

EDU 201: Exploration of Research
Mount St. Mary's University - Education Department

Spring 2020, Course Syllabus
Select Thursdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Hybrid)
January 16, 2020 to May 6, 2020

Instructor: Lorenza Arengo-Yarnes, Ph.D

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Phone: 213-761-4923 – (Calls or texts)

Best contact method is email. Estimated response time to email and/or phone: 24 hours

Office hours: You can contact me in advance to schedule an appointment

Class Dates: We meet on select Thursdays 5:30-8:30

January 16, January 30, *February 13 (online)*, February 27, *March 19 (online)*,
April 2, *April 16 (online)*, Wednesday, May 6 (*meet at Donahue Center*)

Location (Face to Face meeting): Building 4, Room 207

Course Description:

This course provides you with the foundation needed to conduct research, more fully engage in academic writing, and improve your practices towards increasing student achievement. Through access, exposure, explanation, and demonstrated understanding of the various approaches to and explanations of education research, you will develop facility in reading research articles and applying knowledge gained to your teaching practices and to issues of importance in education. (This course is generally taken in preparation for EDU 200.)

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

1. You will gain the ability to generate a research question and prepare that question for the Master's research project by reflecting on your classroom or school environment.
2. You will attain knowledge of the research process.
3. You will attain knowledge and use of library resources including online research through the Mt. St. Mary's University libraries.
4. You will develop the ability to evaluate and select articles, reports, and other information relevant to the research question.
5. You will develop the ability to write academically for research purposes and use APA style.

Required Texts: No Required Texts

Course Assignments:

Description of Assignments:

Written assignments are due as indicated on the syllabus by the class start time. They should be professionally presented; that is, written in error-free standard academic English, typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double-spaced with 1-inch margins using American Psychological Association (APA) style. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior agreement is made with the professor. **Up to 1 point per day will be deducted for late assignments.** Point deduction will be in proportion to the date received and reason, at the discretion of the professor. Point deduction may also occur even with advance notice and arrangement with the professor.

Discussion Forum Posts (12 pts) An important part of the research process is reflection and collaboration. You will be presented with six different questions/scenarios related to the research process and asked to post your response on a discussion forum on Angel. After you have written and posted your reflection, you will be asked to read and respond to a colleague's response. These reflections will also be a part of your research journal. **(Course Objectives #1, 2, 3, 4)**

Concept Map (20pts) The **Concept Map** will be described completely in a separate handout. Developing and focusing the research problem is the first step in designing and creating the research hypothesis and developing your project. In this assignment you will be asked to create a concept map observing and detailing possible problems and/or issues at your school site that could be researched further. **(Course Objectives #1, 2)**

Data Reflection (16 pts) Part of the reflection process is reflecting on your classroom dynamics. In this assignment, you will gather data on your students. The data will be based on your observed classroom needs. You can gather test data, behavior inventories, rubrics. What you gather will be determined by what you are most interested in researching. We will look at different methods in organizing data so that it provides another perspective in reflecting on your students. This assignment will be described completely in a separate handout. **(Course Objectives #2, 4)**

Research Problem Write-Up (20 pts) The **Research Problem Write-Up** will be described completely in a separate handout. APA (American Psychological Association) style is the format you will be using in your educational research writing. In this assignment you will be asked to describe and detail the research problem you identified in the concept map. You will need to write your description using APA style. **(Course Objectives #1, 5)**

Reference List and Summaries (20 pts) The **Reference List and Summaries** will be described completely in a separate handout. APA (American Psychological Association) style is the format you will be using in your educational research writing. In this assignment you will begin to gather research articles related to your research problem. You will use APA style to cite the articles and write brief summaries of them. **(Course Objectives #2, 3, 5)**

Research Journal and Presentation (12 pts) The **Research Journal and Presentation** will be described completely in a separate handout. You will write your reflections in a journal format as you go through the research process. Prompts will be given that help guide your thinking as your research process evolves. **(Course Objectives #1, 2, 3)**

Course Format:

This course is a hybrid course. The class will meet either online or in person on the Doheny campus, during the published course dates/times. Please check the Course Calendar below for specific dates and times for meetings. All course documents, including assignment guidelines and rubrics, will be available on Canvas, and all assignments will be submitted through Canvas.

Classroom Policies:

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes:

Student learning is at the core of the MSMU Los Angeles mission. MSMU faculty developed a plan to assess the student-learning outcomes that represent the knowledge, skills and attitudes expected of MSMU's graduate students. In this class one or more student learning outcomes will be assessed. Some of our class assignments may be used to evaluate overall student learning and to improve teaching and learning in this class, this department, and throughout the College.

