

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Secondary Education Program**

College of  
EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 



Promoting Learning & Development Across the Lifespan

**Fall 2011**  
**EDUC 675 Section 001**  
**Research in Secondary Education**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to help beginning teachers understand and enact concepts and principles of teacher research into their practice. Students will learn how to identify and use research literature and systematic evidence to improve practice for students' learning. Emphasis is placed on linking research and practice to make informed instructional decisions. *Co-requisite:* M.Ed. Exit Requirement. *Pre-requisites:* Licensure and EDUC674. To be taken as the last course in the M.Ed.

## **CEHD Core Values**

In 2006, the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) adopted five core values on which to focus: collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. This course supports each of these values by providing multiple learning experiences that necessitate collaboration. Students are afforded opportunities to reflect on their teacher leadership roles in school contexts; to design and engage in innovative research-based practice, and analyze and reflect on their pedagogies on a critical reflection level for social justice. These Core Values are aligned with course goals:

## **COURSE GOALS**

This course is designed to enable students to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the process and components used in teacher research by conducting and assessing a chosen scholarly inquiry situated in their classroom and impact on students' learning; **RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICE; INNOVATION**
2. prepare a research proposal which makes explicit links between theory and practice; **RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICE**
3. examine ethical considerations when conducting teacher research; **RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICE; SOCIAL JUSTICE**
4. conduct teacher research which includes: research question(s), research proposal; review of related literature, methods, data collection/analysis, findings, discussion of impact on students, teacher, and education field; and abstract; **RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICE**
5. participate in "critical collaborative inquiries" to gain multiple perspectives in interpreting research and for validation and peer review of research; **COLLABORATION; ETHICAL LEADERSHIP**
6. demonstrate integration of national and state standards for content and pedagogy as related to the research question by reflecting on their own teaching practice and its impact on students' learning; **SPA STANDARDS** respective to students' discipline;
7. demonstrate skills in the application of technology and use of resources in teacher research; **INNOVATION**

## **RELATIONSHIP TO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

At the end of this course students will demonstrate an understanding and application of subject area standards aligned with the *National Content Standards* and identified by their Specialized Professional Association (SPA); and an understanding and application of teaching and learning standards as outlined by *INTASC*.

National Content Standards for student's respective discipline: NCSS, NCTE, NCTM, NSTA

National Council for the Social Studies <http://www.ncss.org/>

National Council of Teachers of English <http://www.ncte.org/>

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics <http://www.nctm.org/>

National Science Teachers Association <http://www.nsta.org/>

<http://books.nap.edu/readingroom/books/nses/>

INTASC: Interstate New Teacher Assistance and Support Consortium

<http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/corestrd.pdf>

Also visit: The Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Framework

[http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=120](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=120)

National Board of Professional Teaching Standards

[http://www.nbpts.org/the\\_standards/the\\_five\\_core\\_propositio](http://www.nbpts.org/the_standards/the_five_core_propositio)

## **COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS AND UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE**

The Graduate School of Education (GSE) expects that all students abide by the following: Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and dispositions.

### *Commitment to the profession*

- Promoting exemplary practice
- Excellence in teaching and learning
- Advancing the profession
- Engagement in partnerships

### *Commitment to honoring professional ethical standards*

- Fairness
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Trustworthiness
- Confidentiality
- Respect for colleagues and students

### *Commitment to key elements of professional practice*

- Belief that all individuals have the potential for growth and learning
- Persistence in helping individuals succeed
- High standards
- Safe and supportive learning environments
- Systematic planning
- Intrinsic motivation
- Reciprocal, active learning
- Continuous, integrated assessment
- Critical thinking
- Thoughtful, responsive listening
- Active, supportive interactions
- Technology-supported learning
- Research-based practice
- Respect for diverse talents, abilities, and perspectives
- Authentic and relevant learning

### *Commitment to being a member of a learning community*

- Professional dialogue
- Self-improvement
- Collective improvement
- Reflective practice
- Responsibility
- Flexibility
- Collaboration
- Continuous, lifelong learning

### *Commitment to democratic values and social justice*

- Understanding systemic issues that prevent full participation
- Awareness of practices that sustain unequal treatment or unequal voice
- Advocate for practices that promote equity and access
- Respects the opinion and dignity of others
- Sensitive to community and cultural norms
- Appreciates and integrates multiple perspectives

### *Student Expectations*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

### *Campus Resources*

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

You are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts by visiting the website <https://alert.gmu.edu>. There are emergency posters in each classroom explaining what to do in the event of crises. Further information about emergency procedures exists on <http://www.gmu.edu/service/cert>.

