SYLLABUS FOR KINE 7010 001

**RESEARCH METHODS IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

Fall, 2023

**Course Number:** KINE 7010

**Course Title:** Research Methods in Physical Activity

**Credit Hours:** 3 hours

**Meeting Times:** 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm, Tuesday

**Meeting Place:** Student Activities Center 247

**Instructor**: L. Bruce Gladden – 707-0102; [gladdlb@auburn.edu](mailto:gladdlb@auburn.edu).

Office Hours, Room 280 Kinesiology Building:

T and Th – 2:30 – 3:30 pm and by appointment

Textbook: A variety of sources: Online notes (posted on CANVAS), Mock data and mock write-ups (posted on CANVAS), Review articles from peer-reviewed scientific journals discussing research methods (posted on CANVAS).

**This class is planned for in-person but may switch to Zoom entirely or be supplemented with Zoom meetings or recorded lectures, depending on ongoing events. You will receive a Zoom invitation for this class if needed. See the end of this syllabus for additional detailed information relative to COVID-19/epidemic considerations.**

This is a Graduate School course. It is imperative that you come to class prepared to discuss the topic of the day. To derive optimal benefits from our discussions, previous knowledge of the topic is required. Therefore, all students are expected to read/review all relevant materials prior to class. You will be asked to provide evidence that you are already familiar with any assigned material.

**Course Overview**

This course will discuss various aspects of research methods including:

1. Research infrastructure at universities, and other aspects of academic research
2. Ensuring that each step of the research process is performed with rigor ranging from sample size calculations, performing statistical analyses, and scientific writing
3. How to search for research using online databases
4. Different types of research studies (e.g., epidemiological, meta-data, original research, etc.)
5. How to interpret scientific data

**Course Objectives**

After completing this class, students should have a greater appreciation of how to search for scientific studies, interpret scientific studies, establish a research question, perform research, and write research findings.

**KINE 7010 Course Outline:**

The course outline that follows is a baseline schedule. It is subject to change. This allows flexibility in dealing with different topics. For example, if more discussion arises on a particular topic, it may take longer to cover it. In other cases, less time may be required. If I miss classes, we may schedule make-up times and/or arrange for pre-recorded lectures to be available, and/or have an additional outside assignment. You will be informed regularly and promptly of any changes.

Aug 22 Syllabus and Introduction; entry-level test.

Simple statistics.

Aug 29 Entry-test results recap.

Simple statistics continued.

Academic phases.

Sep 5 Literature searching.

Academic research structure.

Sep 12 Guest Lecture – Dr. Rodney Greer (College of Education Associate Dean for Research) - Gladden out of the office.

Note that you will have two choices to observe this lecture: 1) attend Dr. Roberts class at 12:30pm on Tuesday, September 12, or 2) watch the Zoom recording of this lecture after a link is sent to you.

Sep 19 **Test 1.** Gladden out of the office.

Sep 26 Performing research with rigor: parts 1 and 2. Validation study, setting up a crossover study and performing sample size analysis.

Oct 3 Research with Rigor, part 3 (leveraging meta-data).

Oct 10 Research with Rigor, part 4 (precision and accuracy).

Research with Rigor, part 5 (ethical considerations prior to performing research).

Oct 17 Performing research with rigor, part 6 (analyzing data, statistics revisited).

Oct 24 Performing research with rigor, part 7 (scientific writing and other forms of data presentation).

Dr. Khalil Lee (Gatorade Sports Science Institute); online lecture (link to be provided).

Oct 31 **Test 2.**

Nov 7 Research with Rigor, part 8 (running statistics and graphing data).

Research with Rigor, part 9 (writing results and discussion).

Nov 14 Research with Rigor, part 9 (writing results and discussion).

Nov 21 No class; Thanksgiving Break.

Nov 28 Other topics: Media distortion of scientific information, Scientific fraud.

