



HPK 595-01W – Critiquing and Conducting Research
Summer I 2026: June 1 – July 2
Section 01W; 3 semester hours

Instructor: Dr. Sarah M. Mitchell, PhD, ATC, LAT

Office Location: Nursing & Health Sciences #116

Office Hours: Virtual By Appointment

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Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required (Inclusive Access)

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2023). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (6th Edition). SAGE Publications, Inc. (US).

Software Required: Basic computer

Optional Texts and/or Materials: American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: APA

Purdue Online Writing Lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Course Description

A study of research methods and designs appropriate for proposing, conducting, reading, reporting and critiquing research in health, kinesiology, and sports studies. A major emphasis will be on conducting meta-analysis of research literature. Each student is required to demonstrate systematic research techniques through the investigation and formal reporting of an independent research project using meta-analysis, descriptive or experimental research design.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand terminology related to research.
2. Understand various types and designs of research in health, kinesiology, and sport studies
3. Critique research in their respective fields.
4. Demonstrate the ability to write an intro, lit review, and methodology sections of a research proposal.
5. Demonstrate the ability to write in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the American Psychological Association (7th ed).

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must have working knowledge of and know how to use the MyLeo Online: D2L Brightspace learning management system, and Microsoft Word/Excel/PowerPoint. Students must utilize their University assigned email (Leo mail) for all course communications. All email communication from the instructor will be sent to the student's Leo mail.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students can expect to do well in this course when they attend class on-time, complete all assignments/discussions/quizzes/exams, etc., and seek assistance when they do not understand course material. Students should also utilize the course resources provided through D2L, such as, course lecture notes, assignments, and course information. This course will require using D2L. It is the students responsibly to have internet access, check this site frequently, and become familiar with how it works. Students should check their MyLeo email often for course announcements.

Grading

Each assignment will be worth a pre-determined amount of points. Upon the completion of the course, grades will be calculated by adding up the total number of points each student has earned and dividing it by the total amount of points available in the course. This will produce a percentage of points earned (Ex. Student earned 850 points out a possible 1000 in the course: $850/1000 = 85\%$ "B"). Grades will be assigned based upon the percentages below.

Introduction Video: 10 pts	Grading Scale:
CAP Assignments: 150 pts	A = 90-100%
Assignments: 150 pts	B = 80-89%
Quizzes: 100 pts	C = 70-79%
Research Proposal Project: 240 pts	D = 60-69%
Total: 650 pts	F = 0-50

Students are expected to earn points toward their final grade during the course of the semester with the assignments and tests that are scheduled. Extra Credit Assignments WILL NOT be given at the end of the semester. All students are graded based on the exact same criteria and no exceptions will be made for individual assignments, tests, or final point values.

Students will receive back all graded assignments in a timely manner (typically within 1 week of the due date). Students are encouraged to keep all graded assignments as well as keep up with their grades throughout the semester. Any questions or concerns about assignments/grades should be brought to the instructor's attention immediately (i.e. Do not wait until the end of the semester)

ASSESSMENTS

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Introduction Video Assignment & Discussion

Students will create a short video and introduce themselves to the class. Video will need to be posted in the discussion board.

Quizzes

Quizzes are a combination of scenarios, multiple choice questions, and short answer essays. This assignment is not intended to trick you, it is intended to "check for understanding" and highlight the most important concepts from the reading. They are *cumulative* in nature, meaning some questions may include previous week's information. Quizzes are timed. *It is strongly recommended to read and view resources prior to completing the quiz.* Quizzes have due dates posted online. Students will get one attempt for each quiz. If you get locked out of the quiz accidentally, e-mail the instructor to have the quiz re-set, as long as it is before the due date.

Assignments

The purpose of the weekly assignments is to develop your research skills as it relates to your culminating requirement for the graduate program. Professionalism is imperative and students will be graded accordingly. More importantly, each assignment prepares you for your critical assignment: Research Proposal for a thesis or project. *Accurate and professional submissions are important. Give yourself plenty of time each week to complete this assignment. It is strongly recommended to read, view resources, and complete the quiz prior to completing the assignments.* Students will be responsible for obtaining all materials presented online and assigned readings from the textbook. Assignment instructions will be posted in D2L for the week they are assigned. Students are responsible for submitting assignments on time and to the correct submission folder.