### **REQUIRED TEXT**

Samaras, A. P. (2011). *Self-study teacher research: Improving your practice through collaborative inquiry*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

**ONLINE STUDENT STUDY SITE FOR TEXT:** <http://www.sagepub.com/samaras/>

See Chapter Resources for each chapter:

- [PowerPoint Slides](#)
- [Self-Study Scholar Advice](#)
- [Chapter Summary](#)
- [Discussion Question](#)

**Accompanying Textbook BLOG:** You are encouraged to visit the textbook blog and add comments at <http://teaching-insideout.com/>. To subscribe, the URL of my RSS feed to my blog is <http://teaching-insideout.com/feed/>

## REQUIRED READINGS

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual* (6<sup>th</sup>.ed.). Washington, DC, American Psychological Association (Available as reference at library).  
McNiff, J., Lomax, P., & Whitehead, J. (2003). Chapter 2, The main features of action research process. In, *You and your action research project*. London and NY: RoutledgeFalmer.  
Access through GMU, Library, e-reserves. Password = "research"  
*Other assigned readings made available in class.*

## NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

The major purpose of this course is for you to learn how to conduct teacher research and apply it in your classroom in order to improve your teaching and students' learning. Having said that, I would like to let you know that I support you *every step* of the way and help you scaffold the components of your final required paper. I also work to promote a professional teaching and learning community of peer critical friend support. Throughout the course, you are completing a step informally that you later insert into your final paper. Build it with a commitment to each step in the process, and it comes together! The course will be taught through a variety of activities to support the development of your self-study teacher research projects involving: whole class and small group discussions, group, pair and group work, online work, and through dialogue and reflections about practice.

***\*\*\*The course requires that you have access to a classroom to conduct your research. If you do not have your own classroom, you will need to let me know during our first class. Alternative arrangements used successfully in the past will be offered.***

## COURSE MATERIALS ONLINE

The My Mason/ Blackboard site can be found at <http://mymason.gmu.edu>. Use the same login as your GMU email. Web-based documents and correspondence are accessible through a course Blackboard page which you must assess and use regularly throughout the course and which require you to be able to post and access. You must have access to GMU email and with other email account forwarded to GMU mail account on [MyMason](#). **Please inform of any accessibility problems the first day of class. SAVE YOUR WORK FREQUENTLY.**

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Participation and Class Assignments	30%
1. Attendance, Class Activities, Readings	
2. Critical Friend Inquiries in Class and Online Work	
3. Research Proposal	
4. Draft Literature Review	
5. Peer Review of Research Project Draft	
Teacher Research Project Report	70%

## BEST PRACTICES SHOWCASE

*Best Practices Showcase* (BPS) is the **MEd. Exit Requirement** where you as an MEd. Candidate present your understandings, applications, and critical reflection of standards-based and content pedagogical knowledge to peers, faculty, and school community partners. The essence of the BPS includes requires submission of 3 artifacts where you *Describe, Interpret and Analyze* best practices, assessing the impact of your pedagogies on student learning and on your professional development. **NOTE: The Best Practices Showcase is NOT included as part of your grade for EDUC675. However, you MUST successfully complete your Best Practices**

**Showcase and present it to the Secondary Program Faculty. Your GRADE for EDUC675 will be posted only upon successful completion of the Best Practices Showcase requirements.** Information will be provided about BPS.

### ***Weekly Exit Folders***

Each of you will be given an exit file folder. At the end of each class, please take a minute and write the **BIG ideas** you learned for that class and the **BURNING questions** you have in your exit folder. Please date each entry. Your comments will provide feedback to help me be responsive to your learning needs. Turn your folder in at the end of each class.

