

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

EDUC 851  
Research on Teacher Education  
Fall, 2011  
Wednesdays, 4:30-7:10, Krug 209

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Office hours: M/W 2:30 – 4 and by appointment

**Course Description:** Explores the history and development of the search for effectiveness in the preparation of preservice teachers and the continuing professional development of practicing teachers. The students will examine the substance and gaps in the study of the education of educators.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the students will:

1. trace the history of research on teacher education.
2. compare and contrast the multiple perspectives that researchers have brought to the field.
3. summarize the research on teacher demographics, the liberal arts, the professional sequence, diversity and individual differences, and accountability.
4. learn to pose researchable questions to advance this literature both substantively and methodologically.
5. continue to improve your writing skills as doctoral students.

**Relationship of EDUC 851 to the Ph.D. Program**

The content of this course is one of the two the foundation courses for the specialization in Teaching and Teacher Education. It explores the history of the research-base for teacher education and for the continued study of teacher education and builds a sense of inquiry into the students' repertoire.

**Required Course Text:**

Cochran-Smith, M., Feiman-Nemser, S., & McIntyre, D.J. (2008). *Handbook of research on teacher education: Enduring questions in changing contexts*. New York: Routledge.

**Related Readings**

Cochran-Smith, M. & Zeichner, K. (2005). *Studying teacher education*. New York: Erlbaum.

- Crowe, E. (2010). *Measuring what matters: A stronger model for teacher education accountability*. Washington, DC: Center for American Progress.
- Darling-Hammond, L. (2006). Assessing teacher education: The usefulness of multiple measures for assessing program outcomes. *Journal of Teacher Education*, 57, (2), 120-138
- Darling-Hammond, L., & Bransford, J. (Eds.). (2005). *Preparing teachers for a changing world: Report of the Committee on Teacher Education for the National Academy of Education*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Galluzzo, G.R., (May 5, 1999). Will the best and brightest teach? *Education Week*. Bethesda, MD: Editorial Projects in Education.
- Galluzzo, G.R., & Craig, J. (1990). Program evaluation in teacher education, in R. Houston (ed.), *Handbook of Research on Teacher Education*. New York: Macmillan.
- Galluzzo, G.R., & Pankratz, R.S. (1990). Five attributes of a teacher education program knowledge base. *Journal of Teacher Education*, 41(4), 7-14.
- Garet, M., Porter, A., DeSimone, L., Birman, B., & Yoon, K. (2001). What makes professional development effective? Results from a national sample of teachers. *American Educational Research Journal*, 38, 915-945.
- Good, T. et al. (2006). How well do 1<sup>st</sup> year teachers teach: Does type of perspective make a difference? *Journal of Teacher Education*. 57, 410-430.
- Katz, L.G., & Raths, J.D. (1992). Six dilemmas in teacher education. *Journal of Teacher Education*, 43(5), 376-385.
- Katz, L.G., & Raths, J.D. (1987). Dispositions as goals for teacher education. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 1(2), 301-308.
- Kennedy, M.M. (1996). Research genres in teacher education, in F.B. Murray, *The teacher educator's handbook*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Kennedy, M. M. (2001). Incentives for scholarship in education programs. In W. G. Tierney (ed). *Faculty Work in Schools of Education: Rethinking Roles and Rewards for the Twenty-first Century*. Buffalo: State University of New York Press.
- Lee, O., & Yarger, S.J. (1996). Modes of inquiry in research on teacher education. In J.S. Sikula, T. Buttery, & E. Guyton. *Handbook of research on teacher education* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Macmillan.
- Levine, A. (2006). *Educating school teachers*. Washington, DC: Education Schools Project.
- Schalock H.D., Schalock, M. D., & Ayres, R. (2006). Scaling up research in teacher education: New demands on theories, measurement, and design. *Journal of Teacher Education*, 57(2)102-119.

Smith, B.O. (1980). *A design for a school of pedagogy*. Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of Education.

Sykes, G, Bird, T., & Kennedy, M. (2010). Teacher education: Its problems and some prospects. *Journal of Teacher Education*, 61(5), 464-476, DOI: 10.1177/0022487110375804

Wilson, S., Floden, R. & Ferrini-Mundy, J. (2001). *Teacher preparation research: Current knowledge, gaps and recommendations*. Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Teaching and Policy.

