



Course Syllabus: Introduction to Research

West College of Education and Professional Studies

EDUC 5053- X13

Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Dittika Gupta

Office: Bridwell Hall 220 (BH 220)

Student Drop-in Hours: Tuesday 11:00-12:00pm, Wednesday -12:00-2:00pm and Thursday 1:00--3:00pm. 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. A Zoom link will be posted on D2L for joining virtually. Due to the nature of the field classes and teaching in-person and online, office hours may change if I am at a school observing or there would be a longer wait if I am with a student in the office. I will always post updates on D2L and/or send an email about any changes in the office hours. Please feel free to send me an email or put it in on the '*Course Question Discussion board*' if you need to meet outside of the office hours or for check in.

Class Hours: Online with 3 mandatory class meetings via zoom throughout the whole semester in small group format. You will get to schedule your own time from the time slots provided. We will work together to facilitate these.

Office phone: (940) 397-4269

E-mail: dittika.gupta@msutexas.edu

Course Description

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.

SECOND way to contact me would be by emailing at dittika.gupta@msutexas.edu. I will try my best to answer all emails and texts within 24 hours, however you will definitely get a response within 48 hours (2 days). Any emails or texts received during weekends will not receive a response till the following Monday. No emails or texts will be answered over the weekend. Please note that I would like all the assignment queries to be directed through the course question discussion board as I will be checking that more

often than my email.

The **THIRD** way would be to contact me via my office phone number (940)397-4269 and leave a message with your phone number and name in case I am not in the office, and I will contact you asap.

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.
1. 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 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

The TASP offers a schedule of selected subjects tutoring assistance. Please contact the TASP, (940)397-4684, or visit the ASC homepage for more information.

[Tutoring & Academics Supports Programs](#)

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](#)

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

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. ***Any plagiarism of 30% and above is too much and the assignment will not be graded, given a zero, and no make-up allowed!!!** The same percentage also applies for any AI work. ***Any AI similarity of 30% of above is not accepted.** Your final culminating paper should present original work synthesized and analyzed by literature and collected data. The discussion boards, exams, surveys, and meetings will have NO late work.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Introduction	30
Discussion Board- Choosing a Research Topic	20
Quizzes	130
APA Assignment	50
Literature Search Report	30
Draft1 and Draft 2 of Literature Review (best of two grades)	75
Zoom meeting (5*3)	15
Paper Research Outlines	15
Final Literature Review paper	125
Disposition (Timeliness, professionalism, growth, responsiveness, and others)	10
Total Points	500

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

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 to 100%
B	80 to 89.99%
C	70 to 79.99%
D	60 to 69.99%
F	less than 59.99%

*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.

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 attend three meetings during the course. Dates and times will be shared in advance, and you will have the opportunity to select your preferred time. Meetings will be conducted in small groups on a first-come, first-served basis. Each meeting will last 30–45 minutes, and you are expected to attend the full session with your camera on. Specific expectations for the meetings will be provided.

Please don't worry—these meetings will be scheduled to accommodate everyone, and we will work together throughout the semester to make the process smooth and manageable.

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, 1/25/2026, and you submitted the assignment at 12:00am, 1/26/2026, 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 most recent submitted file. 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

Make Up Work/Tests

There will be no make-up or resubmissions allowed on assignments, quizzes, discussion boards, or any other activity in class.

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 Registrations: **Aug 24-27**. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: **Sept 21**. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **Nov 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.

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](#).

Instructor Class Policies

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 written assignments 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! Your plagiarized assignment will not be graded, receive a zero, and no make-up allowed.***

Self-plagiarism refers to submitting work for credit that is the same or substantially similar to work prepared or submitted for another course without appropriate citation. This includes reusing previous assignments, papers,

presentations, or other submissions without instructor approval. Self-plagiarism gives the impression of original work when, in fact, the content has already been submitted for assessment elsewhere. To avoid self-plagiarism, communicate openly with your instructor about building on existing work or repurposing prior submissions. Provide proper citations for any previous work referenced. Unless the instructor indicates otherwise, all assignments submitted for this course must be newly prepared by you and you alone for this specific class. **Any self-plagiarism of 30% and above is too much! Your plagiarized assignment will not be graded, receive a zero, and no make-up allowed**

Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have now provided generative and creative applications such as Chat GPT, Google Bard, Guru, Microsoft Copilot, and others. Certainly, these tools can be quite useful in the learning process; however, the content they generate does not represent the effort and learning of the student. Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Submitting AI generated work in place of the original and genuine work of the student will be considered a form of academic misconduct. Therefore, **AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. Any AI generated work of 30% and above is too much! Your assignment will not be graded, receive a zero, and no make-up allowed.**

You may type a question into ChatGPT, you may not exactly copy and paste its response, and turn it in as your own. If you use ChatGPT or any AI, please use it in ways that are ethical, accurate, and useful.

Any instance of plagiarism, AI-generated content, and/or self-plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy outlined in the Student Handbook. It's important to remember that the consequences of violating this policy are serious and can have a lasting impact on your academic record. By enrolling in this course, you acknowledge and agree to comply with this plagiarism and AI-generated content policy. Your understanding and commitment to academic integrity are crucial to our learning community

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

Inclement Weather

In the case of campus closure due to inclement weather, updates will be shared through Navigate and posted in the News section. The class will follow MSU's official guidance regarding closures and weather-related disruptions.

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."](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law

require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213

laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [Online Reporting Form](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Website](#)

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.

Other Expectations

Participation

It is not enough to just "show up." In other words, you cannot just sit there and breathe. (For online classes, you should log in D2L multiple times per week if not daily to check assignments, feedback, and engage in learning, etc.) You need to be prepared to discuss the readings that are assigned, contribute appropriately, and encourage the participation of your peers.

Preparation

Complete all assignments on time. Complete readings assigned prior to class in order to be able to participate in class discussions and activities.

Attitude

Demonstrate the following dispositions that are essential for learning:

- Curiosity (ask questions, look for additional answers, probe, reflect)
- Flexibility (take alternate points of view, be open-minded)

- Organization (plan ahead – literally, GET A PLANNER!)
- Patience (take time to reason, be persistent in efforts)
- Risk-taking (try things beyond your current repertoire)
- Passion (invest in ideas, processes, products, and most of all – other people)

Be aware that your attitude is conveyed to others by body language, conversation, neatness, completeness of work, willingness to assist and contribute and many other ways. A sense of humor and the ability to be flexible are crucial – not just in this class but from now on – that is the nature of the classroom.

Respect

Be considerate of others. Do not use foul language; all contributions should be given in an ethical manner.

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 and I am here to support you throughout the semester!!!

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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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!!!