

**HHPK 595: Critiquing and Conducting Research in Health and Human Performance**  
**Cross-listed with HHPK 519 Research Methods in Human Performance**  
**Fall 2015**

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**Text:**

No text is required. Readings for the course will be assigned from contemporary peer-reviewed journals that feature research from the discipline of health and human performance. Documents will be available in the “doc sharing” folder within e-college.

**Course Goals:**

The goal of this course is to provide students an overview of research methods in general, as well as specific methods typically utilized in health and human performance. Additionally, students will learn to critically read and analyze research articles.

**Course Objectives:**

At the successful completion of the course, students should

1. Understand the basic tenets of scientific research in various areas of investigation in health and human performance.
2. Be able to identify strengths and weaknesses in the formal presentation of scientific research.
3. Be able to identify potential bias in investigators.
4. Be able to critically examine methods and data analysis with specific regard to the conclusions drawn by the investigators.

**Evaluation and Grading Scale**

Section 1	100 points
Section 2	100 points
Section 3	100 points
Section 4	100 points
Oral Final Exam	100 points
(TOTAL OF 500 points possible)	

<b><u>Percent</u></b>	<b><u>Points earned</u></b>	<b><u>Course grade</u></b>
90%	450-500 pts	A
80%	400-449 pts	B
70%	350-399 pts	C
60%	300-349 pts	D
50%	0-299 pts	F

**Section Quizzes and Participation**

- Each section will contain several topics. After the introduction of the topic through a lecture and/or reading materials, you will be directed to do some laboratory/research-type work and then participate in a discussion, take a quiz, and/or complete an assignment.
- ALL portions of each section MUST be completed by that section’s “end date.” You MUST do the 4 sections in order. Assignments, quizzes, etc, not submitted by the due date will receive a grade of zero. Do not wait until the last minute.
- The total point value for each section accounts for 20% of the course grade. The total point value for each section will be 100.

## **Quizzes**

Quizzes will have a time limit. Students will have only one attempt at each quiz. Be sure you have prepared thoroughly before you begin a quiz. Any multiple choice, true-false, matching, or fill-the-blank questions will auto-grade, but essay/short answer questions will not. Don't panic! I will have everything for each section graded within 48 hours of the end date for that section, with the possible exception of "YOUR RESEARCH" assignments, which will be quite substantial.

## **Technology**

Some of your assignments will require you to videotape, calculate, post things online, etc. Look at the assignments ahead of time and if you are going to need time to figure things out, do NOT wait until the last minute. It's always a good idea to "practice" with technology before the last minute.

## **Submitting assignments/using the drop box**

All assignments will have a "drop box." When you drop an assignment for me to grade, it MUST be a WORD document (or EXCEL document if it is a spreadsheet), and it must be titled appropriately. For example, if one of the assignments is called "leadership assignment" and your last name is Collins, the name of the document you drop must be "Collins leadership.doc" Also, at the top of the first page of every assignment, you must include your name and the name of the assignment. If it is a spreadsheet, gridlines should be showing and a header should include your name and the name of the assignment. You should print-preview your document so that when I print it, it is lined up correctly and does not have columns, rows, etc. hanging out off the edge of a sheet. If you do not name and label the document correctly, you will lose 20% of the value of that assignment. USE APA FORMAT!!!

## **Feedback on assignments**

For most of your assignments, I will save your work, then use the "track changes" feature on the document itself to make corrections, write comments, etc. I will then attach the document back to your inbox so you will have written feedback from me. USE this information to improve your work on future assignments.

## **Final Examination.....oral**

It is extremely important that you are LEARNING the information that is being covered in the lectures and the textbook. Around the end of November, I will send you an e-mail asking you to select a preferred exam time from a list of provided times. I will call you on the phone and ask you questions that cover the course material and your research project. You will be at the phone at your selected time. Questions may cover any of the course content. No two oral exams will be identical.