**Dates of Note:**

Oct 13: **Fall Break**

Nov 20-24: **Thanksgiving Break**

**GRADING**

1. There will be three examinations, each worth 100 points for a total of 300 points.
2. If an examination is missed, there can be a makeup test. The make-up test may not be the same format as that given during the regular test time and there may be a penalty, depending on the circumstances.

90.00% or greater = A

80.00%-89.99% = B

70.00%-79.99% = C

60.00%-69.99% = D

less than 60.00% = F

**Curving** – DO NOT request that grades be adjusted (curved).

**Extra Credit** – There is no scheduled extra credit in this class; there is only credit. Should “extra” credit opportunities arise, they will be offered to all students in the class.

**Class Policy Statements:**

**Covid-19 issues –** please see the end of this syllabus for details.

**Unannounced Quizzes -** There could be unannounced quizzes in this class.

**Email –** You are responsible for checking your e-mail regularly and in a timely manner for any communications related to this class. The University has requested that all students use their Auburn University email accounts. This is the most efficient way for instructors to communicate with an entire class, and the University will occasionally send global notices that are important for all students. For this class, it is a requirement that you check your Auburn University email frequently.

**Electronic Devices** - As a courtesy to others, turn your cell phone completely off during class or individual meetings with me. If you are expecting an extremely important call, please let me know at the beginning of class or appointment. Similarly, texting, surfing, or other electronic use (e.g., computer, iPad, etc.), unless directly related to the class or appointment, is strictly prohibited. If these policies are violated, you will be asked to leave class or the appointment.

**Attendance -** Although roll will not be taken specifically, it is expected that students taking a graduate class will attend every class meeting and will actively participate in class discussions. Please refer to the Student Policy eHandbook (<http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_policies/>) for the definition of excused absences. Students are expected to show evidence of thorough reading of assigned materials. Students are responsible for initiating arrangements for missed work.

**Disability Accommodations -** Students who need accommodations are asked to electronically submit their approved accommodations through AU Access and to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail. If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

**Honesty Code** – The University Academic Honesty Code and the Student Policy eHandbook (<http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_policies/>) pertaining to Cheating will apply to this class.

**Professionalism** – As faculty, staff, and students interact in educational settings, they are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors as defined in the College of Education’s conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are as follows: 1) engage in responsible and ethical practices, 2) contribute to collaborative learning communities, 3) demonstrate a commitment to diversity, and 4) model and nurture intellectual vitality.

**COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS/POLICIES**

**Health and Well-Being Resources**

We have had difficult times, and academic and personal stress is a natural result. Everyone is encouraged to take care of themselves and their peers. If you need additional support, there are several resources on campus to assist you:

● COVID Resource Center (http://auburn.edu/covid-resource-center/)

● Student Counseling and Psychological Services (http://wp.auburn.edu/scs/)

● AU Medical Clinic (https://cws.auburn.edu/aumc/)

● If you or someone you know are experiencing food, housing or financial insecurity, please visit the Auburn Cares Office (http://aucares.auburn.edu/)

**A Healthier U Campus Community Expectations**

We are all responsible for protecting ourselves and our community. Please go to the AU COVID Resource Center for AU’s information/instructions about COVID.

**Course contingency**

If normal class is disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

**Face Covering Policy**

As a member of the Auburn University academic community you are required to follow all university guidelines for personal safety with face coverings, physical distancing, and sanitation. I am not currently requiring that a face mask be worn in class. However, should that change, I will indicate that you are specifically required to wear an acceptable face mask worn properly in any of my class meetings that are in-person. Note that face coverings must meet safety specifications, be worn correctly, and be socially appropriate.

The following applies **if I subsequently require that a mask be worn -** You are required to wear your face coverings at all times. If you remove your face covering or are non-compliant, you will be instructed to leave the classroom and will be held to the protocols outlined in the Auburn University Policy on Classroom Behavior. Any student who willfully refuses to wear a face covering and does not have a noted accommodation may be subject to disciplinary action. If you come to an in-person class without a face covering, you will be asked to leave.

