



EEX 6342

**Advanced Seminar: Paradigms, Practices, and Action
Research in Special Education**

90232 001

Fall 2026

Instructor Name

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University Course Description

This graduate seminar has been designed to help students examine critical issues in the field of special education through teacher research and evaluate the controversies, dilemmas, and or major issues confronting the field. Attention focuses on the institutional and programmatic decision that special educators currently face or are likely to face in the foreseeable future in their roles as teacher, collaborator, consultant, advocate, or leader. Topics for research include paradigms and practices for providing service, service models, and legal mandates, instructional strategies, working with families and implementing High Leverage Practices.

Course Requisites

Prerequisite(s):

Corequisite(s):

Course Format

This asynchronous online course is delivered in weekly modules on Canvas that guide students through the development of an Action Research Plan. To ensure action research plans are feasible and meaningful, the course instructor will hold bi-monthly synchronous sessions on Wednesday to build a community of learners who will implement their plans next semester, process project ideas, discuss assignments, and ask clarifying questions,.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of competing paradigms impacting the field of special education.
2. identify critical issues facing the field of special education and generate solutions for professional practice.
3. demonstrate knowledge of the inter-disciplinary and inter-agency collaborative nature of service coordination for children with disabilities and their families.
4. understand and value the benefits of family involvement in the educational process
5. formulate a review of the literature utilizing peer reviewed resources.
6. create a research plan outlining the data collection process, and methodology with a coordinated implementation timetable.

Course Objectives

The objectives for this course include identifying, discussing and defining:

1. Controversies in Special Education
2. School Reform Issues
3. Ethical Dilemmas in Research and Practice
4. High Leverage Practices in Special Education
5. Professional Development through Action Research
6. The steps in a literature review and Action Research
7. Family Involvement Strategies

To improve one's practice or school experiences through the Action Research Process.

Required Texts and/or Readings and Course Materials

Mills, G. E. (2021) *Action Research: A Guide for the Teacher Researcher*, (6th Ed). Boston: Pearson.
ISBN-13: 9780134523033

How to Succeed in this Course

Successful students should follow several practical tips before each online session:

1. Plan several time slots weekly to work on this class;
 - a. Review weekly modules
 - b. Complete the assigned readings and videos early in the week
 - c. Thoughtfully post then revisit discussion boards/ activities
2. Connect the course content to one's educational setting
3. Collaborate with peers in the course and colleagues in the field
4. Ask clarifying questions as needed prior to deadlines
5. Complete assignments on time and at the expected level of a graduate student
6. Use the course content to plan and execute your action research project.

Grading Scale

Grading Scale

Grading Scale (%)	
97-100	A+
94-96	A
90 – 93	A-
87 – 89	B+
84 – 86	B
80 – 83	B-
77 – 79	C+
74 – 76	C

Grade Categories and Weights

Assignment	Percent of Final Grade
Assessment	% of Final Grade
Weekly Participation	priceless
AR Plan Part 1: Introduction	15%
AR Plan Part 2: Literature Review	25%
AR Plan Part 3: Methodology	15%
AR Plan Part 3 b: Data Collection Timetable	15%
AR Plan Part 4: References /matrix	15%
AR Plan Part 5: Smart Goals	5%
Revised Final Plan Prepared for EEX 6943/6947	10%
Total	100%

Instructor Feedback Policy & Grade Dissemination

The instructor will provide feedback on assignments within one week of the posted deadline, and feedback on final papers within two weeks of the deadline. All graded materials in this course are accessible in Canvas by clicking 'grades'. Students should review the comments on the paper and on the rubric, as all major assignments will have an associated rubric. Carefully review all comments and ensure understanding. Each element of the AR Proposal is submitted during the semester for a grade. Feedback from each element should be processed and applied to the Final AR Proposal submitted at the end of the semester to boost the final grade.

