions before the weekend which requires you to plan and be proactive on your assignments.

Fourth way to communicate would be to email me your phone number and I will contact you as soon as possible.

Fifth way to communicate would be to schedule an appointment either via zoom or in-person if you are in Wichita Falls or anywhere near. This is in addition to the office hours. **For office hours, no prior scheduling is needed. You can simply click the link and join the zoom.**

### **Required Textbook & Instructional Materials**

1. Huck, S. W. (2011). *Reading Statistics and Research* (6th ed.). Boston: Pearson.
2. American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
3. Handouts and copied materials as required through the semester.

### **Course Description**

The course, EDUC 5053, fosters an understanding of the role of research in education and acquaints students with research methodologies appropriate to education while preparing them to understand, analyze, synthesize, and critically evaluate contemporary educational research. This course should be taken in the first or second semester of the program.

### **Course Objectives**

Primary goals for this course are to provide students the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary

1. To read, understand, and appreciate research, and
2. To write a literature review (around 7-8 pages in length excluding references).

### **Standards**

Students will be able to

1. Understand the rationale, purpose and ethical implications of research in educational settings. (CACREP standard a, e and f)
2. Identify types of data and associated appropriate measures of central tendency and descriptive statistics. (CACREP Standard b, c and d)
3. Describe null and directional hypothesis and interpret both from research questions. (CACREP Standard b, c and d)

4. Describe the differing types of reliability and validity and analyze the value of each in research articles. (CACREP Standard b, c and d)
5. Analyze inferences from bivariate correlation statistics (both parametric and nonparametric). (CACREP Standard b, c and d).
6. Interpret written results of parametric tests including; t-tests, ANOVA, and post hoc tests. (CACREP Standard b, c and d)
7. Interpret written results of nonparametric tests including Mann Whitney U, Kruskal Wallis, Chi Square, Fischer, and Wilcoxon.
8. Interpret results of qualitative research including single case, case study, focus groups, ethnography, and content analysis of written documents. (CACREP standard a and e)
9. Analyze quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research (CACREP Standard b)
10. Use information from critical analysis of previous research to create a literature review synthesizing multiple resources and contrasting differing points of view.

### **Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance**

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) offers a schedule of selected subjects tutoring assistance. Please visit the [TASP webpage](#) for more information.

### **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 of somebody else's work for credit). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

### **Intellectual Property**

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a *limited right* in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The *limited right* shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality, authenticity, and educational purposes. Please check with the [Student Handbook 22-23](#), available from the link provided in the webpage of [the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

### **Grading/Assessment**

All the assignments are due in the dropbox before 11:59 pm on Sundays (unless otherwise stated in the class). Please make sure to submit them before the deadline. I will not accept the assignments in any other form (email attachments, hard copies, and so on). \*Late work policy will apply consistently and fairly.

Late work policy is 25% off per day per assignment (including Saturday and Sunday). So, if the assignment is for 100 points, you can make a maximum score of 75 after one day, 50 after two days, 25 after three days, and zero after 4 days even if all your answers are correct. Discussion boards, exams, surveys, and meetings will have NO late work.

**Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment**

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
Introduction (Flipgrid) +replies	12
Choosing a Research Topic +feedback	20
Final Research Question	5
Chapter Quizzes (Timed)	130
Zoom meeting (2*5 points)	10
APA Assignment	15
Literature Search Report	16
Draft1 and Draft 2 of Literature Review (best of two grades)	50
Article Analysis Assignment	25
Final Literature Review	100
Disposition (Timeliness, professionalism, growth, responsiveness, and others)	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>

*\*Grading points may change as per the needs of the class and students.*

**Table 2: Grading Scale**

Grade	Points
A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	Below 59%

*\*Note that an "A" is 90% to 100%. There will be NO rounding and grades will be calculated with two decimal points.*

## **Quizzes**

Each Chapter Quiz will have 10 to 20 multiple-choice questions and will be timed to maximum of 1 hour. It is an open book quizzes and hence you can use notes or your book on the quizzes. Details will be given through "Watch me First" on D2L. Purpose of the quizzes is to evaluate your understanding of the statistics and different concepts of research methodology so that you can read research articles.

