

**SPECIAL EDUCATION 3012**  
**Proseminar III: Research Design in Treatment Research**  
**Fall, 2005**

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Hours: By appointment  
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Course Description

This course is designed for doctoral level graduate students who have completed the first-year doctoral level statistics courses. This course focuses on research design in intervention research, with emphasis on critical design features, causal-comparative methods and experimental methods, meta-analysis, literature reviews, writing research reports, and publishing.

Class Schedule

Wednesdays, 12:30-3:00 p.m., Payne 012

Readings

1. Text: Gall, M.D., Borg, W.R., & Gall, J.P. (1996). *Educational research: An introduction* (6th ed.). New York: Longman.
2. Additional readings will be distributed in class for students to photocopy. These readings will be used for class critiques and discussions.

Course Requirements

1. Four quizzes on Borg and Gall readings. Weeks 2,3,4,and 6. 10 points each.
2. Two presentations: one of the written research proposal; one of the analyses of the literature. Weeks 7-9.
3. One research proposal. Week 11. 30 points.
4. One research report describing an analysis of the literature (see attached). Weeks 3 & 7 (preliminary products); Weeks 9-10 (presentations); Week 11 (paper). 30

points.

Conduct a Study and Write a Research Report  
Describing An Analysis of the Literature  
SPED 3012

**Objectives**

1. To provide students with an opportunity to write and publish a research report
2. To familiarize students with the literature in an area of their own choosing

**Step 1**

Choose a research question you can answer by systematically examining the literature.

Example: AWhat proportion of recently published research employs randomized controlled studies to identify effective practices for remediating reading difficulties among students with disabilities?@

**Step 2**

Decide on your A sample@ (i.e., the journals and volume years for your A study@) and provide a rationale for why this set of journals and timeframe provide the relevant and sufficient database to constitute your sample.

Example: *Journal of Learning Disabilities, Learning Disabilities Research and Practice, and Learning Disability Quarterly*; 1998-2003. The rationale is that these three journals constitute the entire set of journals in the field that (a) are dedicated to learning disabilities and (b) publish databased papers. The timeframe is appropriate because sampling the literature over the past 5 years is the best method for obtaining information on A recent@ information.

**Step 3**

Design a coding form that identifies the variables you will code from each study. Complete the coding form on each study in the pool. Obtain intercoder agreement on at least 20% of the studies. Qualify your results.

**Step 4**

Write a research report that is suitable for publication.