## **1. Participation and Class Assignments (30%)**

### ***Attendance***

Attendance at all classes, for the entire class period is a course expectation and absence will affect your grade. Successful completion of this course requires attendance at all classes and active participation in the discussions. Being on time is also essential and lateness will affect your grade. Please notify instructor ahead of time if you must miss class and work with peers for missed material.

### ***Readings, Class Activities, and Online Participation***

You are expected to complete all readings and participate in class and all online discussions with openness, consideration, and effort to “hear for” and “listen to” others as you also seek to be understood. Come to class prepared to contribute your critical reflections of your own experiences and ideas presented by your critical friends. Demonstration of positive and collaborative professional dispositions towards colleagues during peer review, along with a willingness to accept constructive criticism is a course expectation and a professional disposition.

### ***Critical Friend Inquiries (CFI)***

As part of your course participation, you will have the opportunity to work with critical friends in the process of developing your final research project. The CFI are designed for peer review with support and to provide alternative perspectives on interpretation to increase the validity of your research. Your work involves sharing weekly updates in class, sending and corresponding to critical friend research memos, brainstorming ideas as a teacher about the classroom dilemma you are researching, exchanging ideas for strategies and lessons, sharing how you are integrating standards in meaningful ways, and conducting a peer review of the draft research report. You will have the opportunity to work in a discipline-based team for peer review of your research draft which is a reciprocal process.

Critical friends provide support as well as a feedback loop to improve your practice. It is *critical* to have friends in research but critical friends are *not critical* in their approach with each other. Establish ground rules with “critical friends” and visit them often. Use your group blackboard space to post files and communicate frequently.

### ***Assignments***

Since this is a professional development course (post licensure), high quality work (i.e., “A” work) is expected on all assignments and in class participation. All assignments must be completed. Assignment will be assessed using posted criteria known to the student. For full consideration, all assignments are due to professor *electronically* in the digital drop box prior to

the beginning of class on the day and time they are due, unless otherwise announced. Blackboard will not accept deposits after the due date and time of class.

All written assignments are to be word-processed using Times Roman 12 pt font, double-spaced, and submitted electronically under “Assignments” on MyMason. You need to install Java at [java.com](http://java.com) to upload assignments. **Title each assignment with your last name and the name of the project/assignment, e.g., Smith.ResProp.09.16.11.** Keep a copy of all assignments which you will insert into the appendix of your report. **MAKE IT A HABIT TO SAVE YOUR DRAFT AND FINAL WORK IN MULTIPLE PLACES.**

All assignments require: American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. American Psychological Association: Washington, DC. (Available as reference at library). \*For APA Guidelines online: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

**\*See Tentative Schedule for ALL Assignments, some of which are located in our textbook.**

**Each assignment is purposely designed to scaffold the building of your final report:**

<b>Abstract</b>	In-class workshop (completed after study is enacted)
<b>Research Question</b>	In-class activity and Research Artifact
<b>Rationale</b>	CFI 5.1, pp. 96-97      Education-related Life History
<b>Literature Review</b>	Review of Literature
<b>Data</b>	Research Proposal & CFI 8.1, pp. 171-172 Pedagogies & Data
<b>Analysis</b>	CFI 11.1, p. 215 Data Analysis
<b>Validation</b>	In-class workshop, CFI 11.2, p. 220
<b>Writings &amp; Limitations</b>	In-class workshop
<b>Research Draft</b>	Ongoing peer review and feedback
<b>Discussion/Implications</b>	In-class Presentation

***Recommended Weekly Researcher Log***

It is highly recommended that you keep a researcher log of progress of your project each week and include it in the appendix of your final report. **See Self-Study Research Project Timeline Log in Chapter 2. Table 2.2, pp. 28-29).** This is your tentative timeline and tool to self-regulate your progress and the research process.

