

**The University of Texas at El Paso  
Department of Kinesiology  
Syllabus**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

KIN 5373: Motor Neuroscience  
CRN: 23710  
Term: Spring 2025  
Delivery Method: Online  
Meeting Day and Time: Asynchronous  
Location: Blackboard

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**




Dr. Jason Boyle, Associate Professor and Chair: Department of Kinesiology  
Phone: Microsoft Teams (jboyle)  
Office Location: HSSN 443  
Email: [jboyle@utep.edu](mailto:jboyle@utep.edu)  
Office Hours: By appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The neural, physical, and behavioral processes that govern human motor performance across the lifespan are studied. Theories of motor learning and re-learning following trauma are emphasized, with attention given to how intervention and feedback variables impact the learning process. Factors that influence postural control and gait during life are addressed.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

<b>Student Learning Objective</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Draw on existing knowledge bases to create “new” or “transformed” knowledge	 Critical Thinking Skills
Develop skill sets that demonstrate higher level processing of issues related to the nervous system and/or strategies to consider when leading patients/clients/athletes	 Confidence
Examine clinical scenarios and draw on prior knowledge of the motor system to conclude a proper conclusion	 Problem Solving

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

There is no required textbook for this course. All the materials needed for this course will be delivered through lecture videos & power point notes. The notes have been constructed from numerous textbooks in neuroscience, motor learning and anatomy & physiology over a 10-year period.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The evaluation of course content will consist of three exams and twelve quizzes. Graduate students: A minimum average of 70% is needed to pass the course with a grade of "C." Please note, the UTEP Master of Science program has a policy regarding the number of C's a student can make. Please see the graduate handbook or contact the graduate coordinator for more information regarding this policy. Fast-Track students: Per the UTEP Fast-Track rules and regulations, students must pass the course with a grade of 80% or better for the grade to count towards both the undergraduate and potential future graduate transcript. A grade of 70 – 79% will only count for credit on the undergraduate transcript.

Graded activities and their weight are as follows:

<b>Graded Components</b>	<b>% final grade</b>
Lecture Quizzes 1-12 (3 points each)	<b>36</b>
Exams 1, 2, 3 (20 points each)	<b>60</b>
Exit Survey (4 points)	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Lecture Quizzes:** There will be a quiz at the end of each Lecture. The questions will be related to the ppt notes and lecture video. The purpose of the quizzes is to prepare you for the exams. The quizzes will be closed note/closed book and taken on Respondus lockdown browser webcam enabled.

**Exams:** Three Exams will be administered. Conflicts with the exam dates must be brought up at least 1 week in advance to the instructor for accommodation. Conflicts notified after this period will not be accommodated. The exams will be closed note/closed book and taken on Respondus lockdown browser webcam enabled.

The following letter grade scale is used for the UTEP Department of Kinesiology:

<u>Letter Grade Scale</u>	<u>Numerical Grade Scale</u>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

**Important:** The Masters of Kinesiology program has a strict grading policy related to academic performance. A student will be placed on academic probation after making a single grade of C at any point in the program. A second grade of C is grounds for dismissal from the program. Any grade of D or lower results in automatic dismissal from the program.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This course's content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

**IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

## **COURSE COMMUNICATION:** How we will stay in contact with each other

Here are the ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- Office Hours: I am available to schedule office hours for your questions and comments about the course. I am available in-person; however, you can request a virtual meeting and I will send you a Zoom link.
- Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student e-mail account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- Announcements: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY**

All assignments will strictly follow UTEP's attendance policy. Any missed assignment that does not meet the requirements of an excused absence will be counted as a 0. If you are going to / or miss an assignment and you believe the absence is excusable, you must contact the Professor within 24 hours of the assignment's due date. Emailing later in the semester about missing grades, even if the absence was excused, will not be accepted. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of when assignments are due and also to communicate to the Professor when absences happen.

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

## MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

## INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

## ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASSportal

### Additional Resources:



**Academic Dishonesty Statement:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action.

Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

<b>Spring 2025 Tentative ONLINE Schedule</b>			
Week 1	January 20 – January 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome / Introduction Video</li> <li>- Lecture 1: Neuroanatomy</li> </ul>	- Quiz 1
Week 2	January 27 – February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lecture 2: Synapses, Synaptic Transmission &amp; Plasticity</li> </ul>	- Quiz 2
Week 3	February 3 – February 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lecture 3: Sensory Systems (part 1)</li> </ul>	- Quiz 3
Week 4	February 10 – February 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lecture 4: Sensory Systems (part 2)</li> </ul>	- Quiz 4
Week 5	February 17 – February 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>UNIT 1 EXAM (Lectures 1-4)</b></li> </ul>	- Exam 1
Week 6	February 24 – March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lecture 5: The Motor System part 1 (Neurons, Spinal Cord &amp; Tracts)</li> </ul>	- Quiz 5
Week 7	March 3 – March 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lecture 6: The Motor System part 2 (Basal Ganglia)</li> </ul>	- Quiz 6
Week 8	March 10 – March 15	<b>UTEP SPRING BREAK</b>	

Week 9	March 17 – March 22	- Lecture 7: The Motor System part 3 (Cerebellum)	- Quiz 7
Week 10	March 24 – March 29	- Lecture 8: The Motor System part 4 (Injury States)	- Quiz 8
Week 11	March 31 – April 5	- <b>UNIT 2 EXAM (5-8)</b>	- Exam 2
Week 12	April 7 – April 12	- Lecture 9: Motor Learning (Theories)	- Quiz 9
Week 13	April 14 – April 19	- Lecture 10: Motor Learning (Information processing & Skill development)	- Quiz 10
Week 14	April 21 – April 26	- Lecture 11: Balance & Gait	- Quiz 11
Week 15	April 28 – May 3	- Lecture 12: Neurotypical Lifespan	- Quiz 12
Week 16	May 5 – May 10	- <b>UNIT 3 EXAM (9-11)</b> - Exit Survey	- Exam 3 - Exit Survey