

**SRM 600 – 905: Introduction to Graduate Research  
CRN 24320**

**INSTRUCTOR**

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Instructor: Dr. Chia-Lin Tsai  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm (by appointment)  
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**COURSE INFORMATION**

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<b>Course Time &amp; Location:</b>	Distance/Online Instructional Method
<b>Required Textbook:</b>	Ary, D., Jacobs, L. C., Sorenson, C. K., & Walker, D. (2019). Introduction to Research in Education (10th ed.). Boston: Cengage Learning.
<b>Course Site:</b>	UNC Canvas: <a href="http://www.unco.edu/canvas/">http://www.unco.edu/canvas/</a> <b>Course announcements and additional resources will be posted in Canvas weekly. Assignments and activities should be submitted/completed in Canvas.</b>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of and introduction to basic concepts and terminology used in conducting educational and behavioral research. The course will cover areas such as developing a research topic, writing research questions and hypotheses, conducting a review of the literature, and critiquing research articles.

**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

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This course is designed to acquaint students with the concepts, principals, and methodologies used in educational and behavioral research. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Define basic terminology and concepts associated with research
- Describe the steps and decisions involved in planning, designing, and implementing a research study
- Compute and interpret basic descriptive statistics
- Identify researchable topics and issues
- Critically evaluate research reports

- Write a research proposal to include an introduction, literature review, rationale for the study, description of the design, sample selection, instrumentation/materials, data collection procedures, and data analysis procedures.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY**

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**Without prior arrangements, submissions after the deadline will be deducted 20% credit.**

### **1. Online Discussion (20%)**

Four online discussion activities will be assigned during the semester. Students are expected to actively participate in the discussion. In each discussion activity, 2 reflection questions will be posted. You will receive 3 points for responding to the reflection questions and 2 points for providing feedback to at least two posts from your peers.

- Discussion 1: 2/10 – 2/16
- Discussion 2: 2/17 – 2/23
- Discussion 3: 3/3 – 3/9
- Discussion 4: 3/10 – 3/16

### **2. Quizzes (15%)**

Three open-book quizzes will be assigned during the semester. Each quiz will contain five questions reflecting the content covered in the textbook. Each quiz is open on Monday and closed on Sunday.

- Quiz 1: 3/31 – 4/6
- Quiz 2: 4/7 – 4/13
- Quiz 3: 4/14 – 4/20

### **3. Research Article Critique Report and Presentation (30%)**

There are two article critique assignments in this course. You are asked to create a **10-minute video or audio recording** and a **2-page summary report of your critique**. The presentation and summary report should focus on evaluating the research designs, data collection procedures, and data collection tools using the guidelines provided in the textbook.

- **Research Article Critique - I (15%) – due 3/2**  
Review and critique a quantitative research study from a peer-reviewed academic journal. Use Checklist 14-6 (p366 in the textbook) to guide your evaluation of the article. Submit both the recording (10%) and the report (5%).
- **Research Article Critique - II (15%) – due 3/10**  
Review and critique a qualitative research study from a peer-reviewed academic journal. Use Checklist 19-4 (p476 in the textbook) to guide your evaluation of the article. Submit both the recording (10%) and the report (5%).

#### 4. Research Proposal (25%) – (Group project)

The final project in this course is to write a research proposal collaboratively. The proposal should be written in APA style and around **8 - 10 pages** in length (double-spaced, excluding the title page, references, and appendices). Submit the following drafts to receive feedback from the instructor. You will also submit your close-to-final draft for peer-review feedback.

- Research Topic draft – due 1/26
- Research Questions & Hypotheses draft (5%) – due 2/2
- Literature Review Map draft (5%) – due 2/9
- Participants & Procedures draft (5%) – due 4/6
- Instruments & Data Analysis draft (5%) – due 4/13
- Proposal Draft for Peer Review – due 4/20

Final Research Proposal (5%) – due 5/5

#### 5. Peer-Review Research Proposal (5%) – due 4/27

You will be assigned to review a research proposal from your peers. You will have the opportunity to read others' proposal and provide written feedback/comments to your peers as if you were a journal reviewer. The proposal review rubric and instructions will be provided. (This is an individual assignment.)