***Research Question and Proposal***

*It must be love:* For your research paper, you should choose a research question that really matters to you. It should be something you’re curious about and willing to spend time researching and learning about. If you aren’t eager to spend several days curled up reading about your topic, then it’s not love, and you need to ditch it and find another topic (Roberts, GMU alumna, 2009). Begin to articulate why this question for you and why now. What is the outgrowth of this puzzlement?

Write a research proposal. You may also elect to add a visual representation to your research proposal. The idea is for the visual to help you figure out your “thesis” and not to enter an art show. Approach this assignment from where you are and honor its incompleteness as part of the research process. Ask yourself does the proposal give you a solid framework to launch your project. Include each subtitle listed on p. 123 in our textbook. See example on pp. 124-126.

### ***Draft Literature Review***

Post a draft of your literature review on MyMason and begin to ask yourself:

- What does the literature review add to your understanding of your research topic?
- What common topics and themes have you found in the literature?
- What ideas for pedagogical strategies can you adapt from the literature?

Use the topics to design your conceptual framework or mapping of the “big ideas” and connections you find in the literature to your study (See pp. 127-134). Format is your choice, e.g. annotated bibliography, narrative to insert directly into final report

### **Rubric for Participation and Class Assignments**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Exemplary 30 pts.</i>	<i>Accomplished 27-29 pts</i>	<i>Developing 25-26 pts</i>	<i>Undeveloped Below 25 pts</i>
<i>Attendance/ Participation</i> Attendance and participation are critical components of this course. It offers an opportunity to learn from and contribute to building a positive classroom experience and community. Participants contribute to each others’ learning in critical friend work by actively listening, exchanging ideas, sharing learning from reading and websites, and supporting each other’s efforts.	Outstanding Participation; participates regularly and actively in discussions and activities. Promotes conversation focused on the topic. Comments demonstrate a high level of understanding and contribution from assigned readings. Listens actively to peers. Works very closely and consistently with peers/ critical friends for feedback and input.	Participates in discussions and activities on a regular basis; questions and comments reveal thought and reflection and contribution from assigned readings. Frequently involves peers in learning and offers feedback.	Does not contribute to discussions or activities very often, but generally reveals some thought and reflection and some contribution from assigned readings. Follows rather than leads group activities. Solicits some peer discussion. Misses classes. Is late for class.	Few meaningful contributions to class discussions. Little evidence of participation and contribution from assigned readings. Shows little concern for peers’ learning or input. Misses classes and is late for class. Does not make up work.

## **2. Teacher Research Project (70%)**

You are required to write a report that includes the following sections: Rationale/Introduction, Research Question, Review of Related Literature, Method, Context, Participants, Data Collection, Analysis, Findings, Limitations, and Discussion including your reflections of self-study and implications for practice/further research. All teacher research reports must adhere to APA format. No report binders or covers; just clip. Your project should be useful to you and your students. **A written a report that includes the specific headings and subheading are posted below. They are also available on MyMason and pp. 244-249 of our textbook. Look at the headings at the beginning of the semester so you can see where you are headed. Look at the newest sample reports posted on Bb.**



**Performance-Based Assessment of Teacher Research Project**  
Criteria for Evaluating the Research Report (70 Total Possible Points)

**Abstract**

1. Have you provided a single, articulate, concise paragraph of no more than 150 words
2. Does you abstract concisely describe your purpose and the context, method, key findings, and significance of your research?

*5 points possible*

**Rationale**

1. Have you explained the outgrowth of your study?
2. Have you offered perspectives that shaped this question for you?
3. Have you situated the study in terms of explaining the outgrowth of this puzzlement in the context of your work? e.g., your students, classroom, school, district
4. Have you clearly and concisely explained why this research is important? Have you addressed the broader educational and social significance of this research?

*5 points possible*

**Statement of the Research Problem/Question**

1. Have you clearly and concisely stated the research problem?
2. Have you clearly and concisely stated your main research question and any subquestions?

*5 points possible*

**Review of Literature and Conceptual Framework**

1. Did you conduct an ongoing literature review which informed your research?
2. Is the review relevant and connected to your study?
3. Is the review adequate, coherent, and analytical?
4. Does the review include references from a variety of sources?
5. Is the review integrated into a conceptual framework with a mapping of the theories, literature, and phenomena that help to inform your study?

