1. **Course Title and Credits:** ELCL 629, Research in Education I, 3 graduate credits

2. **Course Description:**
This course prepares students to develop, implement, and write up an original educational research project within their fields of specialization in the M.Ed. in Education program. The course is the first of two capstone empirical research experiences in the program for all concentrations. Students are required to select a research topic, review the existing literature related to that topic, and formulate a specific researchable question(s) within that topic. As a final paper, students write the first three chapters of their masters thesis, including a feasible plan for conducting a study of the questions to be carried out during the next semester in CIEE 630, Research in Education II.

3. **Prerequisite:** ELEC 634 or ELCL 603 or ELCL 616 or ELCL 625 or ELLM 513 or TBED 607

4. **Course Objectives:**
A. To become familiar with and carry out the process of conducting a review of the research literature on a chosen topic in the student’s degree concentration.
B. To use techniques for critically evaluating research done by others.
C. To be familiar with and carry out the process of formulating a research problem for investigation.
D. To identify and formulate a plan for applying of a variety of methods for conducting educational research.
E. To identify procedures for organizing, analyzing, and presenting research results.
F. To identify techniques used for interpreting and drawing conclusions about the results of a study after data have been collected.
G. To write three chapters of an original educational research thesis including a review of the literature, a statement of the research hypotheses, and a method for testing the hypotheses.

5. **Student Learning Outcomes:**
Students will be able to:
A. Carry out the process of conducting a review of the research literature on a chosen topic in the student’s degree concentration.
B. Critically evaluate research done by others.
C. Conduct a mini-classroom research project with a short written report.
D. Carry out the process of formulating a research problem for investigation as a thesis project.
E. Formulate a plan for applying of a variety of methods for conducting educational research.
F. Identify procedures for organizing, analyzing, and presenting research results.
G. Identify techniques used for interpreting and drawing conclusions about the results of a study after data have been collected.
H. Write three chapters of an original educational research thesis including a review of the literature, a statement of the research hypotheses, and a method for testing the hypotheses.

6. Course Content:
A. Introduction to the course and its requirements: Basic terminology and the format of a research paper
B. Research presentations by former students
C. Library Session: Making use of library resources
D. Reviewing the literature: Selecting a research topic and focusing a literature search
E. Formulating hypotheses: How to ask specific questions about a topic
F. Evaluating existing literature
G. Developing a method for testing hypotheses: Setting up a feasible research design
H. Planning to select participants and collect data: Some practical and ethical considerations
I. Evaluating the results of an empirical study: Statistical approaches and how to present your data
J. Pulling it all together: Review of organization of paper
K. Student presentations of proposed studies

7. Teaching/Learning Methods:
A. Lecture and discussion
B. Assigned readings
C. Cooperative group problem solving
D. Periodic written assignments on parts of thesis chapters
E. Mini-classroom research project and paper
F. Presentations of research plans in class for peer analysis
G. Individual conferences

8. Evaluation Methods:
A. Periodic drafts of chapter sections
B. Critique of a research article
C. Mini-classroom research project and report
D. First draft of Chapters I, II, and III of thesis

9. Recommended Texts/Readings:


10. Preparer's Name and Date: Updated 9/2003, Rochelle Goldberg Kaplan

11. Department Approval Date: Fall 1993
12. **Reviser’s Name and Date:** Rochelle G. Kaplan, Spring 1996; Spring 2000; Spring 2001; Fall 2003

13. **Department Revision Approval Date:** Spring 1996; Spring 2000

14. **Bibliography:**