

**California State University, Northridge
Department of Kinesiology**

**KIN 605 – Research Methods and Design
Class # 13471
M4:00 – 6:50PM**

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Textbook: Thomas, J.R. and J.K. Nelson. *Research Methods in Physical Activity* (5th ed.). Human Kinetics, 2001. Pyrczak, F. and R.R. Bruce. *Writing Empirical Research Reports* (6th ed.), Pyrczak, 2007. American Psychological Association, *Concise Rules of APA Style*, APA, 2005, Gelfand, H., C.J. Walker, and the APA. *Mastering APA Style: student's workbook and training guide*. APA, 2002. *APA Style Helper Software, version 5.1 is recommended, but not required.*

Prerequisites: KIN 302 and either a score of 10 on UDWPE or ENGL 305. Proof of having completed these prerequisites will be required by the third class meeting. Please provide the instructor with a copy of your transcript, DARS or grade report with the classes circled or highlighted. Those who do not supply this information will be required to drop the course.

Course Description: This course is a study of various types of research used in kinesiology, and techniques employed in collecting, classifying, interpreting and presenting data.

Course Overview: This course is a research oriented course for students pursuing a masters degree in the Department of Kinesiology. It is an overview of types of research, the research process and research methods. It includes principles, procedures and techniques of research, with an intensive survey of current scientific investigations in the area of Kinesiology, and an emphasis on practical applications. The course format will include lectures, discussions, research presentations and application-based projects and assignments.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of the course the student will: 1) Know and understand the research methodology and terminology utilized in the field of Kinesiology, enabling them to be knowledgeable, critical readers of professional literature (SLO 1,2,3); 2) Understand the process of research dissemination (presentation and publication) (SLO 5); 3) Gain experience and skill utilizing library databases to search for literature in refereed journals (SLO 3); 4) Have become well versed in an area of research, resulting in a review paper or thesis proposal (SLO 3,4); 5) Have presented research papers in verbal and poster formats (SLO 1,5); 6) Gain experience and skill in formal, professional writing (SLO 1,5); 7) Have gained experience in preparing an application for the approval of the use of human subjects (SLO 2,3,4); 8) Be better prepared to propose and conduct a thesis (SLO 1,2,3,4).

Exam: The exam will be primarily objective questions. Examination material is predominately from lecture, although there may be some questions from the textbook that are not covered in lecture.

Make Up Exams: In the case of a medical or family emergency, a make-up exam can be scheduled ONLY if I am notified **prior** to the class in which the exam is scheduled. This requires that we meet and discuss the issue, I agree that your reason for missing the assignment is valid, **AND** I excuse you from the exam. You will receive a 0 (ZERO) for the exam if this procedure is not followed.

Personal Communication Devices: All personal communication devices (i.e., pagers, cell phones, etc.) will be turned off while in class. Ten (10) points will be deducted from your final grade on each occasion that your communication device is activated in class. This policy may be modified on an individual basis if the need is warranted.

Cheating: Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will automatically fail the examination or assignment, the course and may be subject to more severe University discipline. All students should know, understand, adhere to and enforce the California Code of Regulations, Section 41301, Title 5 as found in the university catalog. You must abide by the policies stated in the code.

COURSE OUTLINE (Tentative)

Date	Chapter	Content
1/28	1	Introduction to Research in Physical Activity (Chapters 1 and 2 Workbook, Concise Rules Introduction)
2/4		Library session, identification of review topics and articles , Oviatt Library Lab B (Workbook Chapter 3, pgs 21-40)
2/11	2	Developing the Problem and Using the Literature (review article outline due, Workbook Chapter 3, pgs 41-59, Concise Rules Chapter 1))
2/18	3	Presenting the Problem (review of primary source due, Workbook Chapter 3, pgs 60-81, Concise Rules Chapters 2 and 3)
2/25	4	Formulating the Method (assignment in class, Workbook Chapter 3, pgs 82-108, Concise Rules Chapter 3, Concise Rules Chapters 8 and 9)
3/3	5	Ethical Issues in Research and Scholarship (assignment in Class, Workbook Chapter 3, pgs 109-140)
3/10		Midterm Exam
3/17		NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
3/24	12, 13, 14	Historical Research, Philosophic Research, Research Synthesis
3/31		NO CLASS CESAR CHAVEZ DAY
4/7	15, 16	Survey, Descriptive Research, Literature Review Due
4/14	17, 18, 19	Physical Activity Epidemiology Research Experimental, Quasi-Experimental, Qualitative Research (Workbook Chapter 4, pgs 141-183, Concise Rules Chapter 4)
4/21		Research Proposal Presentations
4/28	20, 21	Completing the Research Process, Ways of Reporting Research (Research Proposal Presentations, Human Subject's Protocol Due, Workbook Chapter 4, pgs 184-218, 220-235, Concise Rules Chapter 4, 5, 6, 7)
5/5		Conference Presentations (oral), Revised literature reviews due
5/12		Poster Presentations, finish oral presentations – 5:30-7:30

Grading		Grade Scale			
Class Assignments (10%)	50				
Midterm Exam (30%)	150	A	93-100%	C	73-77
Review Paper (30%)	150	A-	90-92	C-	70-72
Human subjects proposal (10%)	50	B+	88-89	D+	68-69
Research presentations (proposal, oral, poster) (20%)	100	B	83-87	D	63-67
		B-	80-82	D-	60-62

Total	500	C+	78-79	F	<60
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KINESIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS MUST EARN A GRADE OF B (B) OR BETTER IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS. THIS COURSE MAY ONLY BE TAKEN TWO TIMES.

The literature review and research proposals should not be closely associated with any previous or current projects used to fulfill requirements of other courses. However, students in the thesis preparation phase may take this opportunity to work on Chapters 1-3 of their thesis. Students will be expected to complete at least 3 installments of this paper (Topic, Outline, Final Draft). Information regarding reviewing the literature and writing a review of literature is found in the Thomas text, as well as in the Pycszak text.

Expectations: Attend class and be punctual. You are expected to attend all class meetings and arrive on time. You must also participate in group discussions. If you will miss a session, you are responsible for discussing your absence with the instructor prior to your absence, obtaining information on the content and assignments from other students, then meeting with the instructor if need be. **Keep up with the reading and assignments. Ask questions when you do not understand the material.** Material assigned for reading will enhance your understanding of research, as will performing the homework assignments. **All assignments are due at the beginning of class (4:00pm). Late work will be penalized 20% per day** (i.e., if an assignment due on Tuesday is turned in on Thursday, the penalty is 40% of the total points for the task). **Be ethical.** You are responsible for ethical academic conduct. Be certain that you cite sources appropriately, and that your topics are different from those used in other classes. **You also must turn in the research articles cited in each assignment with the corresponding assignment. All assignments will be turned in to turnitin.com prior to the class session in which they are due. A double-spaced hard copy of the assignment will also be due at the beginning of the class session. Page numbers are required on all assignments.**