

Course Syllabus

Department: Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education

Course Number: REA 648 Credit hours: 3

I. Title: Research in Reading

II. Catalog Description: Independent study, under the guidance of a supervising faculty member, which addresses an issue, problem or question pertaining to reading/literacy development. The issue, problem or question is to be selected by the student and approved by the instructor prior to the study.

III. Purpose: The purpose of REA 648 is to make students aware of current research in reading, to help students become knowledgeable about research in a particular area, and to allow students to apply current research through the completion of a teacher research project which includes an in-depth review of research and pedagogical literature.

IV. Course Objectives: Class activities will be centered on the attainment of the course objectives listed below. These objectives are understood to be reflective of, but not limited to those behaviors advocated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA). Following each objective are numbers that refer to Kentucky's Experienced Teacher Standards and the International Reading Association's Standards for Reading Professionals addressed by that objective. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- A. Extend and refine learning from previous graduate level reading courses by designing a teacher research project, accompanied by an in-depth review of research and pedagogical literature (ETS 1, 2, 3, 5; IRA 14.1, 14.2).
- B. Develop a rationale for the project which addresses its importance or relevance to students, faculty, district, or the reading profession in general (ETS 1, 8; IRA 14.2).
- C. Implement the project in an established class or school program (ETS 3, 4, 5; IRA 14.2).
- D. Evaluate the project by reflecting on its strengths and weaknesses, by reflecting on their work, and by comparing the project to established standards for research (ETS 6,7; IRA 16.2).
- E. Present the completed project to peers at a course seminar and prepare a manuscript suitable for submission to a professional journal (ETS 9; IRA 16.8).

V. Content Outline:

- A. Types of research
 - 1. Qualitative and quantitative research
 - 2. Teacher research
- B. Identifying the question
- C. Reading and understanding reading research
- D. Reviewing the literature
 - 1. Library resources
 - 2. Note-taking
 - 3. Writing the literature review
- E. Collecting data
 - 1. Keeping a research journal
 - 2. Interviews
 - 3. Observations
- F. Analyzing the data

- G. Writing the report
 - 1. Studying an exemplar
 - 2. Citing the works of others
 - 3. Mechanics and style

- H. Sharing your work
 - 1. Professional journals
 - 2. Professional conferences

VI. Instructional Activities: Students will

- 1. acquire and refine their knowledge about research process through course discussions, assigned readings, and through conducting the research project.
- 2. extend their knowledge of findings in reading research through a review of the literature on a selected topic.
- 3. extend their understanding of a particular topic through research and writing about the topic.
- 4. reflect on their learning through a research journal.

VII. Field and Clinical Experiences: No required hours; however, projects will involve application in a school or clinical setting.

VIII. Resources: Materials on literacy available at Waterfield Library, including texts, journals, ERIC and other electronic databases, and internet access. Packet of readings available from CopyPlus.

IX. Grading Procedures:

A. Course Requirements:

- 1. Students will write a brief proposal including the research question, a rationale statement and a tentative timeline for the project.
- 2. Students will write a review of the literature.
- 3. Students will keep a research journal.
- 4. Students will collect and analyze data.
- 5. Students will present the project at a course seminar.
- 6. Students will prepare a manuscript suitable for submission to a professional journal.

B. Grading:

Proposal	10
Literature Review	10
Research Journal	30
Presentation	10
<u>Research Paper</u>	<u>40</u>
TOTAL	100

A=90-100; B=80-89; C= 70-79; D=60-69; E=59 and below.

X. Attendance Policy: This course adheres to the policy published in the MSU Graduate Bulletin.

XI. Academic Honesty Policy: (*adopted by Board of Regents, February 14, 1975*)

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an

examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

Note: Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any examination or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the examination has been compromised.

XII. Required Texts: Course packet available at Copy Plus on Chestnut Street.
Strongly recommended: *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 4th Edition.

XIII. Prerequisites: REA 612 and 628or 638.