#### 6. Class participation (5%)

Students are expected to participate in course activities and group assignments.

#### 7. Extra Points (5%)

Extra points will be given for attending and/or presenting at research events, such as the UNC Graduate Research Symposium and regional/national conferences related to your research area.

Your overall letter grade will be assigned as follows:

Grade	Percentages	Expectation Level
A	100% - 93%	Exceeds Expectations
A-	92% - 90%	Exceeds Expectations
B+	89% - 87%	Meets Expectations
B	86% - 83%	Meets Expectations
B-	82% - 80%	Meets Expectations
C+	79% - 77%	Does Not Meet Expectations
C	76% - 73%	Does Not Meet Expectations
C-	72% - 70%	Does Not Meet Expectations

Week #	Date	Class Activities/Assignments	Readings
Module 1: Introduction and Research Question			
1	1/13/2025	Introduction activity (due 1/16)	Ch 1 - 2
		Group project signup (due 1/19)	
2	1/20/2025	Group project: Research topic (due 1/26)	
Module 2: Literature Review			
3	1/27/2025	Group project: Research Questions & Hypotheses (due 2/2)	Ch 3
4	2/3/2025	Group project: Literature Review Map (due 2/9)	
Module 3: Quantitative Research Designs			
5	2/10/2025	Discussion 1 (5% - due 2/16)	Ch 9 - 14
6	2/17/2025	Discussion 2 (5% - due 2/23)	
7	2/24/2025	Article Critique Presentation I Due (15% - due 3/2)	
Module 4: Qualitative Research Designs			
8	3/3/2025	Discussion 3 (5% - due 3/9)	Ch 15 - 19
9	3/10/2025	Discussion 4 (5% - due 3/16)	
10	3/17/2025	Spring Break (No Classes)*	
11	3/24/2025	Article Critique Presentation II Due (15% - due 3/30)	
Module 5: Descriptive Statistics			
12	3/31/2025	Quiz 1 (5% - due 4/6)	Ch 7
		Group project: Participants & Procedures draft (due 4/6)	
Module 6: Inferential Statistics			
13	4/7/2025	Quiz 2 (5% - due 4/13)	Ch 8
		Group project: Instruments & Data Analysis draft (due 4/13)	
Module 7: Reliability and Validity			
14	4/14/2025	Quiz 3 (5% - due 4/20)	Ch 5 -6
		Submit Proposal Draft for Peer Review Due (4/20)	
Research Proposal (final project)			
15	4/21/2025	Peer-Review Feedback Due (5% - due 4/27)	
16	4/28/2025	Project Work Week	
Final Exam Week	5/5/2025	Final Research Proposal - Due 5/5	

Note: Individual assignments are in red. Group assignments are in blue.

## Disability Resources

It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to students' inclusion or to accurate assessments of students' achievement (e.g. inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), students should communicate about these aspects with their instructor(s).

Additionally, if you have a temporary health condition or a permanent disability that requires accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. DRC facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80.

Students can learn more here: [www.unco.edu/disability-resource-center](http://www.unco.edu/disability-resource-center)

## Title IX / Equal Opportunity

The University of Northern Colorado is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Students who have experienced (or who know someone who has experienced) any of these concerns should know that they are not alone. UNC has staff members in the University's [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#) (OIEC) who are trained to support students in navigating these concerns and are able to provide on- and off-campus resources and supports, referrals to health and counseling services, academic and housing modifications, and mutual no-contact orders between individuals.

