The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Health Sciences
Department of Kinesiology
Syllabus

KIN 3325: Research Methods in Kin
Date & Time: MW 1700-1820 HSSN 206
Spring 2024

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

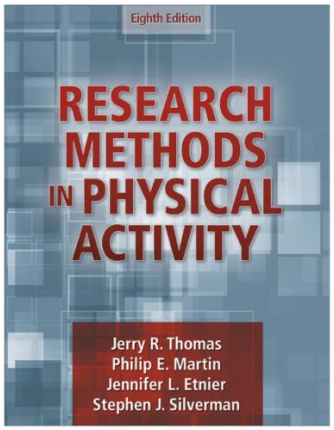
Research Methods in Kinesiology provides an introduction to research methods and designs used is various areas of Kinesiology. The course will focus on the nature of research in Kinesiology, how to identify a research problem and search the literature, presenting the problem and formulating the research methods and the statistical analyses needed to examine the data and draw conclusions.

Course Objectives:

On successful completion of this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Develop skills to conduct a literature review and identify potential research problems
- Understand how to formulate a research question
- Understand the ethical implications of research
- Understand basic statistical analysis techniques for analyzing data
- Learn how to present and interpret research findings
- Write a basic research proposal
- Engage in peer review and critique of research proposals

Required Materials



Thomas, J. R., Martin, P. E., Etnier, J. L., Silverman, S. J. (2023). Research methods in physical activity (8th ed.). Human Kinetics, Inc. ISBN: 9781718201026

Other Useful Resources

- Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). (2019). American Psychological Association. ISBN: 9781433832161
- https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html
- Outlook/Email App: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/outlook-mobile-for-android-and-ios
- Blackboard Learn App: https://www.blackboard.com/teaching-learning/learning-management/mobile-learning-solutions
- I-Pad Users: Goodnotes Notetaking App https://www.goodnotes.com/

Important Dates

Jan 15th	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – University Closed
Jan 16th	Spring classes begin
Jan 16th-19th	Late Registration (Fees are incurred)
Jan 31st	Spring Census Day
Feb 16th	Graduation application deadline for degree conferral
Mar 11th-15th	**Spring Break NO CLASSES**
Mar 28th	Spring Drop/Withdrawal Deadline

Note: Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F.

Mar 29th	Cesar Chavez Holiday - No classes; Spring Study Day
Apr 12th	Deadline to submit candidates' names for commencement program
May 2nd	Spring – Last day of classes
May 3rd	Dead day
May 6-10th	**Spring Final Exams**
May 11-12th	Spring Commencement
May 15th	Grades are Due
May 16th	Grades are posted to student records; students are notified of grades and academic standing

Course Assignments and Grading

Assignments for this course are assessed according to rubrics. You can find these rubrics by clicking on the appropriate assignment link in Blackboard and choosing "View Rubric" from the button beneath the Points Possible for the assignment.

Grade Distribution: This course uses a weighted grading system. See the distribution below.

Evaluation of Students	**% Grade**	**Grading Scale***
Attendance/Class Participation	20%	A = 90 – 100%
Unannounced Quizzes	30%	B = 80 – 89.99%
Assignments	20%	C = 70 – 79.99%
Research Proposal Paper	20%	D = 60 – 69.99%
Final Exam (Research Presentation)	10%	F = Below 60%

Course Instructor reserves the right to change the grading criteria, if needed. * The lowest quiz score will be dropped. **Grading will not be rounded and there are no final grading curves for this course.

Attendance and Participation (Individual)

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussion with your peers on the discussion boards (grading rubric provided in the "grading information" area of each forum)
- Participating in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

Illness Precautions: Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

Note: You may bring snacks and drinks to class as long as you clean up after yourselves.

Quizzes (Individual)

The lowest quiz score will be dropped and replaced with the highest one. These unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester to assess your preparedness for class discussions. It would be best if you had an extensive understanding of all concepts discussed in the lecture

and the assigned readings. The quiz questions will assess your knowledge of key concepts rather than memorization skills.

The quizzes will be 15 to 30 minutes long and consist of multiple-choice, short-answer, and true-false questions. If you come to class late/leave early – you will not be allowed to make up the quiz.

Assignments (Individual or Team)

Assignments include research article writing critiques, writing summaries, research reference style formatting, writing informed consents, and writing annotated bibliographies. Depending on the nature of the Assignment you will need to complete these Individually or as a Team, each specific case will be communicated clearly prior. Some assignments may be added/dropped at the instructor's discretion. In this case, the grading scale will be adjusted.

Research Proposal Paper (Team)

The final research review paper is worth 20% of your grade. Students will work in groups on the research review paper and the research groups will consist of 4 to 5 students (max). Members of each research group must contribute equally to the research writing process. Group members must choose research team leads. The research team leads must describe each member's contributions to the project under the author contributions section in the final research review paper submitted. Students in each group can still be graded individually based on other students' feedback. Hence, I reserve the right to adjust the group grade for any individual group member who does not contribute equally.

