

**Santa Clara University
Department of Education
Education 254 Action Research
Winter 2007**

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Office hrs. Wed. 4-5 or by appt.

Course Description: This course provides an introduction of action research and practice in the use of qualitative research methods. The main goal is to support each student in completing a “draft” of chapters 1-3 of the approved *culminating project** of his/her choice.. This course will enable the student to successfully:

1. Develop an understanding of how action research can be used to inform and improve educational practice (teaching, administration, and curriculum development).
2. Select the option for his/her culminating project and submit form for approval (designate adviser).
3. Determine, practice and apply the research approach and methods best suited to his/her culminating project.
4. Apply his/her cognitive skills in critical thinking (analysis, inference, interpretation, explanation, evaluation, and meta-cognitive self-regulation).
5. Complete chapters 1-3 (polished drafts) of his/her culminating project and develop a plan to complete chapters 4 and 5.
6. Participate fully in class discussions through a Learning Through Discussion approach , contribute to small group discussions and serve as a source of feedback for his/her colleagues in the process of completing their first drafts.

* The project for this course may result in the “draft” chapters for the student’s master’s or graduate program project option. Students are responsible for meeting with their program advisor to secure approval, securing a second reader, and submitting the appropriate forms (example: Human Subjects, thesis approval, curriculum project approval.)

Required Text:

Stringer, Ernie (2004). *Action Research in Education*, Pearson: Prentice Hall, Columbus, Ohio.

Recommended Text:

Lawrence-Lightfoot and Hoffman Davis, (1997) *The Art and Science of Portraiture*, Jossey-Bass Publishers, San Francisco.

Selected reading provided by the instructor.

