

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Kinesiology

KINE 450.DL2 – Research Methods
3 Credits, Spring 2017
Online/Web

Faculty

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Prerequisites/Corequisites

60 credits and one of the following: STAT 250, DESC 210, OM 210, SOC 313, OM 250, or IT 250

University Catalog Course Description

Covers the development of empirical research designs for both practical and theoretical problems in health, fitness, and recreation resources management. Includes literature review of hypothesized relationships, and formulation of research proposals. Fulfills writing intensive requirement in the major.

Course Overview

Writing-Intensive Designation

As this course has been designated “Writing-Intensive” (WI) – fulfilling in part the WI requirement for all HFRR majors – you are required to complete at least 3,500 words of graded writing assignments. A series of writing exercises will be completed throughout the semester, thoroughly critiqued, and graded. Together, these will form the basis for your final research proposal. It is to your benefit to study and incorporate the comments given, as each assignment builds upon the next.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using an asynchronous format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on the first day of the semester (Monday, January 22, 2017).

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements

In order to participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox is required (note: Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard).
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - Windows Media Player: <https://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-media-player/>
 - Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Expectations

- Course Week:
Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday, and finish on Sunday.
- Log-in Frequency:
Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 3 times per week.
- Participation:
Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in any course discussions and/or group interactions.
- Technical Competence:
Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues:
Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Workload:
Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- Instructor Support:
Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.
- Netiquette:
The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- Accommodations:
Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Define and demonstrate appropriate use of research terminology;
2. Critically evaluate published research in scientific journals and the popular press;
3. Formulate research problem statements;
4. Enumerate the values inherent in the practice of scientific research;
5. Conduct a thorough review of literature and synthesize the findings; and,
6. Prepare a sound and feasible research proposal.

Professional Standards

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional accreditation standards:

Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT):

7.02	Students graduating from the program shall be able to demonstrate the ability to design, implement, and evaluate services that facilitate targeted human experiences and <i>that</i> embrace personal and cultural dimensions of diversity.
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Commission on the Accreditation of Athletic Training Education competencies met:

PD 13	Describe and differentiate the types of quantitative and qualitative research and describe components and process of scientific research (including statistical decision-making) as it relates to athletic training research.
PD 14	Interpret the current research in athletic training and other related medical and health areas and apply the results to the daily practice of athletic training.
PD 4	Develop a research project (to include but not limited to case study, clinical research project, literature review) for an athletic training-related topic.

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)

1.3.14	Ability to obtain informed consent.
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Required Text

Matthews, T. D. & Kostelis, K. T. (2011). *Designing and Conducting Research in Health and Human Performance*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Supplementary Material

Supplementary materials may be used in class and students will be notified via email/Blackboard when applicable.

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy). All assignments should be turned in via Blackboard. Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the specified date due or **no credit will be given**.

Research Proposal

The creation of a research proposal is a requirement of this course. The research proposal includes a series of tasks that will be thoroughly critiqued and graded. Together, these will form the basis for your research proposal. It is to your benefit to incorporate the comments given into your final research proposal. The guidelines and grading criteria for these tasks will be available on Blackboard.

This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 100 possible points via following assignments:

Assignment		Points
#1	Article Review Assignment	15
#2	Introduction, Problem Statement, Literature Review and Hypotheses	15
#3	Research Design	15
#4	Sampling Plan, Measurement and Data Collection	15
#5	Analysis Plan	15
#6	Poster Presentation	5
#7	Final Research Proposal	20
	Total	100

Grading

A	93-100	A-	90-92	B+	87-89	B	83-86
B-	80-82	C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D	60-69	F	0-59				

Assignments

#1 Article Review Assignment

The intent of this assignment is to increase your familiarity with quantitative evidence-based peer-reviewed journal articles. Select one of the quantitative articles you are planning to use for your research proposal. Read the article thoroughly. Summarize and critique the article.

