

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Physical Activity for Lifetime Wellness**

RECR 186 003 - Yoga: Introduction  
1 Credit, Fall 2023  
W/F 1:30PM-2:45pm  
August 21, 2023 to October 5, 2023

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None

**University Catalog Course Description**

Introduces students to the practice of Hatha yoga. Class emphasis will be on learning yoga asanas (postures) and pranayama (breathing exercises) to enhance physical fitness and mental concentration.

**Course Overview**

Readings, lectures, and class participation will be used to analyze the practice of yoga asana and yoga philosophy.

- Students with injuries or pre-existing conditions that may affect performance must inform the instructor.
- Students with specific medication conditions, limited flexibility or injuries will learn appropriate modifications of poses for their own practices.
- All communication will be through GMU (George Mason University) e-mail – the Patriot Web Site.

- Students are requested to bring their own yoga mat, yoga blocks, and yoga strap to class.
- Comfortable stretch clothing is required. No street clothes may be worn.
- Students can make-up **ONE** class due to absence. Make-up class must be accompanied by a journal (write up of your experience) to be handed in via Blackboard.
- Please login to Blackboard 5-10 minutes **before** class start time to register your attendance. We will begin practice promptly at 9:00am.

### **Course Delivery Method**

- This is an activity-based course.

### **Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

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

1. Demonstrate at least 20 asanas, including proper alignment, with a strong emphasis on safe practice. Students with specific medication conditions, limited flexibility or injuries will learn appropriate modifications of poses for their own practices.
2. Identify the poses and demonstrate proficiency in "Sun Salutation" (Surya Namaskar); a Vinyasa or steady flow of 12 classic postures linked with breath work in a continuous movement.
3. Name the benefits of asanas.
4. State the need for and importance of warm-up practices and poses.
5. Develop proficiency in the practice of pranayama.
6. Demonstrate techniques of basic relaxation.

**Required Texts** None

#### **Recommended Texts**

Desikachar, T.K.V. (1999). *The Heart of Yoga: Developing a Personal Practice*. Rochester, VT: Inner Traditions International.

### **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time on Blackboard.

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**
  - **Homework Writing Assignments Through Blackboard**
    - Students will complete two essays reflecting on topics read in required text and reviewed in class discussion. Essays are submitted through Blackboard, and can be reflective in nature (i.e., something new you learned, questions, comments, etc.)
  - **Integration Exam 1**
    - The exam is conducted in class and in person only. Students are responsible for attending the exam as scheduled. Students will be guided through a full Vinyasa practice which will be cumulative in nature, integrating poses learned to date. Students are expected to demonstrate recognition of poses, and comprehension of safe alignment. Grades will be based on individual progress. There is no written component to this exam.
  - **Integration Exam 2**
    - The exam is conducted in class and in person only. Students are responsible for attending the exam as scheduled. Students will be guided through a full Vinyasa practice which will be cumulative, integrating poses learned over the course. Students are expected to demonstrate recognition of poses, and comprehension of safe alignment. Grades will be based on individual progress. There is no written component to this exam.
- **Other Requirements**
  - Class participation-
    - Students are expected to come prepared for class in appropriate attire and with the appropriate attitude to practice yoga.
    - Absences are excused **only** with a doctor's note or pre-approved by the instructor. *Emails, phone calls, and texts do **not** excuse absences. Doctor's note must be presented immediately upon return to class or scanned and emailed to the instructor.*
  - Other Blackboard assignments, attendance, participation
- **Grading**
  - Class Participation (50 points)
  - Essay 1 (10 points)
  - Essay 2 (10 points)
  - Integration Exam 1 (15 points)
  - Integration Exam 2 (15 points)

- **Total: 100 points**

- **Grading Policies**

A+	= 97-100	B+	= 88-89	C+	= 78-79	D	= 60-69
A	= 94-96	B	= 84-87	C	= 74-77	F	= 0-59
A-	= 90-93	B-	= 80-83	C-	= 70-73		

### **Professional Dispositions**

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

### **Class Schedule**

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

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading/Assignments</b>
<b>One 08/23-08/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Yoga, aids, clothing &amp; mats.</li> <li>• Course Content.</li> <li>• Prana breathing introduction</li> <li>• Learn/Practice Elements of Surya Namaskar A (Sun Salutation A)</li> <li>• Discuss and practice Savasana (Relaxation)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 in Heart of Yoga</li> </ul>
<b>Two 08/30-09/01</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Surya Namaskar</li> <li>• Linking movement with breath</li> <li>• Review Savasana</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 3 and Chapter 6 in Heart of Yoga</li> </ul>

<p><b>Three</b> <b>09/06-09/08</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion &amp; alignment of basic standing asanas: Pages 45-51 in Heart of Yoga</li> <li>• Discuss, modifications (props)/contraindications</li> <li>• Tadasana (mountain pose)</li> <li>• Virabhadrasana 1 (Warrior 1) &amp; Crescent Lunge</li> <li>• Virabhadrasana 2 (Warrior 2)</li> <li>• Parsvakonasana (Side Angle Pose)</li> <li>• Reverse Warrior Pose</li> <li>• Savasana</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 4 in Heart of Yoga</li> </ul>
<p><b>Four</b> <b>09/13-09/15</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrating standing asanas into practice</li> <li>• Prasarita Padottanasana(Standing Wide-legged Forward Fold with Variations)</li> <li>• Savasana</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 5 in Heart of Yoga</li> <li>• <b>Essay I due 09/13 by 8pm</b></li> <li>• <b>Integration Exam I will be on 09/15</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Five</b> <b>09/20-09/22</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Balance Practice and Backbends.</li> <li>• Integrating back bending into our practice.</li> <li>• Importance of Alignment</li> <li>• Savasana</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 7 in Heart of Yoga</li> </ul>

<p><b>SIX</b> <b>09/27-09/29</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review back bending with modifications.</li> <li>• Introduction to Arm Balances and Inversions.</li> <li>• Floor postures</li> <li>• Salabasana (Locust)</li> <li>• Dhanurasana (Bow Pose)</li> <li>• Setu Bandha Sarvangasana (Bridge Pose)</li> <li>• Savasana</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 8 through Chapter 11 in Heart of Yoga</li> </ul>
<p><b>Seven</b> <b>10/04-10/06</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seated postures</li> <li>• Paschimottanasana (Seated Forward Fold)</li> <li>• Baddha konasana (Bound Angle Pose)</li> <li>• Parivrtta Upavistha Konasana (Wide-legged Seated Forward Fold)</li> <li>• Savasana.</li> <li>• Review of Practice, philosophy, Final Quiz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 12 through 15 in Heart of Yoga</li> <li>• <b>Essay II due 10/04 by 8pm</b></li> <li>• <b>Integration exam II will be on 10/06</b></li> </ul>

### 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 <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://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 accommodation will begin when the instructor receives the written letter from Disability Services (see <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding the use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

### **Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:**

As a faculty member, I am designated as a "Responsible Employee," and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

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

Mason students now have FREE access to [TimelyCare](#) – a virtual mental health and well-being platform crafted specifically for college students!

With TimelyCare, Mason students will have access to a multitude of virtual mental health and well-being resources that are free and available 24/7. Find out more about the resources available online at [Timelycare.com/gmu](https://timelycare.com/gmu) or [Download the app](#).  
<https://ulife.gmu.edu/timely-care/>