Major Topics and Course Schedule

Week	Weekly Schedule	Due
Module / Week	Module/ Topic	Projects Due
1 Week 1	Module 1: What is AR Syllabus Review Chapters 1 & 2	First Day Attendance My Professional Goals

Week	Weekly Schedule	Due
2 Weeks 2 – 3	Module 2: Paradigms and Issues in ESE Chapter 3	My AR Model
3 Weeks 4 – 5	Module 3: Innovations in Education High Impact Practices Chapter 8	My Research Ideas Introduction
4 Weeks 6, 7, 8	Module 4: Review of the Literature Scholarly Resources Chapter 4	Reference List Matrix
5 Weeks 9 – 10	Module 5: Developing a Plan for Systematic Data Collection Data Sources Chapter 5	Literature Review
6 Weeks 11 – 12	Module 6: Data Collection Chapter 6	My AR Timeline
7 Weeks 13 – 14	Module 7: Who /How /Why In AR Methodology Families and Interventions Chapter 7	Methodology
8 Week 15	My AR Proposal Presentation SMART Goals	Submit: Complete Revised Plan

USF Core Syllabus Policies

USF has a set of central policies related to student recording class sessions, academic integrity and grievances, student accessibility services, academic disruption, religious observances, academic continuity, food insecurity, pregnancy and related conditions,

and sexual harassment that **apply to all courses at USF**. Be sure to review these online:

<https://www.usf.edu/provost/faculty-success/resources-policies-forms/core-syllabus-policy-statements.aspx>

Student Recordings

Florida Statute 1004.097 Free Expression on Campus

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal, educational use (USF Policy 10-048). A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty member is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the USF Student Conduct Code.

Course Policies: Grades

Late Work Policy:

Submitting late work results in the inability to provide feedback in a timely manner and risking an incomplete plan by the end of the semester. Therefore, late work will receive a 10% deduction off the top (week 1), 20% off the top during week 2. After 2 weeks work will not be accepted. Students who submit late work consistently risk not being successful in the class as they will be unable to resubmit the revised plan.

Grades of "Incomplete":

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course.

For graduate courses: An Incomplete grade ("I") is exceptional and granted at the instructor's discretion only when students are unable to complete course requirements due to illness or other circumstances beyond their control. The course instructor and student must complete and sign the "I" Grade Contract Form that describes the work to be completed, the date it is due, and the grade the student would earn factoring in a zero for all incomplete assignments. The due date can be negotiated and extended by student/instructor as long as it does not exceed one semester for graduate courses from the original date grades were due for that course. An "I" grade not cleared within one semester for graduate courses will revert to the grade noted on the contract.

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Campus Free Expression

It is fundamental to the University of South Florida's mission to support an environment where divergent ideas, theories, and philosophies can be openly exchanged and critically evaluated. Consistent with these principles, this course may involve discussion of ideas that you find uncomfortable, disagreeable, or even offensive.

In the instructional setting, ideas are intended to be presented in an objective manner and not as an endorsement of what you should personally believe. "Objective" means that the

idea(s) presented can be tested by critical peer review and rigorous debate, and that the idea(s) is supported by credible research.

In this course you may be asked to engage with complex ideas and to demonstrate an understanding of the ideas. Understanding and engaging with an idea does not require you to believe it or to agree with it.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email:

Students should expect the instructor to answer emails during the week in 24 – 48 hours. However, emails sent on the weekend may require 78 hours to respond to, therefore, plan your time and review your assignments accordingly. Students should use the instructor's USF email (edoone@usf.edu) and NOT canvas to communicate

Canvas:

This course will be offered via USF's learning management system (LMS), Canvas. If you need help learning how to perform various tasks related to this course or other courses being offered in Canvas, please view the following videos or consult the Canvas help guides. You may also contact USF's IT department at (813) 974-1222 or help@usf.edu.

Course Policies: Student Expectations

Health and Wellness

Your health is a priority at the University of South Florida. We encourage members of our community to look out for each other and to reach out for help if someone is in need. If you or someone you know is in distress, please make a referral at www.usf.edu/sos so that the Student Outreach & Support can contact and provide helpful resources to the student in distress. A 24-hour licensed mental healthcare professional, offered through the counseling center, is available by phone at 813-974-2831, option 3. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

Title IX Policy

USF is committed to fostering a safe and respectful learning environment, free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment, in accordance with Title IX and USF Policy 0-004. If a student shares an experience of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, or relationship violence with a USF employee (including faculty), that employee will notify the Title IX Office. This allows the Title IX Office to send the student an email with information about support resources and options—if it is safe to do so. Students are not required to respond to this email. The Title IX Office is a private resource. Information is shared only on a need-to-know basis to provide students with support measures. To speak to a confidential resource, students may contact USF Center for Victim Advocacy at 813-974-5757. Confidential resources do not notify the Title IX Office unless the student requests it. For more information about Title IX, available resources, or to make a report, please visit www.usf.edu/title-ix.