The final research proposal paper must include: 1) a structured abstract , 2) keywords under the abstract, 3) Specific Aims (one page), 4) Rationale/Literature Review (up to 2 pages) 5) Experimental Design and Methodology (up to 7 pages), and 6) Reference List. Research papers must follow APA style format.

Research Presentation (Team)

Research group presentations will be counted as the final examination and is worth 10% of your grade. The presentation must be on the same topic as the research review paper your group submitted. Each group will have 20 minutes to present their research review paper findings to the class. A specific grading format will be used by the professor and described to all research groups weeks before the group presentations.

Peer Evaluation of Teamwork Behavior

The Teamwork Behavior Evaluation score is a percentage multiplier to adjust individual students' Team Base Scores. This multiplier will raise or lower the Team Base Score (Research Proposal and Presentation) for a given student. The average TWB evaluation score is 100. If a student receives an average TWB score of 70 out of 100 from the team, the Team Base Score will be multiplied by 0.7 to arrive at the Adjusted Team Grade. The final TWB Evaluation that counts towards the course grade is anonymous and completed after you finish the final research

presentation. The Adjusted Team Grade is available upon request. Being a good team member can help increase your final grade.

Technology Requirements

Some course 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 the 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:

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

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 emailing 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. I will respond within 24-48 hours during weekdays. Weekends and holidays will take 48-72 hours

Announcements: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages. I highly encourage you to download the Blackboard Learn App which will notify you of any course announcements to your phone.

NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Email Etiquette

As a college student and professional you will be writing emails. Email etiquette depends largely on your audience, purpose, and relationship with the recipient. Writing a proper email streamlines communication and maintains professionalism. In this class when communicating with your instructor you are expected to adhere to professional email communication:

- Subject Line: Make sure your subject line is simple and relevant. This can determine whether your recipient opens your email.
- Greeting: Start with a salutation such as "Dear Dr.___", "Good Morning, Mr.___", or "Hello Mrs. ___". It is important to use correct titles (Dr., Ms., Mrs., Mr., etc) and spell the recipients name correctly.
- Structure: Use clear and concise statements. Provide only the most relevant information and get to the point in the body of your email.
- Signature: End your email with a closing (Regards, Best, Thank You, etc) and your name.
- Other Considerations:
    - If you go by a nickname or another name, make sure to also include your name as it is listed on Blackboard for your Instructors.
    - Make sure to include what Class you are emailing about (if there are multiple sections list the time and days of your class)
    - DO NOT include confidential information in your emails (UTEP ID Numbers are considered confidential information you do not need to include this with every email you send).

Here is an example Email:

Subject: KIN 3325 – Assignment 2 Extension

> Dear Dr. J.
>
> I hope this email finds you well. My name is Jane (Johanna) Doe, and I am enrolled in your Anatomical Kinesiology class 0730 on MW.

I am writing to request an extension for Assignment 2, because of [briefly explain the situation].

Thank you,

Jane Doe
janedoe@fakeemail.com

Late Work Policy

There will be no late work accepted unless previously approved by the Instructor.

Excused Absences and Course Drop Policy

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.

An absence must be excused and approved to make up any assignment or exam. For an excused absence the instructor will provide the student an opportunity to complete the work on a date and time agreed upon by both the student and instructor. There may be absences that may be excused at the discretion of the instructor where prior notification is not feasible (accident or emergency), in which case the student must provide verification by the end of the second working day after the absence.

Consult a classmate, the syllabus, and/or schedule if you missed class. All assignments will be uploaded to blackboard along with due date information.

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Academic Integrity

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 as ones' own. 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. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

Professional Conduct:

During this course you will be expected to deal with your subject area, your colleagues, and yourself as a professional. Approach learning with offensive strategies rather than with defense and evasion. Demonstrate pride in your chosen profession through both your actions and your attitude. This includes being on time for class and coming to class prepared. Attendance is expected. Contact the instructor if you are going to miss a class.

Guidance on Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is **NOT** permitted in this course.

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Plagiarism Detecting Software

Some of your coursework and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism-detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to attribute sources rather than paraphrase properly.

Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:
Technology Resources

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
  https://www.utep.edu/irp/technologysupport/

Academic Resources

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
  http://libraryweb.utep.edu/
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
  http://uwc.utep.edu/

- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
  https://www.utep.edu/science/math/marcs/
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
  https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/history/resources/student-resource/history-tutoring-center.html
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
  http://www.refworks.com/refworks2/?groupcode=RWUTElPaso
- The Miner Learning Center: Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
  https://www.utep.edu/mlc/
- UTEP Edge: UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.
  https://www.utep.edu/edge/

Individual Resources

- Student Success Help Desk (SSHD): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transposition resources my submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
  https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-helpdesk.html
- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
  https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc/
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
  https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
  https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/
- UTEP Food Pantry: Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/foodpantry/