*10 points possible*

**Research Method**

1. Have you described your research context; community, school, and classroom context?
2. Have you included demographic information of participants?
3. Did you include your reflection of the problem? e.g., behaviors observations, possible causes?
4. Have you explained the reasons for your pedagogies based on your noticing of your classroom and the literature reviewed?
5. Have you described in detail what data you collected, how you collected it, and when you collected it, including data generated from your pedagogies and strategies?
6. Are your data from multiple sources?
7. Did you include a description of the pedagogical strategies you enacted?
8. Did you explain how you analyzed your data and include a data audit trail?
9. Have you included and explained the role of your critical friends in your data interpretations and validation?
10. Did you explore using visuals and technologies for analyzing and displaying your findings in a coherent manner?

*15 points possible*

## Findings

1. Did you restate your research question and what was found through your research?
2. Are the findings thoroughly and adequately presented?
3. Is there convincing evidence to support your themes?
4. Is there connection and coherence among the separate themes?
5. Did you explain your findings to your critical friend to gain his or her perspective on your interpretations?

*10 points possible*

## Discussion, Reflections on Self-Study of Teaching, and Implications

**\*You will also present this orally in class. See Present.Reflection\_Implications on Bb.**

1. Have you assessed meeting the Five Foci (methodological components) of self-study research using CFI 11.3 (pp. 222-225)?
2. Have you adequately explained the implications of your study to your students' learning?
3. Have you adequately explained the implications of your study to your professional development?
4. Have you adequately explained the implications of your study to your teaching and reframing of your practice? Revisit your original research question. Take a retrospective journey and reflect back on the "self" or your role and the conscious (and perhaps at the time unconscious) consequences of your actions in the process of studying your teaching practice.
5. Have you adequately explained the implications of your study to the education field?
6. Have you adequately explained the relevance of your study to national and state education standards?
7. Have you discussed any limitations?
8. Have you identified areas for future research possibilities?

*15 points possible*

## References and Appendix

1. Did you follow the APA style for the report for a running head, page numbering, references, citations, and the appendix? Does the report include a title page with project title, author's name, and author's professional affiliation?
2. Are references current and from different sources?
3. Are all references cited in the research report included in the references? Have you provided a complete reference list of all print and nonprint (Internet) references?

## Organization, Grammar, and Mechanics

1. Is the report coherent, concise, and well structured with a clear purpose?
2. Is the report grammatically correct with proper usage of language?
3. Does the report have your distinctive focus and voice? Have you used professional language (i.e., no jargon)? Have you written in an accessible style and presentation?

*5 points possible*

*Grading Scale for Research Project:*

**Exemplary:** 70 points. Substantially meets the project and report requirements. All criteria are addressed fully.

**Accomplished:** 63-69 points. Meets the project and report requirements. Criteria adequately addressed.

**Developing:** 58-62 points. Meets some, but not all, of the project and report requirements. Weaknesses in addressing some of the criteria. Consider revision.

**Undeveloped:** 57 points and below. Does not meet the project and report requirements. Weaknesses in addressing the majority of the criteria. Needs significant revision.

Please note that B- is not a passing grade in licensure courses. A student who receives an overall grade of B- must repeat the course.

Grading Scale				
Grade	Standards	Grading	Grade Points	Graduate Courses
A	Meets Standard	93 – 100	4.00	Satisfactory / Passing
A-	Meets Standard	90 – 92.9	3.67	Satisfactory / Passing
B+	Approaches Standard	88 – 89.9	3.33	Satisfactory / Passing
B	Approaches Standard	83 – 87.9	3.00	Satisfactory / Passing
B-	Approaches Standard	80 – 82.9	2.67	Satisfactory* / Passing

