Southeast Missouri State University
Course Syllabus

Department of Human Environmental Studies Course No. CF 475
Title of Course Action Research for the Practitioner New Fall 2012

I. Catalogue Description and Credit Hours of Course
Investigate problems; design and conduct action research studies that provide meaningful and immediate solutions. (3)

II. Prerequisite(s)
Minimum 30 Hours in Child Development or related field or permission of the Instructor

III. Objectives of the Course
A. Recognize the role of action within educational research.
B. List reasons for action research in the student’s field of study.
C. Recognize and interpret potential problems for research.
D. Outline organizational steps for action research.
E. Design a plan for action research.
F. Develop a logical argument for research method selection including ethical principles.
G. Assess advantages of data collection sources.
H. Analyze and report findings of action research.
I. Construct an action research plan.
J. Identify practical guidelines and format for academic writing.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes
A. Define action research.
B. Assess topic features for practical research.
C. Compare advantages of data collection methods.

V. Expectations of Students
A. Satisfactory completion of all assignments, projects, and examinations
B. Active participation in peer discussions, reviews, and activities
C. Participate in a mini action research project

VI. Course Outline 45 Hours
A. Research Overview 3
   1. Educational research
   2. Action research
   3. Models and characteristics of action research
B. Introduction to Action Research
   1. Connect theory to practice
   2. Improvement of educational practice
   3. Teacher empowerment
   4. Professional development

C. Application of Action Research
   1. Identify problems
   2. Develop and test solutions
   3. Pre-service practitioner education
   4. Rigor

D. Organizing
   1. Identify topic
   2. Gather information
   3. Review related literature
   4. Develop and implement research plan
   5. Collect and analyze data
   6. Share, communicate, and reflect outcomes

E. Planning for Action Research
   1. Limit topic
   2. Sources of related literature
   3. Outline a literature review

F. Developing a Research Plan
   1. Basic research design components
      i. Qualitative
      ii. Quantitative
   2. Ethical considerations

G. Collecting Data
   1. Observations
   2. Interviews
   3. Existing records
   4. Reflective practice
   5. Review of data collection strategies within typical research designs

H. Analyzing Data
   1. Qualitative data analysis
   2. Quantitative data analysis
   3. Report results
I. Developing an action plan
   1. Levels of action plans
      a. Individual
      b. Team
      c. District-wide
   2. Communicate results
   3. Reflect on action research process

J. Academic Writing
   1. Practical guidelines
   2. Clarity and format

VII. Textbooks

VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation
    Peer Discussions, Reviews, and Activities  30%
    Assignments and Exams  50%
    Mini Action Research Project  20%

    Grading Scale
    100%—90%  A
    89%—80%  B
    79%—70%  C
    69%—60%  D
    59%—below  F

    The weights of evaluation criteria may vary at the discretion of the course instructor.

IX. Academic Policy Statement
    Students will be expected to abide by the University Policy for Academic Honesty regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. Refer to [http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html](http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html)

X. Student with Disabilities Statement
    If a student has a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires materials in an alternative format, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs. Refer to [http://www.semo.edu/ds](http://www.semo.edu/ds)