



## Course Information

Prefix & number	Title
EDUC 500	Research Methodology in Education
Instructor	Prerequisites or restrictions (if any)
Dr. Handel Wright	

Focus or Content
<p>This course is designed as a broad introduction to the world of research in general and educational research more specifically. The emphasis is on empirical research, which is usually conceptualized as quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research. In that sense students will be introduced to various approaches, research traditions and sub-traditions. Students will also be introduced to research that do not necessarily involve the empirical such as philosophical research. It bears stressing that while the course might touch on methods in passing (i.e. the how-to, the nuts and bolts of conducting research), this is not a course on methods but rather one that addresses the breadth of approaches, the conceptualization and the politics of research. Thus for example quantitative and qualitative research are sometimes conceptualized as binary opposites and yet can sometimes be combined in the form of mixed methods research. The course will help students orient themselves as researchers- not only in terms of the broad preference for say quantitative or qualitative research but in terms of locating themselves initially within a research paradigm (worldview about research). The course takes the position and helps students understand that research is neither simply practice nor the application of a neutral set of methods to neutrally identified issues. Rather research is engaged as theoretically informed praxis and inherently political both in terms of its inclusion and/or exclusion of sociocultural difference (race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability) and paradigmatic positioning. Students are encouraged to take the notion of research as praxis (theory and practice combined) as well as the politics of research into account beyond this introductory course in their conception, design, conduct and evaluation of educational research.</p>

Goals, Objectives or Learning Outcomes
<p>Through this course students will be introduced to and will familiarize themselves with</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A cross-section of methodologies available for conducting research, including research in education (e.g. quantitative – including surveys and experiments; qualitative- including case studies, ethnography and critical discourse analysis, and mixed- methods combinations of quantitative and qualitative; historical- including archival research and philosophical research).</li> <li>2. The politics of research (e.g. the historical relationship between quantitative and qualitative research in education; identity politics in/and research)</li> <li>3. The concept of research paradigm and be able to situate themselves initially and provisionally in a research paradigm.</li> <li>4. Resources available to them for the conduct of research (research library, computer facilities, faculty expertise)</li> <li>5. The elements and processes of conceptualizing an inquiry/study and the challenges of research in post-positivistic, identity politics informed and decolonial/postcolonial times.</li> </ol>

### **Assignments or Assessment Process**

Attendance and Participation – 15%

Assignment One: Researcher Background – 25%

Assignment Two: Review of Research Tradition or Theme – 30%

Final Assignment: Literature Review

OR Extended Researcher Profile

OR Extended Review of Research Tradition/Theme – 30%

### **Notes/Other**

Required Readings:

The required readings for the course are selected essays from refereed journal articles and are indicated for each week. There are books that are either highly recommended or simply recommended should you wish to consult them.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability that requires accommodations, it is expected you will indicate this to the instructor before or at start of the course and will provide a letter from the UBC Disability Resource Centre (DRC) to that effect. We can then discuss and establish the necessary accommodation for which you may be eligible. For further information, please see the DRC website: <http://students.ubc.ca/access/drc.cfm?page=current>