CAP: Critical Assignment Preparations

For the duration of the course, you will be working to complete a series of critical assignments that demonstrate your mastery of the major course concepts. There will be three separate supportive submissions that will assist you in developing skills/content towards completing your critical assignment (Introduction, Literature Review, and Methodology). Specific instructions and examples will be posted in D2L during the week in which that supportive submission is due.

Critical Assignment – Research Proposal Presentation

The critical assignment in this course is to complete a Research Proposal Presentation. Your submission should completely integrate all required components into a coherent, well-organized research proposal presentation. The proposal should be clear, insightful, and follow the appropriate order. ***Please note**— feedback provided to you throughout the semester (especially from CAPS 1-3) must be included within the final revision of your critical assignment. Failure to adhere to this standard will significantly affect your earned score. Students will submit their recorded presentation in D2L. As a way of demonstrating your understanding of qualitative and quantitative research design, you will design a research

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project proposal using either methods. You will not be collecting and analyzing data in this course, but your plan should have enough detail for you to continue the study if you wanted

Introduction & Literature Review

Think of the introduction as a big funnel: You should identify a broad topical area, specify a particular focus area within that topic, and then present your purpose statement and research question in a specific form. Your introduction should draw the reader into the importance of your topic and research question. You should use the literature review as a way to familiarize the reader with the research questions, findings, and a discussion that informs and impacts your study.

Research Methods Plan

The research plan explains how you propose to find an answer to your research question. Think about the design of a research project that you particularly liked from the literature. What kinds of questions did they ask? What *type* and *quality* of data would you need in order to address your research question?

See your text, as well as the resources on D2L for additional information on content and formatting of the research proposal.

All work submitted for this course must be your own work, must have been developed specifically for this course, and may not have been submitted for evaluation or assessment in any other course. The Critical Assignment must be passed at an acceptable rate in order to pass the course.

Late Work

All assignments are due as assigned and must be turned in on or before the due date to receive full credit. Assignments turned in after the due date will receive zero (0) points. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of assignment due dates that are posted on D2L.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

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Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Email is the best way to contact the instructor if you need assistance with any aspect of the course. Instructor will typically respond to emails within 24 hours (except on weekends). Students are also welcome to utilize instructor's office hours if they prefer a face-to-face conversation. Please include HHPK 595 in the subject line of your email.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Attendance

This is an online course. All assignments have deadlines which must be met; however, you can submit any assignment at any time before the deadline. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of assignment due dates as the dates are posted on D2L. In the case of missing deadlines due to unavoidable or emergency situations, or illness (including Covid), the student must promptly notify the instructor via email explaining the circumstances. Prompt notification (within three days) is required to have an absence excused; additionally, written documentation may be required to have the absence excused. Assignment deadlines may be modified for students with excused absences. Technical and/or computer problems associated with D2L are not a valid excuse for turning in an assignment late. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GRADED.**

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

AI Tools

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Like an encyclopedia or a dictionary or Wikipedia, AI tools can be used to begin the process of writing; in other words, it is a tool for preliminary research, not a reliable source. Preliminary research assists writers in learning the basics about a topic so that they can research the specifics using credible, academic sources which can be cited in the assignment. Thus, AI is used

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to generate ideas in the same way that a brainstorm or a Freewrite is used in the prewriting stage of the writing process. While no one would drop a brainstorm into a formal document, the ideas that are generated from the brainstorm can be developed as part of a writing assignment. The same is true of AI. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**, Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Reading Assignments	Assignments Due	Points	Assignments Due at 11:59p
Week 1	Course Introduction	Introduction Video & Discussion	10	June 8
	Chapter 1: Selection of a Research Approach	Assignment #1	50	
	Chapter 4: Writing Strategies & Ethical Considerations	Assignment #2	50	
		Quiz #1	25	
Week 2	Chapter 5: The Introduction	CAP #1 Introduction	50	June 15
	Chapter 6: The Purpose Statement	Quiz #2	25	
	Chapter 7: Research Questions & Hypotheses			
Week 3	Chapter 2: Review of Literature	CAP #2 Literature Review	50	June 22
		Assignment #3	50	
		Quiz #3	25	
Week 4	Chapter 8: Quantitative Methods	CAP #3 Methods	50	June 29
	Chapter 9: Qualitative Methods	Quiz #4	25	
	Chapter 10: Mixed Methods Procedures	Research Proposal Rough Draft	40	
Week 5		Research Proposal Project	200	July 2

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