## **Article Analysis Assignment**

There will be one article analysis assignment in which a set of articles will be provided. The purpose of the assignment is to evaluate if information from the article can be analyzed. Articles and the assignment would be posted on D2L.

## **APA Assignment**

One APA assignment will be conducted this semester that focuses on in-text citations and writing of the paper and will follow APA 7th edition. This will be a written response and details will be on D2L. The goal of the assignment is to help you understand in-text citations for your final literature review paper.

## **Literature Search Report**

One literature search report assignment will be submitted. This assignment has a dual purpose- one that you will be able to get feedback on APA citations for the reference list and second that you would be able to find at least 10 articles that can be used for your literature review paper.

## **Literature Review Assignment**

The goal of the course is to have a 7–8-page (without references) literature review assignment. The paper is double spaced. To prepare for this assignment, several smaller assignments are included in the course such as choosing a research question, final research question, APA assignment, literature search report, and drafts of the literature review. There will be two drafts submitted before the final paper and best of the two grades will be included in the gradebook.

The literature review assignment (7-8 pages in length) will be the major final assignment and also count as the final.

## **Assignment Re-do**

There will be NO re-do on any assignments. I strongly recommend forming study groups and using GroupMe or some other way to communicate with peers. I am happy to meet during office hours or schedule zoom sessions outside of office hours either individually or for groups for any support and help. *I would be happy to meet with students who need statistical analysis support.*

## **Make-up work**

No make-up work is not allowed for any assignments.

## **Required Mandatory Zoom Meetings**

You are required to meet two times during the course. The dates and times for the meetings will be shared and opportunity would be provided to schedule your preferred time. This will be on first come first serve basis and meetings will be in small groups. The meetings will be between 30-45mins and you have to stay the entire time to earn credit as stated in Table 1.

## Mid-Term Exam

Mid-term would be the submission of the Drafts of the Literature Review assignment though it may not happen at the middle of the semester.

## Extra Credit

There will be extra credit opportunities provided as per the needs of the class.

## Late Work

Lateness of the submission will be determined by D2L. Please understand that D2L does not consider holidays or weekends and so do I. For example, if the due date of a particular assignment were 11:59 pm, 9/10/2023, and you submitted the assignment at 12:00am, 9/10/2023, the D2L Dropbox will mark your assignment as ONE day late. **\*I will go by the D2L decision and will consider your assignment as ONE day late.** To avoid missing the due date by such hairline margins, I advise you to submit the assignment well ahead. 25% off per day per assignment (including Saturday and Sunday). So, if the assignment is for 100 points, you can make a maximum score of 75 after one day, 50 after two days, 25 after three days, and zero after 4 days if all your answers are correct. **\*There is NO late work on discussion boards, surveys, or zoom meetings!** All this is non-negotiable!!! If there are any issues/confusions, contact me **\*BEFORE\*** the assignment is due. I am happy to accommodate and support your needs but as said, you need to contact me before the assignment is due. Details for every week will be given through "Read Me First" or "Watch me First" in the respective folders

*\*NOTE: Computer or D2L issues do not provide an excuse.* Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with D2L 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. *Do not wait till the last minute to submit the assignment.* Delays or sending through email will be counted late!

## Blank submissions or submitting wrong files in D2L

Extreme care should be taken when you submit your final document. If by any chance you submit a wrong file, make sure to submit the correct one as early as possible. All the dropboxes are set to accept multiple files. I will evaluate the file that you submitted. If I have to notify you that you submitted the wrong file and allow you to resubmit it, your grade will be 75% if the resubmission is within the date I specified in the feedback.

