

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Title: CHILD STUDY RESEARCH METHODS

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Course No.: ED 222

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Program: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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Semester: FOUR

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Date: JANUARY 1991 Previous Date: JANUARY 1990

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Author: T. HANLON

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New:  Revision:

Approved: K. DeRosario

K. DeRosario, Dean  
School of Human Sciences  
and Teacher Education

Date: Jan. 7/91

Child Study Research Methods (ED 222)  
Instructor: T. Hanlon

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an introductory course to child study research methods which includes examining basic descriptive and inferential statistics, as well as strategies, methods and designs used in both quantitative and qualitative research. Students will learn how to interpret, use, and evaluate research projects. A significant portion of the course will be on the application of learned research principles and methods by conducting a child study research project.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. explain at least 3 reasons why an understanding of research methods is important when studying children.
2. describe, calculate and interpret basic descriptive statistics including mean, median, mode and standard deviation
3. describe and interpret basic inferential statistics including use of the normal curve, random sampling distribution and correlation values.
4. describe the difference between reliability and validity and explain the significance of each when reviewing or conducting research.
5. describe the differences between quantitative research design and qualitative research design.
6. discuss the reasons why one would select either a quantitative or qualitative approach given a child study research problem.
7. describe at least 4 different research data collection methods by stating the main characteristics of each as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each.
8. describe the main characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of the following research designs: longitudinal, cross-sectional, experimental and correlational.
9. state at least 7 ethical considerations when conducting research studies on children.
10. evaluate a child research study using the set of criteria discussed in class.
11. apply the research principles and methods by designing, conducting and reporting (using A.P.A. format) a child study research project.
12. using the E.R.I.C. system, conduct a reference search on a topic related to child studies.

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TOPICS

1. Introduction to Child Study Research
  - Why do research?
  - Overview of Research methods
  - E.R.I.C.
2. Introduction to Descriptive Statistics
  - Calculation and interpretation of 3 measure of Central Tendency
  - Calculation and interpretation of 3 measures of Variability
3. Introduction to Inferential Statistics
  - The Normal Curve
  - Solving problems using the Normal Curve
  - Descriptive vs. Inferential Statistics
  - Random Sampling
4. Correlation
  - Definition, Use of Correlational Values
  - Interpretation of Correlational Values
  - Correlation vs. Causality
5. Reliability and Validity
  - Definitions, Significance in Research
  - Internal and External Validity
6. Two Major Research Designs
  - Quantitative - Main characteristics, methods, advantages and disadvantages
  - Qualitative - Main characteristics, methods, advantages and disadvantages
7. Research Data Collection Methods
  - Naturalistic Observation
  - Structured Observation
  - Interview
  - Clinical Method
  - Experimentally Method
8. Experimental Design
  - Independent & Dependent Variable
  - Random Sampling
  - Groups
  - Types of Experimental Methods
  - Interpretation of Data

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9. Observational Methods
  - Types
  - Interpretation of Data
10. Longitudinal and Cross-Sectional Designs
  - Definitions and Descriptions
  - Advantages and Disadvantages
  - Reasons for Use
11. Correlational Design
  - Definition, Description
  - Advantages and Disadvantages
12. Ethics and Child Study
  - Review of Ethical Standards set by The Society for Research in Child Development
13. Review of Criteria for Conducting Research Project
14. Evaluation of a Research Project
  - Criteria for evaluation
  - Practise with selected studies

#### RESOURCES

- i) Lecture notes & teacher
- ii) There are several texts and journals in the library related to Child Study methods and research.

The following books will be placed on reserve at the library commencing February 4, 1991.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 3rd Edition.

Writing the Research Paper, 2nd Edition by Anthony Winkler and Jo Ray McCuen

The following journals are recommended when conducting your research.

Canadian Journal of Early Childhood Education  
Child Development  
Canadian Journal of Research in E.C.E. (New)  
Infant Behaviour and Development  
Journal of Clinical Child Psychology  
Journal of Education Research

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**EVALUATION**

Please note: Test dates are tentative and may be adjusted depending on our progress. Presentation dates will be assigned throughout the month of April.

	Due Date
Test 1 - 20% - Objectives 1-4	February 4, 1991
Test 2 - 20% - Objectives 5-10	March 15, 1991
Research Project - 40%	April 5, 1991
Participation Questions and Project Presentation - 15%	April 26, 1991
E.R.I.C. Search - 5%	February 22, 1991

**COLLEGE GRADING POLICY**

A+ = 90-100%  
A = 80- 89%  
B = 70- 79%  
C = 60- 69%  
R = Repeat (Less than 60%)

**SPECIAL NOTES**

Students with special needs (eg. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, learning disabilities) are encouraged to discuss required accommodations confidentially with the instructor.

Your instructor reserves the right to modify the course as he/she deems necessary to meet the needs of students.