

**KIN 750  
RESEARCH METHODS**

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**Office Hours:** **Monday and Wednesday: 1:00 – 3:00**  
(Additional time by appointment)

**Course Content**

Overview of techniques used in historical, descriptive, and experimental research such as those found in exercise science, health, physical education, and recreation research publications. Other topics include procedures for formulating a research proposal, developing experimental designs for hypothesis testing and statistical applications.

**Evaluation**

25% Mid-Term Exam  
5% CITI test (<https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp?language=english>)  
10% Project presentation  
30% Three project critiques (10% each)  
30% Semester Project

**Learning Objects**

**Attitudes**

1. To appreciate the importance of research.
2. To establish a research philosophy that is objective, analytical, and unbiased.
3. To understand and appreciate the nature of research in Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences.
4. To gain a respect for the research efforts of others.
5. To encourage the pursuit of professional learning and inquiry.

**Skills**

1. To learn how to use the library, the internet, and other educational facilities in carrying out research.
2. To develop the ability to select, define, and analyze potential research problems.
3. To be able to analyze, summarize, and interpret research writings in the student's particular area of specialization.
4. To learn the significance of treatment and interpretation of data.
5. To learn to evaluate research methodology.
6. To learn the procedure in planning and conducting a research study.
7. To be able to attack a research problem objectively and scientifically.
8. To conduct a research study.
9. To be able to apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills learned in this course in the student's own area of professional specialization.

## Semester Project

The purpose of the Semester Project is to allow you the opportunity to apply the knowledge obtained in this class to develop a research proposal for an experimental study. Your proposal that will consist of the following elements:

- **Introduction** (A few pages that introduce the topic and provide a need for the study)
  - **Purpose statement** (The purpose of this study is to...)
  - **Hypotheses**
    - Research hypothesis
    - Statistical hypotheses
  - **Delimitations**
  - **Definition of Terms** (including operational definitions)
- **Literature Review** (several pages that review the research related to your topic)
- **Proposed Methods**
  - Subjects, Instrumentation, Data collection procedure, Statistical analysis.

You will make a short (about 10 minute) presentation of your proposal to the class during the latter part of the semester. You will be evaluated by your peers during the presentation. You will also critique three of your classmates' projects before they turn in their final copy. Your instructor will make the final evaluation of your written paper.

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## References of interest:

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- Morrow, J.R., Bray, M.S., Fulton, J.E., & Thomas, J.R. (1992). Interrater reliability of 1987-1991. Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport review. *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*, 63, 200-204.
- Levine, R.V. (Sept./Oct. 1990). The pace of life. *American Scientist*, 78, 450-459.
- Peshkin, A. (1993). The goodness of qualitative research. *Educational Researcher*, 22 (2), 23-29.
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- Thomas, J.R., Nelson, J.K., & Thomas, K.T. (1999). A generalized rank-order method for non-parametric analysis of data from exercise science: A tutorial. *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*, 70.
- Thomas, J.R., Lochbaum, M.R., Landers, D.M., & He, C. (1997). Planning significant and meaningful research in exercise science: Estimating sample size. *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*, 68, 33 – 43.
- Massengale, J.D., & Swanson, R.A.(Eds.)(1997). *The history of exercise and sport science*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.
- American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
- Locke, L.F., Spirduso, W.W., & Silverman, S.J. (2000). *Proposals that work: A guide for planning dissertations and grant proposals* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Pyrzczak, F., & Bruce, R.R. (2003). *Writing empirical research reports: A basic guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences* (4th ed.). Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing.
- Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E.B. (1999). *The elements of style* (4th ed.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

**Academic Misconduct** – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at:  
<http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

**Copyright** – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.

Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at:  
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**Disability Resource Center (DRC)** – The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor before or after class to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy** – Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of the first two weeks of classes, **September 22, 2015** of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**Incomplete Grades** - The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade. Please note – Students cannot enroll in other nursing courses if they have an incomplete (I) in a course that is designated as a prerequisite to that course. (Per School of Nursing Policy C-12).

**Tutoring** – The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling 702- 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>.

**UNLV Writing Center** – One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

**Rebelmail** – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu). Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

**Library Resources** –Students may consult with a librarian ([www.library.unlv.edu/consultation](http://www.library.unlv.edu/consultation)) about research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is Xan Goodman. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at [www.library.unlv.edu/](http://www.library.unlv.edu/)

### KIN 750 Class Schedule - Spring, 2015

Date	Topic
January 22	Introduction to research
January 29	Developing the problem and using the literature
February 5	Formulating the method
February 12	Survey research
February 19	Statistical intro, research planning and evaluation
February 26	Correlation & regression; Differences among groups
<b>March 5</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
March 12	Experimental and quasi-experimental research; Writing a research paper
March 19	Ethical issues – visit from OPRS
March 26	Evaluating scientific papers
<b>Spring Break</b>	
April 9	TBA
April 16	Project presentations
April 23	Project presentations
April 30	Project presentations
May 7	Catch up and review <b>Written proposal is due</b>
<b>Thursday May 14</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM (Time: 1:00)</b>