**School of Education**  
EDUC5300  
MAT Action Research

**Instructor**  Jean M. Kiekel, PhD  
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**Email**  kiekelj@stthom.edu  
**Office**  125 Malloy Hall  
**Office Hours**  Monday/Wednesday 10 a.m.-noon; Thursday 1-3 p.m.; by appointment

**Prerequisites**  
Admission to Teacher Education. This course is for students who need fewer than three hours to complete their degree plan. Students must meet with a potential advisor who agrees to sponsor their research.

**Textbooks**  
There is no required textbook for this class.

**Course Description**  
This course is designed to allow the student to explore an avenue of research they are interested in related to teaching and learning.

**Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes**  
The student product(s) will be discussed during initial meeting with advisor based on the goals and objectives of the student's interest. Possible products can be a paper, website, article for publication; product must be deemed as appropriate for the goals of the degree plan as discussed with advisor.

**Social Justice Tenets**  
Selected social justice teachings of the Catholic Church are used to inform the School of Education programs. As educators, the tenets of social justice should play a pivotal role in decision-making strategies in Catholic, private, and public schools of all levels.

- **Subsidiarity**: Educational institutions should be organized and governed as much as possible by the community being served; education should only be controlled at higher levels of society when it cannot be done effectively locally.
- **Dignity and rights of children**: Children possess full human dignity and are bearers of rights which should be recognized and upheld in the educational process.
- **People have a right to an education**: All people have a responsibility, for the good of society, to contribute to and foster education.

While these three keystones of social justice teachings are present throughout the coursework, they are specifically addressed through scenarios, case studies, and role playing activities at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

**Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<td>Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>84-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>74-76</td>
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</tbody>
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**Attendance** – The student and advisor will meet periodically to discuss the progress and review.

**Product** – The student will produce a research paper related to their research topic. The paper will be of appropriate length and breadth to encompass their research question as negotiated with the advisor.

**Plagiarism** is taking credit for any thought, idea, or work that does not come from the student. Plagiarism is a serious offense that will cause a student to fail the course and can lead to steps of dismissal from this class or UST. When writing any paper, reference information, websites, books, etc. If a student paraphrases, then the reference must be given. If a student quotes, quotation marks plus reference and page number(s) must be given. There must be a one-to-one correspondence between what is cited in the body of the text and what is placed on the reference page. It is very tempting to copy and paste works from the internet, borrow the work of friends, rephrase another paper that students have written in the past, or change a few phrases here and there. Students must cite themselves if they copy from another paper that they have written. Plagiarism is a violation of integrity.

In addition, copying a paragraph or more and changing words here and there is also plagiarism. Paraphrasing a paragraph or more is also plagiarism. **Paraphrasing an idea with proper citing is not plagiarism.** To avoid plagiarism close all sources while writing. Plagiarism is a serious violation of integrity. It is not tolerated in the School of Education. Students who engage in plagiarism have demonstrated that they do not have the moral standards necessary to be trusted. Students who engage in plagiarism will be failed for this course and possible dismissal from the School of Education is left to the discretion of the professor.

**Student Products** – In all written work, grammar, sentence structure, organization, and spelling will be of such quality as to be an outstanding model for other educators. All work cited by the student in papers or projects should follow the style manual of the American Psychological Association. This website can serve as a reference for APA style: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/)

**Formatting Guidelines:** Please follow these formatting guidelines, unless otherwise directed by your instructor:

- Papers should be typed. Double spacing is acceptable, but this means you must write a longer paper. For example, a 1-2 page single spaced paper should be 2-4 pages double spaced.
- Your name, the course title/number, and the date should be written in the upper right hand corner, single-spaced. Do not add an additional title page.
- Center the title two lines below the date. (A title is optional.)
- The body of the paper should be double-spaced.
- The top and bottom margins should be 1 inch all around. These are the default margins in Microsoft Word.
- Use a 12-point font that is clear and easy to read, such as Arial or Times New Roman. Script or cursive fonts will not be accepted.
- Number pages in the header or footer
- Properly cite all references according to APA style.
- Professional editing and proofreading are expected. Papers should be written in standard English and free of grammatical, punctuation, spelling and other editing issues. Papers with frequent mechanical issues may not pass, regardless of content.
Academic Integrity
Integrity requires students to be authentic and honest in all their work. Integrity implies that students become familiar with and practice at all time the Code of Ethics for their profession. All work performed for this class should be original to the student and prepared solely for the designated assignment. Use of work previously created by the student should receive prior approval from the instructor. Acts of dishonesty or plagiarism will, at the discretion of the instructor, result in either a failing grade for the examination or assignment or a failing grade for the course.

Use of UST Email Accounts
All email communications regarding this course will be done through the students’ University of St. Thomas accounts. Students should check their accounts regularly for communications from the instructor. If you do not regularly check your UST email account, it should be forwarded to an account you do check regularly.

Student Accommodations
The University of St. Thomas wishes to make all reasonable academic accommodations to assist its students in being successful. Students with a documented disability should contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center to request consideration by the Committee for Academic Accommodations. The office can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 3162. After attaining the committee’s recommendations, please schedule an appointment to meet with the instructor to discuss appropriate accommodations for this course.