## **Course Policies**

1. Because this is an online course, you may never meet me or your other classmates face-to-face. That means that written communication must be clear in all circumstances.
2. While completing assignments, etc within the e-college environment, be professional. In other words, quality matters. Write clearly with correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Actively prepare by reading the assigned materials. Share your thoughts (i. e. ask and answer questions). Have course materials with you when you are online (you can use materials during quizzes, etc). Please refrain from anything that is not class-related while "in" this course. Unless you are quoting someone else directly, language should be "G-rated."
3. END DATES: The "end dates" (11:59pm on the date) listed for sections are the LAST chance to submit work for that section. I do NOT accept late assignments.
4. If you have a question or concern, e-mail me. Please include in the subject of the e-mail ("HHPK 595") and the subject of the message. I will respond promptly during the week. If you want me to take a look at assignments before you submit them, you may ask me to do so through e-mail. I will NOT grade assignments ahead of time, but I will give you general feedback about how your work looks.
5. Use the following e-mail address for me: sandy.kimbrough@tamuc.edu
6. You MUST check your e-mail regularly in case I need to communicate with you. I will not e-mail you junk, and I request that you do the same for me and your classmates.
7. If you have a question or concern, communicate with me!

## Student and Instructor Expectations

Expectations are high for both of us. I strive to be the best teacher possible. I expect you to perform to the best of your ability. Making an "A" in this class is quite an accomplishment, and will be earned only by those who are willing to put forth the necessary effort. There is no grading curve - you will get the grade you earn!!!!

## PLAGIARISM

- The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.
- As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it is as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.
- If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult me. If you plagiarize in my class, you will automatically receive a grade of "F" and disciplinary action will be sought.

## Agenda/Schedule

See section and topic pages and assignments for readings.

Section	Lecture titles	
1	Intro to class	
1	Purpose of research in HHP	
1	Validity, objectivity, reliability	
1	Scope of projects	
1	Formulating a research question/hypothesis	
1	YOUR RESEARCH	Section 1 due: September 17
2	Literature review and references	
2	Methods	
2	Human subjects approval/IRB	
2	Data collection	
2	YOUR RESEARCH	Section 2 due: October 15
3	Participants, recruitment	
3	Ethics	
3	Critiquing Research.....readability and APA	
3	Critiquing Research.....methods	
3	YOUR RESEARCH	Section 3 due: November 11
4	Critiquing Research....conclusions/discussion	
4	Presenting research....analysis of presentations	
4	Critiquing research.....funding, motivation, etc.	
4	YOUR RESEARCH	Section 4 due: December 7

Summary of Assignments for Section 1 (point total=100)

Topic	Quiz Pts	Discussion Pts	Assignment Pts
Intro to class	10	10	
Purpose of research in HHP	10		10
Validity, objectivity, reliability	10		
Scope of projects	5	10	5
Formulating a research question/hypothesis	10		10
YOUR RESEARCH			10
TOTAL PTS	45	20	35

Summary of Assignments for Section 2 (point total=100)

Topic	Quiz Pts	Discussion Pts	Assignment Pts
Literature review and references	10		
Methods	10		
Human subjects approval/IRB	10	5	15
Data collection	10		10
YOUR RESEARCH			30
TOTAL PTS	40	5	55

Summary of Assignments for Section 3 (point total=100)

Topic	Quiz Pts	Discussion Pts	Assignment Pts
Participants, recruitment	10	10	
Ethics	10		
Critiquing Research.....readability and APA			15
Critiquing Research.....methods			15
YOUR RESEARCH			40
TOTAL PTS	20	10	70

Summary of Assignments for Section 4 (point total=100)

Topic	Quiz Pts	Discussion Pts	Assignment Pts
Critiquing Research....conclusions/discussion	5		10
Presenting research....analysis of presentations	5		5
Critiquing research.....funding, motivation, etc.	5	15	5
YOUR RESEARCH			50
TOTAL PTS	15	15	70

**Statement on Student Behavior**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (see Student's Guide Handbook). I have zero tolerance for disrespect for the learning environment or other human beings, present or not.

**ADA statement**

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources and Services, Gee Library, (903) 886-5835.