

# EMR 6590

## Contemporary Trends in Evaluation, Measurement, & Research

### Course Syllabus

Summer II Term 2016 (June 30, 2016 – August 19, 2016)

This course will meet on Tuesdays, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Sangren 1310. Tentatively, we will meet on July 5, 12, 19, 26, and August 2, 9, and 16. Please inform me of dates that you will not be available for class. We will try to make accommodations in scheduling for everyone and we will also use classroom recordings and prepare web casts for participants who cannot attend a session.

*Instructor:*

Dr. Gary Miron  
Professor, Educational Leadership, Research & Technology  
College of Education & Human Development, WMU

*Office hours:*

- I am very flexible to meet by appointment, although I prefer to meet before or after our Tuesday class sessions. My office is in the ELRT Department (third floor of Sangren). You are always welcome to call or text between 9 a.m and 9:00 p.m. on any days, including weekends, during the Summer II semester. If I am not available, leave a message and I will respond when I do become available. If you wish to schedule a private conversation by phone, skype, or live chat, you can do this by e-mail or phone. If you think your question(s) have a wider appeal, please use the course discussion board so that all students can benefit from the exchange.

*Contact information for Gary Miron*

ELRT Department, Sangren Hall  
Cell phone: 269-599-7965  
e-mail. <gary.miron@wmich.edu>  
Skype: gary.miron

### **Course Catalogue Description**

This course is intended to develop awareness of current inquiries in the areas of evaluation, measurement, and research methodology. This is an advanced core course in the EMR master's degree program. Each year the instructor will examine the annual meeting programs of the American Educational Research Association, the American Evaluation Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education to identify areas of activity in evaluation,

measurement, and research methodology. Students will read and critique selected papers from those meetings, identify issues in need of further research and development, and prepare proposals for addressing those issues.

### **Course Prerequisite**

EMR 6400 or permission of instructor

### **Credit and Clock Hours**

3 Semester credit hours

Tuesdays 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

1310 Sangren Hall

### **WMU eLearning Web Site Portal**

<https://elearning.wmich.edu>

### **Technical Support**

Western Michigan University Office of Instructional Technology:

Helpdesk: <http://www.wmich.edu/oit/helpdesk/index.html>

Hours: 8am-10pm (Monday-Friday, EST)

Phone (269) 387-HELP (387-4357)

Email: [HELPDESK@WMICH.EDU](mailto:HELPDESK@WMICH.EDU)

### **Required Texts**

There are no required textbooks for this class.

### **Instructional Objectives**

In general, the major objectives of this course, taught from a traditional lecture format augmented with computer examples, seminar discussion, and small group consultation, are designed to introduce students to current topics and research methods utilized in educational and social science disciplines. Skills developed in this course include critical evaluation and synthesis of research, qualitative and quantitative synthesis of literature. Specifically, students will learn via class presentations, simulations, and practical experience:

1. Major domains of inquiry in educational and the social sciences
2. General methods of inquiry in the educational and the social sciences
3. Some of the critical research questions currently under study in the educational and the social sciences
4. Within a narrow domain of the students choosing, the depth of inquiry currently under study

This course is designed to capitalize on previously acquired skills and experiences. Class presentations and coursework expectations have been developed with an assumption that:

1. Students have previous skills and knowledge in the use of personal computers, the University Libraries' online catalog and related reference databases.
2. Students can use several software applications for all course assignments (e.g., Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, SPSS or SAS).
3. Students have skills and knowledge in the use of e-mail and the Internet.

4. Students have skills and knowledge of statistical concepts and procedures learned in the prerequisite class EMR6400.

Students are not expected to be experts in any of these skills. However, each of the above listed skills will be reviewed and practiced. If any student has a concern about his/her personal skill level, please talk with the instructor *early* in the semester.

### **Professional Concerns**

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at <http://catalog.wmich.edu> under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. In addition, you may review University policies related to Code of Honor and general academic policies on such issues as diversity, religious observance, student disabilities, etc., at <http://osc.wmich.edu> and <http://www.wmich.edu/registrar>.

### **Need for Accommodations**

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the professor and the appropriate Disability Services office at the beginning of the semester. The two disability service offices on campus are: Disabled Student Resources and Services 269-387-2116 and the Office of Services for Students with Learning Disabilities 269-387-4411.

### **Diversity Statement**

The Department of Educational Leadership, Research & Technology, EMR program maintains a strong and sustained commitment to the diverse and unique nature of all learners and high expectations for each student.

### **Course Expectations**

In order to benefit most from your study of this course material, you are expected to read assigned texts, related documents, and journal articles, complete assignments related to course topics, and document mastery of course content via examination. Professionalism in all course-related endeavors and active class participation is expected. All work will be evaluated based on accuracy, adherence to guidelines, due dates, thoroughness, and evidence of effort. Be sure to check, proof, and edit all work before it is submitted.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Be prepared to discuss problems and readings as a class or in small groups. If you have questions, you may ask them in class, or via email, as it is your responsibility to gain clarification. If you have to be absent, please inform the instructor in advance so that arrangements can be made to record the class session.

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of all students. If you cannot be physically present, you can attend virtually, although you must arrange this with the instructor in advance. One absence will be accepted without affecting your participation grade unless prior notification and approval from the instructor is obtained.

### **Grading**

As previously stated: Professionalism in all course-related endeavors and active class participation is expected. All work will be evaluated based on accuracy, adherence to guidelines and due dates, thoroughness, effort, evidence of professionalism, evidence of data integration, coherence, and appearance. Be sure to check, proof, and edit all work submitted. Timely completion and the quality of your work will contribute to your overall course grade. In fairness to all, a penalty will be imposed for any work submitted late or work that requires a re-write. Generally speaking the penalty will be equivalent to half a letter grade. Extenuating circumstances will be considered with advance notice.

All assignments are to be written according to the 6th edition of the APA publications manual. Two exceptions are that you should not use a title page, and you should use single-space text rather than double-spaced text. It is your responsibility to become familiar with this writing style and the rules related to tables, figures and reporting statistical findings programs and output can be attached but will not contribute to your score. Homework is to be turned in the day of class it is due with the online dropbox or it will be considered late. Email attachments must be readable by Microsoft Word. If you are unable to meet this requirement, please inform the instructor immediately. The MS Word attachment requirement allows for easy handling for the course instructor and feedback (e.g., Track Changes) back to the students.

Course grades are based on total points earned. Your point total percentage is determined by dividing your total point total into the highest total number of points earned, and multiplying by 100. So if you have earned 225 points out of a total of 280 points, your percentage is  $(225/280) * 100$  or 91%.

Attendance and participation account for approximately 30% of all points and total value for all projects and written assignments will be worth approximately 70%. Based on total points earned, 100% - 94% = A; 93.9% - 89% = BA; 88.9% - 84 % = B; 83.9% - 80% = CB; 79.9% - 75% = C; and below 75 % = E.

Save the completed Word files so that the instructor knows (by the filename) who is dropping the assignment and which assignment is attached: For example, WA2\_Gary-Miron. Your name MUST be included within the file name, and no spaces are permitted in the file name

When communicating about the course always include the course number in the subject line.  
: RE EMR6590