## READING RESOURCES

### **Teacher Research**

- Falk, B., & Blumenreich, M. (2005). *The power of questions: A guide to teacher and student research*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.
- Goodnough, K. (2001). Teacher development through action research. *Action in teacher education*, 23 (1), 37-46. Access through GMU, Library, e-journal.
- Greely, K. (2000). *Why fly that way?: Living community and academic achievement*. NY: Teachers College.
- Hubbard, R. S., & Power, B. (1999). *Living the questions: A guide for teacher-researchers*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse.
- Kagan, D. M. (1993). *Laura and Jim and what they taught me about the gap between educational theory and practice*. NY. State University of New York Press.
- Kosnik, C., Beck, C., Freese, A. R., & Samaras, A. P. (Eds.), (2006). *Making a difference in teacher education through self-study: Studies of personal, professional, and program renewal*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer.
- Leedy, P. D., and Ormrod, J. E. (2001). *Practical research: Planning and design*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill.
- MacLean, M.S. & Mohr, M. (1999). *Teacher-researchers at work*. National Writing Project, Berkeley, CA.
- Samaras, A. P., & Freese, A. R. (2006). *Self-study of teaching practices primer*. New York, NY: Peter Lang.
- Samaras, A. P., Freese, A. R., Kosnik, C., & Beck, C. (Eds.) (2008). *Learning communities in practice*. The Netherlands: Springer Press.
- Thomas, R. M. (2005). *Teachers doing research: An introductory guidebook*. Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

### **Qualitative Analysis**

- Bogdan, R. C., & Biklen, S. K. (1992). *Qualitative research for education: An introduction to theory and methods*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

- Czaja, R., & Blair, J. (1996). *Designing surveys: A guide to decisions and procedures*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
- Miles, M. B., & Huberman, A. M. (1994). *Qualitative data analysis*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Patton, M. Q. (1990). *Qualitative evaluation and research methods (Second Edition)*. CA: Sage.
- Strauss, A., & Corbin, J. (1990). *Basics of qualitative research: Grounded theory procedures and techniques*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

### ***Quantitative Analysis and Statistics***

- Bartz, A. E. (1999). *Basic statistical concepts (4<sup>th</sup> ed)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill.
- Cronk, B. C. (2002). *How to use SPSS: A step-by-step guide to analysis and interpretation(2<sup>nd</sup> ed)*. Los Angeles, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.
- Jaeger, R. M. (1993). *Statistics: A spectator sport (Second Edition)*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Rovessi, C., & Carroll, D. J. (2002). *Statistics made simple for school leaders*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.
- Salkind, N. (2000). *Statistics for people who think they hate statistics*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

### ***Research and Writing***

- Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (1995). *The craft of research*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago.
- Dahl, K. K. (1992). *Teacher as writer: Entering the professional conversation*. Urbana, IL: NCTE.

*Writing a Research in Action Paper*

[Writinghttp://www.gmu.edu/departments/english/composition/wits/research/index.html](http://www.gmu.edu/departments/english/composition/wits/research/index.html)

***Help with Research*** <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/Dox/basics.html>

***Data Collecting Tools:*** Go to Google docs, then spreadsheets to create survey.

Also Survey Monkey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/home.asp>

### ***National Reports and Test Reporting Centers***

- A Nation at Risk <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/NatAtRisk/risk.html>
- The Nation's Report Card/National Assessment of Educational Progress <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>
- National Center for Educational Statistics <http://nces.ed.gov/help/sitemap.asp>
- TIMSS and PIRLS The International Math and Science Study and International Literacy Study <http://www.timss.org/>
- Best Evidence/School Reform Reports/School Models. Johns Hopkins University <http://www.bestevidence.org/index.htm>

### ***Virginia State Standards***

- Virginia Department of Education <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/>
- State of Virginia, SOL Resources <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/sol.html>
- State of Virginia Standards of Learning Test Information <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/src/SOLassessments.shtml>
- FCPS Grading Policy <http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/Directives/R2430.pdf>

## Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings/Assignment Due <i>*Post all work to CFs &amp; Professor on MyMason Bb</i>
1 8/29	OVERVIEW OF COURSE AND PROJECT  FINDING YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION	<b>Read</b> Preface and Chapter 1  In class activity: “I wonder about” inquiry. Use Critical Friend Inquiry (CFI) 1.1 pp. 5-6
9/5	Labor Day NO CLASS	
2 9/12	RESEARCH RATIONALE  RESEARCH DESIGN	Overview Chapters 2 & 12 Overview Self-Study Resource Center at <a href="http://www.sagepub.com/samaras/">http://www.sagepub.com/samaras/</a>  <b>Bring <i>Research Artifact</i> and present reflections</b> Use CFI 5.3 pp. 104-106 <b>Read</b> McNiff, Lomax, & Whitehead on e-reserves (“research”) <b>Read</b> Chapter 6
3 9/19	<b>ONLINE WORK</b> BEGIN LITERATURE REVIEW  <b>Tentative BPS</b> <b><u>Workshop I 9/19</u></b> <b>4:30-7 pm</b> <b>Innovation 328</b>  <b><u>Workshop II 9/21</u></b> <b>7:20-10pm</b> <b>Innovation 319</b>	<b>Read</b> Chapter 4 <b>POST <i>Education-related Life History</i></b> Use CFI 5.1 pp. 95-98
4 9/26	RESEARCH ETHICS  ORGANIZE DATA	<b>Read</b> Chapters 7 & 8 <b>Bring</b> working research question and draft design
5 10/3	<b>ONLINE WORK</b>	<b>POST</b> <b><i>Working Research Question</i></b> <b><i>Rationale</i></b> <b><i>Review of Literature</i></b>

Week	Topic	Readings/Assignment Due <i>*Post all work to CFs &amp; Professor on MyMason Bb</i>
	Columbus Day Recess NO CLASS 10/10	<b>*NOTE: Mon classes meet instead on Tues Oct 11 this week. We meet on 10/11 this week.</b>
<b>6</b> <b>10/11</b>	DATA COLLECTION WORKSHOP	Read Chapter 9 <b>POST Research Proposal</b> Use CFI 6.3, pp. 123-126
<b>7</b> <b>10/17</b>	<b>ONLINE WORK</b>	<b>POST Data Collection/Pedagogical Strategies Research Memo</b> Use CFI 8.1 & Response, pp. 171-172
<b>8</b> <b>10/24</b>	DATA ANALYSIS	<b>Read Chapter 10</b> <b>POST Data Analysis Research Memo</b> Use CFI 11.1 & Response, p. 215
<b>9</b> <b>10/31</b>	<b>ONLINE WORK</b>	<b>Read Chapter 11</b> <b>POST: Post Draft 1 of Research Paper Draft with Project Title</b>
<b>10</b> <b>11/7</b>	VALIDATION WORKSHOP  WRITING YOUR FINDINGS	<b>Read Chapter 12</b> Bring a piece of data for check coding. CFI 11.2 pp. 220 will be done in class workshop <b>POST: Research Paper Draft 2 with Project Title</b>
<b>11</b> <b>11/14</b>	<b>ONLINE WORK</b>	<b>POST: CF Feedback on Research Draft 2</b> Use tracking and comments feature on Microsoft Office
<b>12</b> <b>11/21</b>	ABSTRACT LIMITATIONS WORKSHOP	<b>Read Chapter 13</b> <b>Bring</b> your abstract draft on jump drive
<b>13</b> <b>11/28</b>	<b>ONLINE WORK</b>	<b>Work with CF for final manuscript polishing</b>
<b>14</b> <b>12/5</b>	PRESENT: REFRAMING OF PRACTICE/ IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING	<b>Bring</b> Discussion Section of your project to class to share  <b>*POST and BRING hard copy of Final Research Project Paper</b>
<b>12/8</b>	<b>BPS Med. Program Exit Conference</b> <b>December 8</b> <b>5:30- 8 pm.</b> <b>Location will be announced</b>	<b>**SEED Program – The Best Practices Showcase Presentation is mandatory for the M.Ed. degree. The Best Practices Showcase grade is P/F and has NO impact on the grade for EDUC675. However, your grade for EDUC675 will not be released until the Best Practices Showcase receives a grade of ‘P’.</b>