Class Participation: In each meeting there will be many strategies modeled, new information discussed and skills practiced. These activities cannot be made up. Absences and tardies will affect your learning and your grade. *Please note that you will lose 2 points from your overall total for each missed session.*

When you miss your second session, you will need to do an additional assignment. Missing more than 2 sessions will result in an administrative withdrawal from the class (W).

In addition, some of the most important announcements are made during the first 15 minutes of class – therefore, it is critical that you arrive to class on time. accumulated minutes will be counted as tardies. Accumulated tardies will be counted as absences.

Please see me as soon as possible if you are experiencing personal difficulties with getting to class on time. On those occasions when you are late, please check with a classmate to see what information or announcements you may have missed.

Email: Please check your MSMU email account(s) regularly. This is the primary way I communicate with you. I will also send email via Canvas, so please make sure you regularly check there as well.

E-Learning System (Canvas): Course information (syllabus), grading, assignment information, and student attendance can be found on the Canvas site for this class. All assignments will also be submitted on Canvas for this class on or before the date they are due.

Formatting: All assignments should be thoughtfully prepared, written in standard academic English, free of grammatical and spelling errors, and typed. Use 12-point Times New Roman font, 2.0-spacing, APA style and one-inch margins. Written work with multiple grammatical and/or spelling errors per page will receive point reductions, so please proof-read!

Grading Scale

Grade Equivalents in Percentages

A	= 100-94%	C+	=79-77%
A-	= 93-90%	C	= 76-74%
B+	= 89-87%	C-	= 73-70%
B	= 86- 84%	D	= 69-65%
B-	= 83 –80%	F	=64% and below

Peer Support: Please exchange phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses with your classmates/colleagues for mutual help and support. Find a friend who will read and edit your assignments with you. If you're absent, I expect you to check in with a classmate and meet to discuss what you've missed.

Submitting work: All assignments should be submitted on Canvas for this class on or before the date they are due. In-class assignments are due the day they are assigned.

Writing Style: The style and quality of professional writing you are expected to produce in this class can be very challenging! Plan to start your drafts early, and get as much assistance from your instructor and peers as possible. Please also note that MSMU's PARC offers **free** services of Graduate Writing Tutors. They can be contacted at PARC@msmu.edu. *You may be required to schedule a visit with PARC if your instructor feels you need this additional assistance.*

MSMU Los Angeles University and Education Department Policies:

Absences:

Your attendance helps us build a class community. Arriving on time allows everyone to benefit from planned activities and discussions, as the class functions as a lab and instructors strive to model a variety of pedagogical practices. Timeliness also is an indication of professionalism and generates an important and lasting positive impression. Also, please limit absences to no more than one session for a 1 or 2-unit course or two sessions for a 3 or 4-unit course. Students will have an opportunity to do a make-up assignment if there is an additional absence due to an emergency. If more than three absences occur, so much content will have been missed that an administrative withdrawal would be necessary and you would be invited to re-register for the course during a subsequent semester. If any concern arises that will prevent you from arriving to class regularly and/or in a timely way, please come talk with me so we can work together to ensure your successful course completion. For online sessions, submitting the assignments for that session count as your attendance for that session. *Please note that you will lose 2 points from your overall total for each missed session. Extra credit learning opportunities will be provided, however, to recoup those points.*

Academic Freedom:

Student's and faculty's freedom of speech is constitutionally protected, so they are free to take exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion – and allow the same freedom for others. See MSMU's Student Handbook for further discussion.

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to adhere to their MSMU statements on Academic Integrity in the MSMU catalog and Student Handbook. This includes avoiding plagiarism and constructing your best work on each assignment. Papers and other work including images, should not be copied from the Internet. Infractions may be addressed by the MSMU administration and possibly include an AI Board review. For clarification on what constitutes plagiarism, students are encouraged to review the Preventing Plagiarism page on TurnItIn.com (see <https://www.turnitin.com/solutions/plagiarism-prevention>).

Calendar Verification:

Please review the schedule in the tentative course calendar carefully. Education Department course calendars may not align with the generally published MSMU holidays and break schedule due to the nature of a teacher preparation program.

- **Spring Break:** The MSMU Spring Break is observed for all education courses that meet on campus and the campus will also be closed. Courses involving other sites, such as for supervised teaching, will take their breaks consistent with the districts in which they take place. The result may be that those doing student teaching may not have any week that does not include Mount course meetings or obligations.
- **Study Days:** The “Study Days” policy does not apply to Education courses (including those cross-listed with UG students). As our courses meet only one day per week throughout each semester, it is not possible to lose an additional day. All students are expected to participate in class meetings (in person or online) on the final Thursday before finals.
- **Finals Week:** All Education evening courses meet as regularly scheduled during finals week.

