

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Kinesiology

KINE 450 —Research Methods

3 Credits, Spring 2018

T, R 10:30 – 11:45 AM, Bull Run Hall 252 – SciTech Campus

Faculty

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PREREQUISITES

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 HHP 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

The course is a mix of a lecture and discussion course. However, other approaches may be used to facilitate learning. These include: videos, demonstrations and in-class activities. Overall this will be a highly interactive class and students will be encouraged to participate.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the completion of the course, students should be able to:

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/ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

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

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

7.03	Students graduating from the program shall be able to demonstrate entry level knowledge about operations and strategic management in parks, recreation, tourism, and/or related professions
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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.

American College of Sports Medicine

1.3.14	Ability to obtain informed consent.
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REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS

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

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Supplementary materials will be used in class and posted on Blackboard.

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 on Blackboard.**

EVALUATION:

	Points
Assignments:	
• Topic Selection	25
• Article Review & Presentation	50
• Intro, Lit Review, Purpose, Hypothesis	100
• Sample Plan/Methods	100
• Data Analysis	75
• Presentation	100
• Final Research Project	100
Quizzes (5 at 20 points each)	100
	650

DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATION:

Assignments: This is a writing intensive course and many of your assignments will be writing focused. These assignments are to build upon each other and help you develop your final research project. More details about each assignment will be given during class time and on Blackboard.

1. Topic Selection Assignment

The intent of this assignment is to encourage an early start on your research proposal including your topic selection and literature search.

2. Article Review and Presentation

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

Read the article thoroughly. Summarize and critique the article. You will present (5 minutes) a summary of the key points from your article. This will serve as an opportunity to improve your oral communication.

3. Introduction and Review of Literature

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.

4. Sampling Plan and Methods

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 research design to be used, measurement tools available and detailing the data collection procedures. This assignment also includes a discussion of how you would validate and confirm the reliability of your instrument, in addition to a discussion of the possible ethical problems and their solutions for your study

5. Analysis Plan

The intent of this assignment is to develop 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. Presentation

The intent of this assignment is for you to share your research proposal with your colleagues via a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation. This assignment will allow you to gain experience in oral presentation skills. As part of the experience, your colleagues & I may ask questions about your study, and we will offer a summary critique intended to help you improve your final written proposal.

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.

Quizzes – Consisting of multiple choice, T/F, short answer and application questions. Will be given after major topic areas in class.

Grading Scale

A	4.0	=	93.0 & above
A-	3.7	=	90.0 – 92.9%
B+	3.3	=	87.0 – 89.9%
B	3.0	=	83.0 – 86.9%
B-	2.7	=	80.0 – 82.9%
C+	2.3	=	77.0 – 79.9%
C	2.0	=	73.0 – 76.9%
C-	1.7	=	70.0 – 72.9%
D	1.0	=	60.0 – 69.9%
F	0.0	=	0.0 – 59.9%

Note: * Although a B- is a satisfactory grade for a course, students must maintain a 3.00 average in their degree program and present a 3.00 GPA on the courses listed on the graduation application.

Make-up Policy

- For every day an assignment is late a drop in one letter grade will be applied. (Ex: An assignment that is one day late will start at a grade of a B+, 2 days late a C+, etc....)
- Exams which are due to unexcused absences will not be allowed a make-up exam.
- Make-up exams and assignments will only be offered for those who possess a University sanctioned excuse or doctor's note.

Cell Phones:

- Must be turned off at the beginning of class and texting in class will not be tolerated. I don't even want to see them out on the desk for ANY reason.
- You get **ONE WARNING**; further cell phone use will result in a 5 point reduction on the next exam.
- For repeated offenses the student will be removed from the classroom and a drop in one whole letter grade will result. (i.e. A to B+)
- Texting during an exam warrants immediate expulsion from class and zero will be given for a grade.
- If you have an emergency situation and your cell phone needs to be on please inform the professor at the beginning of the class.

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>

Students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code. You are expected to attend all class sections, actively participate in class discussions, complete in-class exercises and fulfill all assignments. Make-up tests, quizzes, assignments, or other grades will be granted for excused absences only. Excused absences include: serious illness, official university excused absences and extenuating circumstances. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in order to obtain the make-up work..

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week of	Topic	Assignments/Readings
8/28	Syllabus/Introduction/Types of Research	Ch. 1
	Information retrieval, problem development	Ch. 1-2
9/4	Current research examples	Ch. 2-3
	Ethical considerations in research	Ch. 8 Proposal Topic Assignment
9/11	Quiz 1 Problem presentation, statement of the problem.	Ch. 3
	Article summary presentation & discussion	Article Summary Review Due
9/18	Proposal Development	
	Writing the introduction	Ch. 4
9/25	Review of Literature	
	Quiz 2 Reliability & Validity	Ch. 10
10/2	Collecting credible data	
	Quantitative research methods	Ch. 5
10/9	No Class – Monday Schedule	
	Quantitative research methods	Review of Literature Due
10/16	Qualitative research methods	Ch. 6
	Qualitative research methods	
10/23	Mixed Methods	Ch. 7
	Quiz 3 Data Analysis/Statistics	Ch. 11-13
10/30	Data Analysis/Statistics	
	Data Analysis/Statistics	
11/6	Proposal data analysis planning	

	Quiz 4 Results & Discussion	Ch. 14
11/13	Results & Discussion	Sampling/Methods Assignment Due
	Creating an abstract	Ch. 14
11/20	Quiz 5 Review for final proposal	Analysis Assignment
	Happy Thanksgiving!	
11/27	Presenting your research	Ch. 15
	Presenting your research	
12/4	Presentations	
	Presentations	Presentation Assignment

Final Research Proposal – Due, Friday December 7th

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course syllabus and/or schedule at any time. Students will always be informed of any changes made

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/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

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

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.

