Course Title:
Research Methods

Course Number:
LSTD 5043-491

Course Description:
Theories and techniques of research designed to prepare graduate students to carry out individual research on a topic within an interdisciplinary program of study.

Course Dates:
January 2 – April 30, 2015
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: December 4, 2014

Site Director:
This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or e-mail our online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Jeffrey Maiden, Ph.D
Mailing Address: The Jeanine Rainbolt College of Education
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
820 Van Vleet Oval
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019-0260
Telephone Number: 405-325-1524
Fax Number: 405-325-2403
E-mail Address: maiden@ou.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm CST
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at www.oklahoma.bkstr.com is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fheg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

3. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

OU E-Mail:

All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students’ ou.edu address.

Course Objectives:

The course focuses on understanding and applying fundamental concepts of research design, including statistical analysis. The course is intended fundamentally as an introductory conceptual overview of research coupled with an introduction to rudimentary statistics. The research element will include understanding research philosophies, the importance of theory and literature in research, ethical issues and basic research design. The statistical element will include an introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics and probability. These two elements will be examined as parallel tracks across the four units of the course for two reasons: 1) Students will likely more readily understand each component given a full semester to absorb. It would be much more difficult to learn the material in half the time; and, 2) these are not necessarily sequential knowledge bases. It is not necessary to develop an understanding of one prior to the other. The course focuses primarily on quantitative research.

Course Web Site:

Detailed information about the objectives and goals of the course, as well as the course requirements and resources for completing them, are available through the course web site: http://cols.ou.edu/active/LSTD5043/. Additionally, the course includes resources through learn.ou.edu.

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

The course includes four units plus four components of a Course Spanning Project (CSP). A detailed description of each assignment is included in the course web site - http://cols.ou.edu/active/LSTD5043/.

The final day for submitting each assignment for full credit is as follows:

- Unit 1 and CSP Component 1: February 9, 2015
- Unit 2 and CSP Component 2: March 9, 2015
- Unit 3 and CSP Component 3: April 6, 2015
- Unit 4 and CSP Component 4: May 1, 2015

Note that most of the due dates are different from those listed on the CLS course site; please adhere to the due dates listed in this syllabus. For each business day that an assignment is submitted after the deadline, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final score unless the student has made arrangements for late submission with the instructor.

Submit assignments in the online Dropbox. Specific feedback for each assignment will provided either through the dropbox or via email message to each student’s OU email address.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Each assignment will be graded based on a percent scale. The unit assignments collectively will constitute 50 percent of the course grade, while the collective Course Spanning Project assignments will constitute the other 50 percent. The Course Spanning Project components will increase in point value, reflecting increasing content of the assignments. Unit 4 assignment includes no percent points, but must be completed to avoid earning an incomplete grade in the course.
The grading formula is as follows:

\[ G = (0.15 \times U_1) + (0.05 \times CSP_1) + (0.15 \times U_2) + (0.10 \times CSP_2) + (0.15 \times U_3) + (0.15 \times CSP_3) + (0.05 \times U_4) + (0.20 \times CSP_4) \]

Where \( G \) = the final numerical grade in the course;
\( U_1 \) = the grade for Unit 1 assignment;
\( CSP_1 \) = the grade for Course Spanning Project Component 1 assignment;
\( U_2 \) = the grade for Unit 2 assignment;
\( CSP_2 \) = the grade for Course Spanning Project Component 2 assignment;
\( U_3 \) = the grade for Unit 3 assignment;
\( CSP_3 \) = the grade for Course Spanning Project Component 3 assignment;
\( U_4 \) = the grade for Unit 4 assignment; and,
\( CSP_4 \) = the grade for Course Spanning Project Component 4 assignment;

The following represents the scale used to convert final numerical grades into final letter grades:

- 94% - 100%  A
- 85% - 93%  B
- 77% - 84%  C
- 70% - 77%  D

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

Instructor Notes and Grading Criteria:

Each unit presentation and the grading criteria for each unit and Course Spanning Project assignment are posted in the Content Area of the Desire2Learn site. The purpose of the presentations is to supplement the course readings and resources rather than to repeat them.

Policy for Late Work:

Please contact the professor regarding his/her policy for late work.

Attendance Policy:

In addition to interaction via Desire2Learn and E-mail contact, students are required to contact the instructor via E-mail or telephone before the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Desire2Learn, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, e-mail, or fax as needed.

Incomplete Grade Policy:

A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:

If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: http://webapps.ou.edu/it/ or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).
Procedures for Completion of Course Evaluation:

Upon completion of the course students should go to the Advanced Programs Online Learning Information webpage and click on the applicable semester link under “Online Course Evaluation” which will direct them to the evaluation. The evaluation will take approximately five minutes to complete. Completion of the online evaluation is an important tool allowing Advanced Programs to gain information and student feedback for improvement of courses.

Your responses will be kept confidential. They will be reviewed by the department and only supplied to the professor once grades for the course have been submitted.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc… in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Jeffrey Maiden

Education
- 1994 Ph.D. University of Florida  August 1994
- 1990 M.Ed. University of Florida,  Major:  Educational leadership

Current Positions
- Professor, Educational Administration, Curriculum and Supervision
- Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- The Jeanine Rainbolt College of Education, University of Oklahoma
- Adjunct Professor, College of Liberal Studies

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
LSTD 5043 Research Methods in Interdisciplinary Studies

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Education finance;
- The fiscal implications of education reform;
- The implications of fiscal reform in education.

Representative Publications and Presentations
- Woods, Michael, Jeffrey Maiden and Joyce Brandes, “An Exploration of the Representation of Students with Disabilities in Distance Education,” Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration, vol 14 no. 4 (Winter 2011).

Representative Honors and Awards Received
- Distinguished Fellowship Award, 2012: Awarded at the National Education Finance Conference in recognition of exceptional contributions to education through resource allocation, distribution, and policy by awarding the Distinguished Fellow awards to exemplary professionals in our education finance research and practitioner community
- Jack A. Culbertson Award, 2000: Awarded by the University Council on Educational Administration to a professor in the first six years of his or her career in recognition of outstanding accomplishments.

Major Professional Affiliations
- National Education Finance Academy
- American Educational Research Association