#2 Introduction, Problem Statement, Literature Review and Hypotheses

The intent of this assignment is to apply your curiosity, in addition to your conceptual and practical understanding of your topic to asking questions and defining research problems. Specifically, you are to write an introduction to your research proposal, a specific statement of the problem, an integrated review of the pertinent literature, identification of variables, and testable hypotheses.

#3 Research Design

The intent of this assignment is to develop the research methods section of your research proposal. In addition, this assignment includes a discussion of how you would validate and confirm the reliability of your instrument.

#4 Sampling Plan, Measurement and Data Collection

The intent of this assignment is to describe the population, the sampling design, and the target sample size appropriate for evaluating your hypotheses. In addition, you will identify the measurement tools available and detail the data collection procedures. This assignment also includes a discussion of the possible ethical problems and their solutions for your study

#5 Analysis Plan

The intent of this assignment is to develop a data analysis plan on how you would proceed to analyze your data if you were to conduct your proposed study. Your plan must include the appropriate descriptive and inferential statistics.

#6 Poster Presentation

The intent of this assignment is for you to share your research proposal using a poster presentation. This assignment will allow you to gain experience in poster presentation skills.

#7 Final Research Proposal

The intent of this assignment is for you to apply your conceptual and practical understanding of your research topic to prepare a final and complete research proposal. Your proposal should illustrate your familiarity with problem formation and hypothesis development, review and critical analysis of the scholarly literature related to your study, justification of appropriate methodology, and consideration of the implications of your research. This assignment is a revision and extension of all content included in previous assignments.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Class Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignment due
1	1/23 – 1/29	Introduction to Research	M&T: Chapter 1	
2	1/30 – 2/5	Concepts in Research Designs	M&T: Chapter 2	#1
3	2/6 – 2/12	Introduction, Problem Statement, Literature Review and Hypotheses: <i>Developing a Topic</i>	M&T: Chapter 3	
4	2/13 – 2/19	Introduction, Problem Statement, Literature Review and Hypotheses: <i>Writing a Literature Review</i>	M&T: Chapter 4	#2
5	2/20 – 2/26	Research Design: <i>Quantitative Designs</i>	M&T: Chapter 5	
6	2/27 – 3/5	Research Design: <i>Qualitative and Other Designs</i>	M&T: Chapters 6, 7	
7	3/6 – 3/12	Research Design: <i>Validity and Reliability</i>	M&T: Chapter 10	#3
8	3/13 – 3/19	----- <i>Spring Break</i> -----		
9	3/20 – 3/26	Sampling plan, Measurement and Data Collection: <i>Ethics</i>	M&T: Chapter 8	
10	3/27 – 4/2	Sampling plan, Measurement and Data Collection: <i>Sample Selection</i>	M&T: Chapter 9	#4
11	4/3 – 4/9	Analysis plan: <i>Quantitative approach</i>	M&T: Chapters 11, 12	
12	4/10 – 4/16	Analysis plan: <i>Qualitative approach</i>	M&T: Chapter 13	
13	4/17 – 4/23	Analysis plan: <i>Results and Discussion</i>	M&T: Chapter 14	#5
14	4/24 – 4/30	Presenting Research	M&T: Chapter 15	#6
15	5/1 – 5/7	Final Research Proposal		#7

Note. M&T = Matthews & Kostelis textbook

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the

university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.

- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- The Writing Center provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing (see <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>).
- The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance (see <http://caps.gmu.edu/>).
- The Student Support & Advocacy Center staff helps students develop and maintain healthy lifestyles through confidential one-on-one support as well as through interactive programs and resources. Some of the topics they address are healthy relationships, stress management, nutrition, sexual assault, drug and alcohol use, and sexual health (see <http://ssac.gmu.edu/>). Students in need of these services may contact the office by phone at 703-993-3686. Concerned students, faculty and staff may also make a referral to express concern for the safety or well-being of a Mason student or the community by going to <http://ssac.gmu.edu/make-a-referral/>.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/>.

Academic Integrity

GMU is an Honor Code University; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? First, it means that when you are responsible for a task, you will be the one to perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives and traditions. When in doubt, please ask for guidance and clarification.