



Master of Arts in Higher Education

**HIED 560 Research Methods in Higher Education
Early Fall 2013**

Professor: Ron Burwell, Ph.D.
Email: rburwell@messiah.edu

Course Dates: August 25 – October 19
Cell Phone:

Faculty Availability: via email; phone. In general, you may expect a response to email or phone messages within 24 hours. It may also be possible to schedule an appointment via phone or Skype. Contact me to request an appointment.

Course Description

This course centers on the empirical study of issues in higher education. The course will offer a broad overview of research methods including introduction to such methods as qualitative, quantitative, single case designs, action research and mixed methods research. Some basic introduction to the fundamentals of statistical analysis will be included in the class as well as consideration of ethical and legal issues in research. The course will provide students with an understanding of contemporary research questions in higher education studies; teach students how to formulate empirical research questions; and identify research methods appropriate to particular types of questions.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

- a. be able to identify the importance of research in higher education
- b. understand the nature of research methods including qualitative and quantitative approaches
- c. have a basic introduction to which statistical methods are suited for conducting research and program evaluation
- d. be able to articulate the principles, methods and types of research that fit the needs of higher education including needs assessment and program evaluation
- e. demonstrate the ability to create a research design which could guide the study of a topic in higher education.
- g. evaluate the ethical and cultural dimensions of proposed research studies in higher education.

Textbook

Required:

Creswell, J.W. (2008). *Educational Research: Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research* (4th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Course Requirements

Weekly Schedule: At the beginning of each week, I will post an announcement that will give an overview of your requirements for that particular week. These are already posted in the calendar of the syllabus, but I am trying to make sure everyone is clear on the weekly assignments. Also, be sure to read through the entire course schedule so you can plan ahead for assignments. It is your responsibility to keep up with the requirements and due dates. The general rule of thumb for on line classes (3 credits) is that you will spend at least 42 hours on instructional time (attending class; listening to mini-lectures; reviewing PowerPoint files; posting responses to Forums; reviewing other resources available on the course website). Non-instructional time (homework; assignments) may vary from student to student but will require hours in addition to the instructional time.

Weekly Participation: Each week I will send out an announcement with a list of the week's assignments (see above). Once you complete the week's tasks, you should send me an email letting me know. If you complete all of those tasks for the week, you will get 10 points. The maximum total for this is **80 points**.

Forums: There will be a series of six discussion questions posted within Sakai in the Forums tool. One question will be presented each week on weeks 1 through 3 and weeks 5 through 7 [Note: there will be no required forum postings on weeks when there are tests (weeks 4 and 8)]. Students will be expected to post an **original response** to the question by 11:55 pm on Wednesday of the week and **follow up responses** to at least two other students by 11:55 pm on Saturday of that week. In addition, minimally all students will respond to any questions posted by other students about their comments. Original responses are to be between 300-350 words and are to include references to the readings for the week. Students who respond to more than two students, respond to follow up questions, incorporate outside readings into the responses, and demonstrate a clear comprehension of the material will receive higher grades. Grading will be as follows: Understanding and analysis of the readings (15 points), responses to other students that contributed to better understanding of course materials and facilitated additional conversation (5 points), correct APA style (3 points), incorporation of outside sources (not our required readings) (2 points). A grading rubric will be posted to help students understand the grading procedure for the forums. **Each week's postings can earn up to 25 points, for a total of 150 points.**

PowerPoint Presentations: (covering materials in the Creswell text and other information) Students will review the PowerPoint Presentations provided in the course web site. The information provided is considered part of the class time and is intended to assist students with materials helpful in case mastering the readings. In general, the Power Points will also be related to the recorded lectures that are part of the resources for the class.

Lectures – Audio Files: In addition to Power Points, there are MP3 audio files of class lectures that students are expected to listen to. Both MP3 audio files and PowerPoints can be found

under Resources in Sakai. These lectures correspond in most cases to chapters in the textbook and many of the Power Points. They and should be reviewed according to the following schedule:

Week	Lectures – Audio Files	PowerPoints
Aug 25 to Aug 31	Overview of Course Introduction to Research and Quantitative vs Qualitative Research	Introduction to Research Quantitative vs Qualitative Research Chapter One
Sept 1 to Sept 7	Ethics in Research Identifying a Research Problem	Ethics in Research Chapter Two
Sept 8 to Sept 14	Reviewing the Literature	Chapter Three
Sept 15 to Sept 21	Research Questions and Research Hypotheses	Chapter Four
Sept 22 to Sept 28	Quantitative Research Sampling	Chapter Five and Chapter Six Sampling
Sept 29 to Oct 5	Qualitative Research	Chapter Seven and Chapter Eight Interviewing
Oct 6 to Oct 12	Reporting Research	Chapter Nine
Oct 13 to Oct 19	Mixed Methods	Chapter Sixteen

Research Activities: Students will be expected to complete six research activities. See attached sheets for more information. The six research activities are also posted on the course web site..