## **Disposition and Reading feedback**

It is crucial that you read the feedback for your assignments and exhibit professionalism. There are a lot of moving pieces in this course such as certification requirements, developing your research question, figuring out the data analysis for future course, and many other things. I will support you to be successful and guide you throughout the course, however, that requires you to read feedback, answer emails timely, and show growth, and professionalism as needed for a master's student. The feedback will have instructions to improve your understanding of the topics that we discuss in our class, in addition to pointing out the mistakes in the submitted assignments. I am happy to meet individually via phone, virtually, or in-person to discuss feedback.

## **Academic Honesty**

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 individuals to whom credit is given) will not be considered. I use turnitin for the assignments as needed and D2L directly syncs with it (you do not have to do anything). You will be able to see the plagiarism percentage and are welcome to make changes and resubmit **BEFORE** the due date. \*Any plagiarism of 30% and above is too much and the assignment will not be graded, given a zero, and no make-up allowed!!! *\*In the same note, it is expected that the work produced by the students is their original piece of work and so any AI or ChaptGPT similarity of 30% or above will not be will not be graded, given a zero, and no make-up allowed!!!*

## **Attendance / Participation**

Students should participate in all classes. Logging into D2L at least once a week and working diligently on assignments will be considered your attendance for the week. In case of an emergency situation that will not allow you to log on to D2L, please let me know as early as possible. One week's absence will result in a loss of 20 points from your earned points. Two weeks' absences will result in 50 points loss, contact to the advisor, and an alert being issued to graduate school and student services. Excessive absences might also result in instructor drop, if required.

## **Instructor-drop**

As per the College policies, an instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor will give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. The instructor drop takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop at a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 8 weeks of this semester. After this period, the grade will be an

F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date.

### **Important Dates**

Change of Schedule and Late Registration: August 28-31, 2023.

Final Deadline for December graduates to file for graduation: September 25, 2023

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" 4 pm, October 30, 2023

Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

### **Instructor Classroom Policies**

Even though this is an online class, appropriate dressing is necessary for all zoom/virtual meetings and all video assignments. You should be dressed as you would for a regular face-to-face class. Actions and behavior should reflect professionalism. Non-compliance with classroom policies will result in a loss of points for that particular assignment or meeting.

### **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 are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a 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 including the Clark Student Center (CSC). 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 help desk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they will be able to help you get connected to our online services.

### **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.

## **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 an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (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](#).

## **College Policies**

### **Campus Carry Rules/Policies**

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

Senate Bill 11 Handgun Policy -Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at [Campus Carry](#)

### **Smoking/Tobacco Policy**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. 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 prohibit 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

## **Grade Appeal Process**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University graduate catalog for the process. The current catalog can be downloaded from the link provided in the webpage for [University Catalogs](#)

## On-line Courses

On-line courses are a convenient and effective method of learning. However, online courses require organizational skills. The following are some recommendations to be successful in this course:

- Schedule at least 7 to 9 hours a week for this course.
- Adhere to the due dates. You may turn in assignments early. Seek clarification for any concern in a timely manner.

Wish you all success in this course. Please enjoy the experience of understanding, analyzing, and synthesizing research.

### Notice

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

## References

- American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.
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- Creswell, J. W., & Clark, V. L. P. (2017). *Designing and conducting mixed methods research*. Sage publications.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research* (5th ed.). Pearson.
- Creswell, J. W. (1999). Mixed-method research: Introduction and application. In *Handbook of educational policy* (pp. 455-472). Academic Press.
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- Huck, S. W. (2011). *Reading Statistics and Research* (6th ed.). Pearson.
- Merriam, S. B. (1998). *Qualitative Research and Case Study Applications in Education. Revised and Expanded from "Case Study Research in Education."*. Jossey-Bass Publishers, 350 Sansome St, San Francisco, CA 94104.
- Patton, M. Q. (2014). *Qualitative research & evaluation methods: Integrating theory and practice*. Sage publications.
- Salkind, N. J., & Frey, B. B. (2019). *Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics* (7th ed.). SAGE Publications, Inc.

**\*Wish you all success in this course!!!\***