Please be aware all UNC instructors and most staff members are required to report their awareness of sexual misconduct to the OIEC. This means that if students tell an instructor about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, the instructor must share that information with the Title IX Coordinator and Equity Officer, Dr. Matt Ricke. Dr. Ricke or a trained staff member in OIEC will contact the reporting students to let them know about resources and support services at UNC as well as their options to pursue an investigation through OIEC, law enforcement, or both. Students who have experienced these types of incidents are not required to speak with OIEC staff regarding the incident. Students' participation in OIEC processes are entirely voluntary.

If students do not want the Title IX Coordinator notified, instead of disclosing this information to the instructor, students can speak confidentially with the following people on campus and in the community. They can connect you with support services and help explore options now, or in the future. UNC has confidential victim advocates available 24/7 by phone – students can contact the [Assault Survivors Advocacy Program](#) (ASAP) at 970-351-1490 to seek confidential guidance and support.

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to grading consequences with regard to this course and/or university disciplinary procedures through the Student Conduct and Accountability. More

information about the academic misconduct process can be found in UNC's Student Code of Conduct (BEAR Code).

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Each instructor determines the relationship between class attendance, the objectives of the class, and students' grades. Instructors are responsible for articulating their attendance policies and their effect on grades to students. Students are responsible for knowing the attendance policy of each course. Only the instructor can approve students' absences. Students are responsible for requesting such approval. In an effort to create inclusive learning environments, instructors should not require doctors' notes to determine whether or not to excuse an absence.

## Center for Career Readiness

Come visit us at the Center for Career Readiness to talk about resume, cover letter, interviewing, career/major exploration, job/internship search, graduate school search, and everything else career.

For more information on student *resources*, or to schedule an *appointment*, visit the website: [www.unco.edu/career/students](http://www.unco.edu/career/students) or for student *events*, visit: [www.unco.edu/career/events](http://www.unco.edu/career/events).

### We are located:

Office: University Center 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Hours: M-F, 8am-5pm

Appointments: Virtual and In-Person

Drop-Ins: Visit our website for up-to-date information

**It's never too early to talk about career!**

## Equity and Inclusion

The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) embraces the diversity of students, faculty, and staff. UNC honors the inherent dignity of each individual, and welcomes their unique perspectives, behaviors, and world views. People of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, military or veteran statuses, sizes and/or shapes are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. Course content and campus discussions will heighten your awareness of others' individual and intersecting identities. For information or resources, contact the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, at 970-351-1944. If students want to report an incident related to identity-based discrimination/harassment, please visit [www.unco.edu/institutional-equity-compliance](http://www.unco.edu/institutional-equity-compliance).

Additionally, there are several cultural and resource centers across the campus that are equipped and designed to serve as caring and thoughtful centers for students, staff and faculty. You can find their information below:

### **Asian Pacific American Student Services (Cultural Center)**

924 20th St

Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-1909  
[AsianPacificAmerican.StudentServices@unco.edu](mailto:AsianPacificAmerican.StudentServices@unco.edu)

**César Chávez Cultural Center & DREAMer Engagement Program (Cultural Center)**  
1410 20th St  
Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-2424  
[ChavezCenter@unco.edu](mailto:ChavezCenter@unco.edu)

**Center for Women's and Gender Equity (Resource Center) & Stryker Institute for Leadership Development**  
1915 10th Ave  
Greeley, CO 80639  
970-351-1492  
[cwge@unco.edu](mailto:cwge@unco.edu)

**Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (Resource Center)**  
2215 10th Ave., Campus Box 42  
Greeley, CO 80631  
970-353-0191  
[gsrc@unco.edu](mailto:gsrc@unco.edu)

**Marcus Garvey Cultural Center (Cultural Center)**  
928 20th St., Campus Box 41  
Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-2351  
[MGCC@unco.edu](mailto:MGCC@unco.edu)

**Native American Student Services (Cultural Center)**  
924 20th St  
Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-1909  
[nativeamericanstudentservices@unco.edu](mailto:nativeamericanstudentservices@unco.edu)

**Veterans Services (Resource Center)**  
1815 8th Ave  
Greeley, CO 80631  
970-351-1403  
[veterans.services@unco.edu](mailto:veterans.services@unco.edu)