Exams: There will be two exams in this course. The first exam will be given during week four and will cover materials covered during the first four weeks of the course. The second exam will be given during week eight and will cover material covered during the last four weeks of the course. Exams will definitely include essay questions and may also consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. Some of the portions of the exams may be timed. Students will be given examples of possible essay questions prior to each exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

Grading

Forum Posts (Discussion Board Questions) 150 (25x6=150 points)

Research Activities

Research Problem 30

Consent Form 30

Literature Review 75

Quantitative Analysis 30

Qualitative Analysis 30

Grade Scale:

A 93-100% B- 80-82%

A- 90-92% C+ 77-79%



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Mini-research Design	100	B+ 87-89%	C 73-76%
Exams (2 x 100 = 200 points)	200	B 83-86%	
Weekly Participation	80		
<i>Total Points Possible</i>	<i>725</i>		

Course Policies

Extra Credit: Generally extra credit points are not awarded in this course.

Late Assignments – All assignments are due by the 11:55 pm EST on the due date assigned. Check the Course Schedule (see below) and also the schedule in Sakai. A 5% deduction in the points available for each assignment will occur for each day an assignment is late (unexcused). Failure to complete any assignment by the end of the course could result in the student failing the whole course.

Assignments – All assignments will be returned to the student for review of the assigned grade (with the exception of Forums). In most cases there may be comments attached to the assignment. A grading rubric will be attached to the Literature Review and the Mini-Research Design. If students have questions about the grade assigned they may wish to contact the professor to discuss the grade. Students may also ask for clarification about a grade through email to the professor within three days of receiving the grade for any assignment.

Academic Integrity

Personal integrity is a behavioral expectation for all members of the Messiah community: administration, faculty, staff, and students. Violations of academic integrity are not consistent with the community standards of Messiah College. These violations include:

Plagiarism. Submitting as one’s own work part or all of any assignment (oral or written) which is copied, paraphrased, or purchased from another source, including on-line sources, without the proper acknowledgment of that source. Examples: failing to cite a reference, failing to use quotation marks where appropriate, misrepresenting another’s work as your own, etc.

Cheating. Attempting to use or using unauthorized material or study aids for personal assistance in examinations or other academic work. Examples: using a cheat sheet, altering a graded exam, looking at a peer’s exam, having someone else take the exam for you, using any kind of electronic mobile or storage devices (such as cell phones, PDAs, Blackberry, iPods, iPhones, Flashdrives, DVDs, CDs), communicating via email, IM, or text messaging during an exam, using the internet, sniffers, spyware or other software to retrieve information or other students’ answers, purposely disconnecting from the internet to cause a lock on an online exam.

Fabrication. Submitting altered or contrived information in any academic exercise. Examples: falsifying sources and/or data, etc.



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Misrepresentation of Academic Records. Tampering with any portion of a student's record. Example: forging a signature on a registration form or change of grade form on paper or via electronic means.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty. Helping another individual violate this policy. Examples: working together on an assignment where collaboration is not allowed, doing work for another student, allowing one's own work to be copied.

Computer Offenses. Altering or damaging computer programs without permission. Examples: software piracy, constructing viruses, introducing viruses into a system, copying copyrighted programs, etc.

Unfair Advantage. Attempting to gain advantage over fellow students in an academic exercise. Examples: lying about the need for an extension on a paper, destroying or removing library materials, having someone else participate in your place, etc.

Penalties for Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy - A faculty member may exercise broad discretion when responding to violations of the Academic Integrity Policy. The range of responses may include failure of the course to a grade reduction of the given assignment. The typical consequence for violations will be failure of the assignment. Some examples of serious offenses which might necessitate the penalty of the failure of the course include cheating on an examination, plagiarism of a complete assignment, etc.