Course Hero / Chegg Policy

The USF Policy on Academic Integrity specifies that students may not use websites that enable cheating, such as by uploading or downloading material for this purpose. This does apply specifically to Chegg.com and CourseHero.com – almost any use of these websites (including uploading proprietary materials) constitutes a violation of the academic integrity policy.

Professionalism Policy

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc. must be silenced during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

Turnitin.com

In this course, turnitin.com may be utilized. Turnitin is an automated system which instructors may use to quickly and easily compare each student's

assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you may be expected to submit all assignments in both hard copy and electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process visit <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Netiquette Guidelines

- Act professionally in the way you communicate. Treat your instructors and peers with respect, the same way you would do in a face-to-face environment. Respect other people's ideas and be constructive when explaining your views about points you may not agree with.
- Be sensitive. Be respectful and sensitive when sharing your ideas and opinions. There will be people in your class with different linguistic backgrounds, political and religious beliefs or other general differences.
- Proofread and check spelling. Doing this before sending an email or posting a thread on a discussion board will allow you to make sure your message is clear and thoughtful. Avoid the use of all capital letters, it can be perceived as if you are shouting, and it is more difficult to read.
- Keep your communications focused and stay on topic. Complete your ideas before changing the subject. By keeping the message on focus you allow the readers to easily get your idea or answers they are looking for.
- Be clear with your message. Avoid using humor or sarcasm. Since people can't see your expressions or hear your tone of voice, meaning can be misinterpreted.

Email and Discussion Board Guidelines

- Use the subject line effectively by using a meaningful line of what your email or discussion is about.
- Keep your emails and postings related to the course content. You should not post anything personal on a discussion board unless it is requested by the instructor.
- Any personal, course or confidential issues should be directly communicated to the instructor via email. The discussion boards are public spaces; therefore, any issues should not be posted there.

End of Semester Student Evaluations

All classes at USF make use of an online system for students to provide feedback to the University regarding the course. These surveys will be made

available at the end of the semester, and the University will notify you by email when the response window opens. Your participation is highly encouraged and valued.

Food and Drink Policy (for in-campus sessions only).

Please adhere to the firm policy of no beverages (other than bottled/capped water), food, tobacco products, or like items in the classroom. Your understanding of the necessity for this policy and cooperation will be greatly appreciated. This policy will be strictly enforced.

Learning Support and Campus Offices

Academic Accommodations

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in order to receive academic accommodations. For additional information about academic accommodations and resources, you can visit the SAS website.

[SAS website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout site.](#)

[SAS website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Academic Support Services

The USF Office of Student Success coordinates and promotes university-wide efforts to enhance undergraduate and graduate student success. For a comprehensive list of academic support services available to all USF students, please visit the [Office of Student Success website](#).

Canvas Technical Support

If you have technical difficulties in Canvas, you can find access to the Canvas guides and video resources in the “Canvas Help” page on the homepage of your Canvas course. You can also contact the help desk by calling 813-974-1222 in Tampa or emailing help@usf.edu.

[USF IT Services](#)

Center for Victim Advocacy

The [Center for Victim Advocacy](#) empowers survivors of crime, violence, or abuse by promoting the restoration of decision making, by advocating for their rights, and by offering support and resources. Contact information is available online.

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center promotes the wellbeing of the campus community by providing culturally sensitive counseling, consultation, prevention, and training that enhances student academic and personal success. Contact information is available online.

[Counseling Center website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout site.](#)

[Counseling Center website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Tutoring

The Tutoring Hub offers free tutoring in several subjects to USF undergraduates. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information, email asctampa@usf.edu.

[Tutoring website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout site.](#)

[Tutoring website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Writing Studio

The Writing Studio is a free resource for USF undergraduate and graduate students. At the Writing Studio, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you, at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, email: writingstudio@usf.edu.

[Writing studio website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout Site.](#)

[Writing studio website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Student Ombuds Office

Florida Statute 1006.51 and Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.011 require that all public institutions provide ombuds services to students. The Student Ombuds Office at USF is a confidential, impartial, informal, and independent resource for students experiencing challenges related to the university. Ombuds can help students safely explore options, clarify processes, and consider next steps. [Learn more or make an appointment at usf.edu/student-ombuds.](https://usf.edu/student-ombuds)