

**Eastern Illinois University
Kinesiology and Sports Studies
KSS 5000 - Research Methods in Kinesiology and Sports Studies
Fall 2012 Syllabus**

Instructor: Scott Ronspies, Ph.D.

Office: McAfee 2002

Office Hours: M-R: 11:00am-12:00pm/By Appointment

Email: sronspies@eiu.edu

Credits: 3

Course Description:

An exposure to various types of research methods in related subject areas, a critical evaluation of selected studies, and writing the research report.

Textbook:

1. Thomas, J., Nelson, J., & Silverman, S. (2005). *Research methods in physical activity* (5th ed.). Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

Highly Recommended:

1. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). (ISBN 13: 978-1-4338-0561-5; ISBN 10: 1-4338-0561-8).

2. Selected professional materials via WebCT.

3. Poster Board and Poster

Student Learning Objectives:

In order to meet the goals for KSS 5000, the course is designed to help students achieve the following objectives:

1. To understand the research process and scientific method.
2. To learn about different types of research and research design.
3. To learn about ethical use of human subjects and animals in research.
4. To complete a literature search and review.
5. To write a research article or min-thesis in clear scientific fashion.

Course Requirements:

The following are some of the essential factors that constitute evidence of critical thinking, and indeed will inform an assessment of participants' performance in all areas of the course.

- Accurate and precise understanding of course topics: Posing questions that address the basic information contained in the readings (e.g., identify key beliefs and values expressed by the author). The demonstration of a sound understanding of the topics meets the requirements for a grade of a **C** in this course.

- Engagement with assigned readings, presenters, and class discussions. How do the readings/observations/teaching assignments/discussions connect with the topic at hand? In addition, for the associated materials, students must pose questions that are textually implicit, thereby requiring analysis and interpretation of specific parts of the readings and text. In terms of critical thinking, students must focus on understanding the reasons underlying someone's particular beliefs or values related to research and the process of conducting research, including their own. Both understanding and engagement are required for **B** level work.
- "Deep thinking" concerning the intersections of the material: How do one's observations and experiences connect with class materials? Do these observations and experiences confirm or contradict what is read and discussed? For the associated materials, another level of questioning is appropriate here; that is, much more open-ended questions that frequently go beyond the readings. Such questions are intended to provoke a discussion of an abstract idea or issue, or perhaps an ethical dilemma. The student must now ask whether the evidence or reasons offered are adequate and justified. Further, students must state and defend their own views, supported by reasons and evidence. Success with "deep thinking" as well as accurate observation and teaching episodes are required for **A** level work.

Teaching Methods:

The following may be used during this course to provide variety in student learning: student-centered discussion, debate, lecture, video, internet tasks, readings, and small group work.

Course Requirements/Evaluation

<i>Cognitive Assessments (Exams)</i>	15%	
<i>Checks for Understanding (Quizzes)</i>	5%	
<i>Class Discussions/Readings/Assignments</i>	10%	A = 100-90
<i>Journal Article Critique/Review/Presentation</i>	10%	B = 89-80
<i>Annotated Bibliography Assignment</i>	5%	C = 79-70
<i>Final Paper</i>	50%	F = below 69
<i>Final Poster Presentation</i>	5%	
Total:	100%	

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Training:

As part of the course, each student is required to complete the online IRB training. This is an online course which covers issues regarding individuals' participation in research. Ethical issues such as informed consent, treatment of research participants, and participants' rights are covered in the training. The training includes short quizzes at the end of each section of the program. To earn credit for this activity, students will print and turn in a copy of their certification of passing the course to the instructor. For instructions on how to take the course visit:

http://www.eiu.edu/grants/COMP_IRB_Training.php. This expectation must be completed to pass the course. The instructor will submit the certificates along with Form H to:

http://www.eiu.edu/~grants/Files_IRB/IRB%20Forms/Course%20Certification%20Policy.pdf

Student Expectations/Course Policies:

Although I will do my utmost to provide you with valuable knowledge and experiences, little can be gained unless you are making a concerted and noticeable effort to be a self-motivated, responsible, and active learner. In an effort to guide the goal of responsibility, motivation and participation, I offer the following as course operating guidelines:

1. **Be here.** The class is largely interactive and participatory. These types of experiences cannot be made up. You should plan to attend every class and to be on time.
2. **Participate with effort.** This asks that you are prepared and put forth a solid and consistent effort in class. This includes giving input and feedback during discussions and group work as well as producing graduate level work. Do what you have to do to be ready.
3. **Take initiative for yourself.** Most of your learning will be the result of your own initiative, not the prodding of instructors or rewards (or threats) of grades. You alone must be responsible for creating value for yourself in this course. How well you do will in a large part will be the result of how well you are able to carry on without direct supervision. Taking initiative means asking questions when material, concepts, or expectations are not clear. (It is OK not to know, but it is not OK to continue not knowing.) It also means doing reading and work outside of class. For this course, reading beyond the assignment is necessary to achieve markedly superior work.
4. **Help others.** The ultimate success and reward for each of you depends on your ability to help and support your classmates in their learning and in their attempts to be responsible for their own learning. This also includes creating a safe learning environment; that is, one in which the confidentiality of one another's sharing is respected, where complaints are directed only to someone (and received only by someone) who can do something about the situation, and where differences of opinion and healthy debate are prized.

Late Assignments:

No late assignments will be accepted except in case of documented illness or family emergency.

Academic Misconduct:

EIU's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed.

Policy on Plagiarism, Ethics and Academic Integrity:

It is important that students become ethical leaders in their field of study. Please note this is an important issue in graduate education.

1. Copy And Paste Of Any Source Is Not Acceptable:

Direct copy and paste is considered plagiarism unless you are using a direct quotation with proper citation. Students are required to conduct literature reviews as a part of their graduate study. When writing any report or thesis, students are expected to summarize findings and appropriately cite materials. Direct quotes should only be used for emphasis and should be a small portion of the entire paper.

2. Cite References In Your Paper:

Even when summarizing findings, students need to cite the sources of materials. Readers cannot be misled to any impression that the work is only yours when in reality it is the work of others.

3. Do Your Own Work:

Students are expected to fulfill their individual responsibility to complete their assignment. It is not acceptable to copy other's work.

Note: If a student is found to have plagiarized any portion of an assignment, the university policy on academic integrity will be followed. The student will receive a zero on the assignment at the discretion of the faculty.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (217-581-6583).

Electronic Devices:

Please extend courtesy to your instructor and fellow students by placing cell phones in silent/vibrate mode. Thank you for your cooperation.

Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.