### **Recommended Text:**

Publication of the American Psychological Association. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (2009).

Additional readings posted on <https://gmu.blackboard.com>

### **Some Relevant Websites:**

<http://www.aera.net/divisions/?id=76> This is the website for Division K of the American Educational Research Association. Division K is devoted to research on Teaching and Teacher Education.

<http://ncrtl.msu.edu/default.htm> The website for the National Center for Research on Teacher Learning at Michigan State University.

<http://www.aacte.org>. This is the website for the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the leading professional organization in teacher education.

<http://www.ncate.org>. The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, the long-standing professional accrediting body for education schools.

<http://www.teac.org>. The Teacher Education Advisory Council, a rather new accrediting body for education schools.

### **Supplies**

Computer with Internet access and current GMU email account.

### **CEHD Student Expectations**

The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) expects that all students abide by the following:

- **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory, as the discussions that take place in this class are essential to achieving the course objectives.
- **Tardiness:** Prompt arrival for the beginning of class is expected.
- **Participation:** Each student is expected to complete all the assigned readings and participate in the discussions. It is expected that each student will be attuned to group dynamics in order to ensure the active participation of all in the class.

- **Absence:** If you must miss a class, you are responsible for notifying me (preferably in advance) and for completing any assignments, readings, etc. before the start of the next class.
- **Assignments:** All assignments must be completed in MSWord and sent to me as an attachment via email prior to class. Late assignments will not be accepted without making prior arrangements with me.
- **Honor Code:** Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- **Exceptionalities:** 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/>].
- **Computing:** Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- **Email:** 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.
- **Distractions:** Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- **Dispositions:** 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/>].

## Course Delivery

This course is a doctoral seminar. As such, it is expected that you will read in advance of class and continue to try to find the bigger picture as you learn to sort through the findings of one study or perspective to the next. In addition to classroom attendance and participation, I expect you to participate fully in whole class and small group discussions, group, pair, and individual projects, internet research, analyses of case studies, and reflections on practice. I will use Mason's web-accessible Blackboard course framework periodically throughout the course; many of the examples are posted there for you to read in advance of our discussions.

## Course Assignment

There is only one assignment: a well-integrated research proposal. In this paper, I want you to identify a researchable problem in your area of study, e.g. the preparation of teachers in your area, e.g., science, media and technology, special education, diverse classrooms, etc. and to prepare a literature review of the relevant and related *research* that would serve as a proposal to conduct a study. You are not expected to conduct the study, just to gain some deeper understanding of your area as it relates to the study of teacher education and to identify the next best research question.

***NB: Two of the citations must be dissertations. In this way, you will see some models of other dissertations so you can get a sense of what goes into preparing your own.***

The format for the entire paper is:

- The nature of the problem/purpose of the study
- What others who have studied this problem have found
- A description of the next study you think should be conducted
- A description of how you would conduct it
- A brief discussion of why this study has educational significance

See the rubric below for how I will be reviewing these papers.

As you review each study, answer these questions:

- What was the purpose of the study?
- Who were the subjects/participants studied? How many?
- What methods did the researcher(s) use to conduct the study?
- What did the researcher(s) find?
- What conclusion(s) did the researcher(s) draw?

I'm using these two formats to help you with your writing as you proceed toward your dissertation. So often the findings from studies are affected by the nature of the first four bullets above. I'm having you "track" these because they are essential to determining whether a study is worth citation in your work. If it is at all possible, I would like you to present your papers to your peers on **12/14**.

## Three Tasks

These three tasks are intended to encourage you to think about your perspective and skill as a beginning researcher. The first two build to the third one and should provide you with opportunities to engage with me in how to identify a problem, discern relevant and related previous research, and eventually to practice crafting a research proposal. There is only one grade and it is for the final paper.

