EDG 6931: Issues and Current Research in Educational Technology
Dr. Erik Black
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Course Description
This course is a new addition for Educational Technology students at the University of Florida. Many students elect to major in educational technology because they enjoy the hands-on design and development aspects of the field. However, Educational Technology is a broad and dynamic field that intersects many other disciplines and offers numerous opportunities for individuals with varied interests and talents.

Having knowledge of the issues and current research in the field think more critically about their efforts and career goals. Thos course will encourage students to think critically, whether related to Ed Tech or not. This is an overview course and help you begin to find (or further establish) your niche within the field of education. The success of the course will be dependent on student participation and preparation. Like all graduate level courses, the more effort you put forth, the more you’ll get out of the experience.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course students should be able to:
1. **Begin to craft articulate and useful research questions**
2. **Begin to develop the skills necessary to critically analyze academic research**
3. **Gain an understanding of contemporary topics in educational technology**
4. **Learn how to construct critical bibliographic annotations**

Textbook
There is a required text that must be purchased for this class. We will be using *The Craft of Research* by Booth, Colomb & Williams. This book provides an introduction to reading and writing academic literature. It is widely used and uniformly praised. Believe it or not, it’s also a decent read! Please pick up a copy of the book as soon as possible, you should be able to purchase it at any of the local Gainesville bookstores or online, here’s the link to Amazon.com: [http://www.amazon.com/Research-Chicago-Writing-Editing-Publishing/dp/0226065669](http://www.amazon.com/Research-Chicago-Writing-Editing-Publishing/dp/0226065669)

Course Policies
Attendance is expected and excessive unexcused absences (or long periods of time not accessing the online course), may adversely influence final grades. Late work is not accepted except in extremely unusual circumstances. Extremely unusual circumstances must be discussed with the instructor PRIOR to due date. **Incomplete grades are not given.** Please plan accordingly and finish all work during the scope of this course. Assignments should be presented in a neat and concise manner. Many of you are instructors yourselves; consider what you expect in terms of quality from your students when you are teaching.

Students are expected to conform to all policies of the University of Florida and work within the honor code. Please read the University of Florida honor code [http://www.reg.ufl.edu/98-99catalog/student_life.htm](http://www.reg.ufl.edu/98-99catalog/student_life.htm). (Scroll down to the section on Academic Honesty.)

Please also read the University of Florida's Acceptable Use Policy [http://www.cio.ufl.edu/aupolicy.htm](http://www.cio.ufl.edu/aupolicy.htm).
ADA Statement
Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific accommodations. Students will be asked to supply a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities to assist in planning accommodations. Please see me outside of class to make any arrangements involving special accommodations.

Course Grading
Graduate school is about learning and bettering yourself. It is not about points, GPA or grades. Consequently, assignments will not graded on a point system. Each assignment has an accompanying rubric and will be assessed by the instructor, and/or peers and/or the student (i.e. self-assessment) depending on the nature of the assignments. Minus final grades will be awarded.

Each assignment will be assessed as “Outstanding”, “Outstanding Minus”, “Satisfactory Plus”, “Satisfactory”, and “Not Satisfactory”. An “Outstanding” corresponds to an “A”, “Outstanding Minus” corresponds to a A-; “Satisfactory Plus” a B+; “Satisfactory” corresponds to a B. “Unsatisfactory” corresponds to a “C”. Assignments that are not turned in are considered “E” or failing. Students may reattempt or revise “Unsatisfactory” work. Students must contact the course instructor to arrange resubmission. The maximum grade a resubmitted “Unsatisfactory” assignment may receive is a “Satisfactory”.

A final grade of an A will be awarded when 50% of assignments receive a grade of “Outstanding” with no grade lower than “Satisfactory plus”. A final grade of an A- will be awarded when 50% of assignments receive a grade of “Outstanding minus” or greater, with no grade lower than “Satisfactory”.

A final grade of a B+ will be awarded when 50% of assignments receive a grade of “Satisfactory Plus”, or greater, with no more than one grade lower than “Satisfactory”. A final grade of a B will be awarded when all assignments receive a grade of “Satisfactory”, or greater, with no more than one grade lower than “Satisfactory”. A final grade of a C will be awarded if there are two grades lower than “Satisfactory”. A final grade of E will be awarded if there are more than two grades lower than “Satisfactory”.

Course Requirements (Subject to change and adjustment)

Online Content and Participation
Course content will include, but not be limited to: Introductions, Defining the Research, Other Weekly Forums, and Group Work. You will be expected to complete weekly assignments, contribute to discussions and collaborate as outlined in each assignment. Participation means that you will be an active contributor to the forums, providing thoughtful commentary to others. You cannot ‘lurk’ and except to earn an “A” in this course, nor do one word responses reflect thoughtful commentary. Students should logon to the course environment at least three times per week. The instructor uses course logs to review how often and how much time students spend within the course environment. Given the importance of participation, this is counted twice in the final tally.

Working Definition of Research: This short assignment will ask you to develop a definition of research

Pseudoscience/Bad Research: This assignment will require you to investigate and report on the potentially ‘dubious’ research claims made by a product or service.

Your First Annotation : You will begin the process of building your annotated bibliography
**Reading Research 1 & 2:** You will be asked to discuss and analyze academic writing.

**Annotated Bibliography:** You will be asked to develop or expand an annotated bibliography. The goal will be to move from summarizing to synthesizing. Given the size of this assignment it is counted twice in the final tally.

**Evaluation of Peer Annotated Bibliographies:** You will be asked to critically analyze and offer feedback on the annotated bibliographies of two of your peers.

**Wiki:** Information about this group project will be forthcoming.

**Example grade tally**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation (x2)</th>
<th>Research Definition</th>
<th>Pseudoscience/ Bad research</th>
<th>1st Annotation</th>
<th>Reading Research 1</th>
<th>Reading Research 2</th>
<th>Annotated Bibliography (x2)</th>
<th>Evaluation of Peer Bibliographies</th>
<th>Wiki</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding minus</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Outstanding minus</td>
<td>Satisfactory plus</td>
<td>Outstanding minus</td>
<td>Outstanding minus</td>
<td>Outstanding plus</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this manner, the student above earned:

- 5 grades of outstanding
- 4 grades of outstanding minus
- 2 grade of satisfactory plus

Thus a final grade of an A will be awarded as more than 50% of assignments received a grade of “Outstanding” and no grade was lower than “Satisfactory plus”.