Candidate Dispositions:

The Education Department has adopted a Dispositions Statement that outlines expectations of all credential and graduate students. (See the Education Department Student Handbook.) Students who do not meet expectations will receive a Notice of Concern as part of the Department’s formative feedback assessment process.

Incompletes:

Incompletes are meant to provide support for students who have experienced an emergency in their lives and need special consideration on a case-by-case basis. An application for an Incomplete may be granted only if the student:

- files the application no later than 1 week prior to finals
- has completed the majority of assignments
- on the basis of the work completed, has a passing grade in the class (C or better). This is not necessarily the same as the default grade. In other words, although the student may have a B grade for the completed work, if they fail the missing assignment or do not complete it, their final grade might be a D
- is prevented from completing the final assignment

Student Resources:**Professional and Academic Resource Center (PARC)**

- The Professional and Academic Resource Center (PARC) offers assistance to

graduate students in person, over the phone, or by videoconferencing. To schedule an appointment, access the PARC page on myMSMU:

<https://mountsaintmarysuniversi.sharepoint.com/sites/MYMSMU/academics/PARC>

- All appointments (in-person, phone, or online) are 45 minutes long. (213
- *You may be required to schedule a visit with the Learning Resource Center or PARC if your instructor feels you need this additional assistance.*

Students with Disabilities:

Mount Saint Mary's University, Los Angeles is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (chronic, medical, physical, learning, psychological, or temporary), or think you may have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation to participate in class, complete course requirements, or access the University's programs or services; contact Disability Services (DS) as soon as possible. To receive an accommodation, you must register with DS. DS works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without student consent. DS coordinates and promotes disability accommodations and awareness and works in partnership with faculty and all other student service offices. For further information about services for students with disabilities, contact DS at the Chalon Academic Support Center, H207, (310) 954-4142, or at the Doheny Student Resource Center, Building 3, (213) 477-2690. You can also email for more information at disability@msmu.edu.

Accommodation Policy:

Students with disabilities should consult the MSMU policies regarding commitment to equal educational opportunities for disabled students in the MSMU catalog.

Please be advised that this class may be audio- or video-recorded as an accommodation under the American with Disabilities Act, but only with prior permission from Disability Services and the instructor. Students may only use such recordings for personal use; no posting or further distribution or use is permitted.

Technology Policy: Candidates are expected to adhere to the MSMU technology policy as stated in the MSMU Student Handbook.

Writing Expectations: The MSMU Education Department expects all credential and masters candidates to demonstrate their ability to act as literacy models for K-12 students by submitting high quality, written assignments and projects. Candidates' assignments turned in with serious writing errors, including high numbers of typos, will either be asked to resubmit the assignment or have significant point/percentage reductions.

Other Guidelines:

- Exchange phone numbers and e-mails with a classmate for support.
- Find a friend to help you edit your assignments. They must be professionally presented in error-free standard academic English.
- Use PARC for tutoring and assistance as needed.

- Follow the college academic integrity policies in the catalog scrupulously. Dishonesty is unacceptable.
- Please e-mail the instructor with a question or to ask for an appointment for help. Asking questions is the best way to learn.

MSMU Office Information:

- Please call the Education Department Administrative Assistant to make an advisement appointment: (213) 477-2620.
- The fax number for the Education Department is (213) 477-2629.

Keep in mind that this is a working syllabus, as is the tentative course calendar that follows. The syllabus and calendar are subject to change and should not be construed as a contract. Exact dates of various in-class assignments may change.

**EDU 201: Exploration of Research.
TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDER**

Date	Topic(s)	Reading Due	Assignment(s) Due (All assignments due to Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on FRIDAY following the class meeting date, unless noted)
Session 1 Jan 16	Introduction to Course What is Educational Research? What is Action Research?		
Session 2 Jan 30	Being a Reflective Teacher: Observing a problem and developing the Research Question Framing the Research Question: Concept Map		Discussion Post 1 (Reply due Tuesday prior to class. Response to colleague due before class Thursday at 5:30. This applies to all Discussion Posts.)
Session 3 Feb 13 (online)	Topic Reflection and Exploration: Data Refleciton		Discussion Post 2 Concept Map
Session 4 February 27	Writing - Presenting the problem. Quoting v. paraphrasing. APA style writing		Discussion Post 3 Data Reflection Assignment
Session 5 Mar 19 (online)	Collecting Data: Searching Online for articles. Difference between types of articles		Research Problem Write-Up
Session 6 Apr 2	Evaluating Data: Annotating articles and using them for research Annotated Bibliography and including them in the Concept Map More APA style		Discussion Post 4
Session 7 Apr 16 (online)	Reflecting on the research process and research design		Reference List and Summaries Assignment
<i>Session 8</i> <i>Wed, May 6</i>	<i>Celebration of Learning</i> <i>4 to 5 pm</i> <i>Donahue Center</i>		