**Task #1:** For this first assignment, I would like you to give me a *statement of the problem* about which you want to know more. It must be a problem that focuses on the education of teachers in any of its various forms. I don't expect you to break new ground, but do expect you to be grounded in extant literature. **Due date: 10/12**

**Task #2:** For this second assignment, I would like an *annotated bibliography* of the studies you are considering for your final paper. I ask for this so I can see what you're considering and can then provide additional resources. *Please use the following format: Author (last name first). (date). Title. Publication information, e.g. journal with volume and number; or for a book location and publisher; or URL and date retrieved.* Then include about five sentences characterizing the essence of the bibliographical reference. Refer to APA guidelines. **Due date: 11/16**

**Task #3:** *A proposal for a study of teacher education.* A well-integrated review of the literature in support of a researchable problem. The real goal of this task is to give you a chance to go beyond writing another paper, and to get you closer to the actual task of identifying a good problem and writing up the literature to make your case for conducting the study (practice at learning how to ask a good researchable question). **Due date: 12/14**

## Tentative Schedule

### *August*

31

### *Topic*

Introductions, syllabus, background for the course  
Is this even a field of study?  
Levine, pp. 5-34  
Read Transformations in Educator Preparation (on blackboard course content)

### *September*

7

Phases in the history of teacher education  
Read pp. 5-44 and 105-121  
Read Teacher Education: Its Problems and Some Prospects  
Read Teacher U: (blackboard weblinks) or [http://chronicle.com/article/Teacher-U-A-New-Model-in/49442/?sid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/article/Teacher-U-A-New-Model-in/49442/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

14

Establishing an agenda for research  
Read pp. 1009-1093  
Read Kennedy (hand-out)

21

Studying teacher education  
Read 1094-1192

28

Who are the teachers?  
Read pp. 493 - 545  
Read “Best and Brightest” on blackboard  
Read Levine, pp. 55-60

### *October*

5

What we know about who should teach  
Read pp. 399-489

12

How teachers learn  
Read pp. 787-807 and 697-755  
**Task #1 due**

19

How teachers learn  
Read pp. 756-783 and 808-846

26

Constancy of the Workforce and the changing demography  
Read pp. 551-582 and 639-691  
Read 21<sup>st</sup> Century Knowledge and Skills in Educator Preparation (course content)

### *November*

2

Changing the Workforce to meet the demographics  
Read pp. 583-636

- 9                   What should be the content of teacher education programs?  
Read pp. 203-257  
Read Levine, pp. 35-44  
Read Galluzzo and Pankratz (course content)
- 16                   What do we know about the content of teacher education programs?  
Read pp. 127-200  
Read  
<http://www.teacherpolicyresearch.org/portals/1/pdfs/Surveying%20the%20Land%20scapeEEPA.pdf> (weblinks)  
**Task #2 due**
- 23                   Thanksgiving
- 30                   Where should we educate teachers?  
Read pp. 263-289 and 333-370  
Read Levine, pp. 45-53  
Read Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers...(course content)  
Read What can ed schools do well? (course content)

**December**

- 7                   Where should we educate teachers?  
Read pp. 290-329 and 373-393  
Read Mathematica Study on blackboard  
Read Galluzzo "Where should we educate teachers?" (hand-out)
- 14                   What is the merit and worth of teacher education programs?  
Read pp. 1199-1203; 1247-1271; 1313-1328  
Read Crowe (course content)  
Read Levine, pp. 61-79  
**Final papers due**

***Rubric for Judging Research on Teacher Education Proposals***

	<i>Accomplished</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
The problem/research question	The problem is clearly stated and its significance to the field is discussed	The problem is clearly stated, but the significance is neither discussed nor does it place the problem in the context of the literature	The problem statement is a collection of global assertions and its significance is neither discussed nor related to the problem
The literature review	The literature review is well-integrated with the logic within each set of studies tight and the transitions from one set of studies to another drawn clearly	The literature review is “reportorial” i.e., a mechanical listing and description of each study, but unable to create a coherent “whole” that is tightly supportive of the problem/question	The literature review is vague with global citations that don’t describe the studies with enough clarity for the reader to see the argument for the study build from one study to the next
The proposed subjects	The subjects are consistent with previous research and are appropriate for the problem under study, or if the subjects represent a new group, the rationale for their inclusion is clearly made.	The subjects are consistent with previous research and are appropriate for the problem under study.	The subjects are inconsistent with previous research or no explanations are offered for studying a different set of subjects.
The proposed methods	The methods are consistent with previous research and are appropriate for the problem under study, or if the methods introduce a new strategy, the rationale is made clear.	The methods are consistent with previous research and are appropriate for the problem under study.	The methods are inconsistent with previous research or no rationale is offered for introducing a new strategy.