*Disruptive or concerning classroom behavior involving the failure to wear a face covering, as directed by Auburn University, represents a potential Code of Student Conduct violation and may be reported as a non-academic violation. Please consult the Classroom Behavior Policy.*

**Physical Distancing Policy**

Face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing, **if required**. Students should observe appropriate physical distancing and follow all classroom signage. If the instructional space has designated entrance and exit doors, you should use them.

**Possibility of going remote**

This course may require particular technologies to complete coursework. If you need access to additional technological support, please contact the AU Bookstore at aubookstore@auburn.edu. In the event that the University is forced to move to fully online instruction, please be assured that the learning goals and outcomes of the course will not change; however, some aspects of the course will change in terms of the mode of delivery, participation, and testing methods. Those details will be shared via an email message within 24 hours of the announcement that we are going remote. Please be prepared for this contingency by ensuring that you have access to a computer and Internet.

**Assignment/Schedule subject to change due to pandemic**

Please be aware that the situation regarding COVID-19 is frequently changing, and the delivery mode of this course may adjust accordingly. In the event that the delivery method is altered, please be assured that the learning goals and outcomes of the course will not change; however, some aspects of the course will change in terms of the mode of delivery, participation, and testing methods. Those details will be shared via email as soon as possible. Please be prepared for this contingency by ensuring that you have access to a computer and reliable Internet. The course schedule and assignments are designed with the most up-to-date information and policies in mind. If the situation changes, I will make every effort to keep the schedule as consistent as possible; however, please note that the due dates for assignments and tests may be changed during the semester in response to the changing health and safety requirements or policies of the University. When changes are made, they will be communicated via email and all assignment due dates will be updated.

**In the event a student in class tests positive and in-person meetings are occurring**

Follow all instructions at the AU COVID Resource Center website (<http://auburn.edu/covid-resource-center/>).

**In the event that I (your instructor) test positive or am required to quarantine**

If I am unable to attend any in-person portions of the class, we will transition to a fully online course until I am allowed to return. If I become ill or unable to lead the class, a backup instructor will be identified and he/she will communicate any changes or updates to the course schedule or mode of instruction as soon as possible.

**Zoom policies**

If we meet on Zoom, your attendance, attention, and participation are expected. Zoom participation requires you to keep your video on and your microphone muted when you are not speaking. Although you may be participating from your domicile, our Zoom meetings are professional interactions. You should dress and behave as you would in a normal in-person classroom. To the extent possible, please minimize distractions in the background. I reserve the right to dismiss anyone from a Zoom meeting whose environment or behavior is distracting or problematic. If you have any issues with sharing your video feed, adhering to this policy, or anything else related to your use of Zoom please notify me via email in the first week of class. I’m happy to consider and provide accommodations, but you will need to be in communication with me.

**Attendance**

Your health and safety, and the health and safety of your peers, are my top priorities. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or other contagious diseases, or if you discover that you have been in close contact with others who have symptoms or who have tested positive, you should not attend in-person classes. You will not be penalized for such an absence nor will you be asked to provide formal documentation from a healthcare provider. My hope is that if you are feeling ill or if you have been exposed to someone with the virus or other contagious illness, you will stay home to protect others.

Please do the following in the event of any illness or COVID-related absence:

* Notify me in advance of your absence if possible
* If you are quarantined or otherwise need to miss class because you have been advised that you may have been exposed to COVID-19, you will be expected to develop a plan to keep up with your coursework during any such absences
* Participate in class activities and submit assignments electronically as much as possible
* Notify me if you require a modification to the deadline of an assignment or exam

Students with questions about COVID-related illnesses should reach out to the COVID Resource Center at (334) 844-6000 or at <http://auburn.edu/covid-resource-center/>.

Finally, if remaining in a class and fulfilling the necessary requirements becomes impossible due to illness or other COVID-related issues, please let me know as soon as possible so we can discuss your options.