The academic integrity policy in its entirety can be found in the student handbook and should be reviewed by every student, as the primary responsibility for knowledge of and compliance with this policy rests with the student.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student whose disability falls within ADA guidelines should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations or equipment needs necessary to complete the requirements for this course. Students must register documentation with the Office of Disability Services. Contact DisabilityServices@messiah.edu, (717) 796-5382.

Library and Librarian Assistance

The Library is an obvious source of information for research, presentations and projects. Currently, Beth Mark is the specific library liaison assigned to the higher education program. Although any librarian is trained and prepared to assist you, Beth works specifically with the educational area and is most familiar with the resources and databases that relate to this field. Do not hesitate to contact her if you are having trouble locating specific sources for your assignments, as she is more than willing to help you. For her specific work schedule, contact her directly at bmark@messiah.edu



Statement of Confidentiality

“Students in online courses will be asked to post written work and to engage in written dialogue with other class members. The student should be aware that although confidentiality within the course environment is encouraged, it is possible that users in and outside the course may have access to course content.”

Statement of Copyright Protection

“The materials on this course web site are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.”

Computer Requirements

Students who enroll in an online course must have basic computer skills including:

- A working knowledge of word processing
- Navigate the internet using different search engines
- Email (Compose, Attach, Send, Read)
- Utilize Microsoft Office programs (Word, PowerPoint and Excel)
- Copy and Paste

You must have access to a computer, the Internet, a web browser, and other software and hardware configuration as described below. Current Messiah College students taking online courses will continue to use their established computer account.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading Due	Assignments Due
Week 1 8/25 – 8/31	The process of research Quantitative vs. qualitative research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creswell: Ch. 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1 Forum • Assignment One Research Problem (August 31)
Week 2 9/1 – 9/7	Identifying a research problem Ethics of Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creswell: Ch. 2 • Creswell: pages 147 - 150 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 2 Forum • Assignment Two Consent Form (Sept. 7)
Week 3 9/8 – 9/14	Reviewing the literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creswell: Ch. 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 3 Forum • Assignment Three – Literature Review (Sept. 14)
Week 4 9/15 – 9/21	Research questions and hypotheses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creswell: Ch. 4 • Review chapters 1 through 4 for Test#1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEST#1 due by Sept. 21
Week 5 9/22 – 9/28	Collecting and analyzing quantitative data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creswell: Ch. 5 and 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 5 Forum • Assignment Four Analysis of Quantitative Data (Sept. 28)
Week 6 9/29 – 10/5	Collecting and analyzing qualitative data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creswell: Ch. 7 and 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 6 Forum • Assignment Five Analysis of Qualitative Data (October 5)
Week 7 10/6 – 10/12	Reporting and evaluating research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creswell: Chp. 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 7 Forum • Assignment Six due: Mini Research Design (October 15)
Week 8 10/13 – 10/19	Completing the project and course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creswell: Chp. 16 (or alternate) • Review chapters 5 through 9 for test#2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test#2 due: October 19

Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements

- Internet Connection: High speed or Broadband required; Satellite Broadband not recommended due to conflicts with synchronous software; Air cards may not be used
- Browser:
 - Mozilla Firefox 3.0 or higher (required)
- Operating System Version:
 - Windows® XP (recommended), or
 - Windows® Vista, or
 - Windows® 7, or
 - MAC OS 10.4 or higher
- Processor:
 - 2.0-4.0 GHz
- Memory (RAM):
 - Windows® XP: 512 MB or more; or
 - Windows® Vista: 1024 MB or more; or
 - MAC OS: 1024 MB or more
- Hard Disk Space: 40 GB or more of free space
- CD-ROM CD-RW drive (DVD or combo drive helpful)
- Any Office Suite:
 - MS Office 2007 or newer, or
 - OpenOffice 3.1, or
 - Google Docs
- Webcam and headset (no speakers)

Computer Support

For your convenience and support, a telephone hotline is available seven days a week in order to provide assistance for technological problems. **If you need personal assistance, telephone support is available by calling (717) 796-4444 during the following times:**

Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.—11 p.m. EST

Saturday-Sunday from 8 a.m.—11 p.m. EST

In the event you need to leave a message, please provide your name, number, and a brief description of the issue you are experiencing. You will receive a call back as soon as possible.

You will also have access to technical support (i.e. tutorials, help functions, etc.) through the College's portal, MCSquare, and also through the College's Learning Management System, Sakai.

Assignments – Brief summaries

There are a total of six (6) assignments in this course. Below are brief summaries of each assignment. More detailed instructions for each of these assignments are found in the **resources** section in Sakai. Note: Assignments will be due on Saturday (11:55 pm) except for the last assignment which is due on a Wednesday.

Assignment 1 - Research Problem

Each student is to develop a potential research problem related to the broad area of counseling. This will take the form of a single, carefully written paragraph that describes the research question/topic that you wish to address.

Points = 30

Due date = August 31

Assignment 2 – Consent Form

For the research problem in assignment 1, each student will create a “**Consent Form**” that is appropriate for your proposed research. You are encouraged to adopt an example from either Messiah College (cf., College Web) or your textbook.

Points = 30

Due date = September 7

Assignment 3 – Literature Review

For this project each student will complete a short (4-5 pages) paper based upon reading and analysis of three articles related to a possible research topic [see assignment#1]. The actual topic is open but will likely be related to your track (e.g., college athletics management, student affairs or individualized option).

Points = 75

Due date = September 14

Assignment 4 – Analysis of Quantitative Research Data

You will work with a set of data that seeks to answer questions related to performance in an English composition class. By analyzing the output from a statistics program you will be able to determine a possible screening protocol to place appropriately college students in composition classes.

Points = 30

Due date = September 28

Assignment 5 – Analysis of Qualitative Research Data

For this assignment you will code a set of responses by ten different people regarding what they consider to be the “ultimate” vacation. You will develop codes that capture reasons for taking a vacation, activities on vacation and possible locations for vacations.



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Points = 30

Due date = October 5

Assignment 6 – Mini Research Design

You will be expected to write a paper presenting a research design for a possible research project. In many cases this will involve materials from earlier assignments (e.g., assignments 1, 2 and 3). This hypothetical research project could serve the needs of an organization or it could be a proposal for a possible graduate thesis (cf. HIED565).

Points = 100

Due date = October 15

HIED560 – Research Methods in Higher Education Course Outline/Schedule

*Instructional Time (IT) 42 hrs / 3 credits

*Non-Instructional (N-IT)"Homework"

Week	Assignments	Hours*	
		IT	N-IT
Aug. 25 – Aug. 31	The Research Process; Quantitative vs. Qualitative Research		
	Read Creswell, Chps. 1		3
	Power Points & Audio Class Lectures	4	
	Read, Post and Respond in Forum Week1	2	
	Assignment One – Introduction & Research Problem		2
Sept. 1 – Sept. 7	Identifying a Research Problem; The Ethics of Research		
	Read Creswell, Chp. 2		1
	Power Points & Audio Class Lectures	4	
	Read, Post and Respond in Forum Week 2	2	
	Assignment Two – Consent Form		2
Sept. 8 – Sept. 14	Reviewing the Literature		
	Read Creswell, Chp. 3		1.5
	Power Points & Audio Class Lectures	4	
	Read, Post and Respond in Forum Week 3	2	
	Assignment Three – Literature Review		8
Sept. 15 – Sept. 21	Research Questions and Hypotheses		
	Read Creswell, Chp. 4	1.5	
	Power Points & Audio Class Lectures	4	
	Review Creswell, Chp. 1 to 4		3
	Test#1 – Creswell Chp. 1 to 4, PPTs& Audios - Feedback	2	
Sept. 22 – Sept. 28	Collecting and Analyzing Quantitative Data		
	Read Creswell, Chps. 5 & 6		3
	Power Points & Audio Class Lectures	4	
	Read, Post and Respond in Forum Week 5	2	
	Assignment Four – Quantitative Data Analysis		5

Sept. 29 - Oct. 5	Collecting and Analyzing Qualitative Data		
	Read Creswell, Chps. 7 & 8		3
	Power Points & Audio Class Lectures	4	
	Read, Post and Respond in Forum Week 6	2	
	Assignment Five – Qualitative Data Analysis		5
Oct. 6 – Oct. 19	Reporting and Evaluating Research		
	Read Creswell, Chp. 9		1
	Power Points & Audio Class Lectures	4	
	Read, Post and Respond in Forum Week 7	2	
	Assignment Six – Research Design Proposal		8
	Completing the Project & the Course		
	Assignment six – Complete Research Design Proposal		8
	Read Creswell, Chp. 16 or alternate		1
	Power Points & Audio Class Lectures	2	
	Review Creswell, Chp. 5 to 9		3
	Test#2 - Creswell Chp.5 to 9; Chp. 16 or alternative; PPTs& Audios - Feedback	2	
	Course Evaluation Due	.5	