

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
SCHOOL OF HUMAN KINETICS

Course Handbook: *HKIN 373*

Course Title: *Research Methods in Human Kinetics*



Course Instructors: Dr. Mark Beauchamp & Dr. Tatiana Ryba

Student Name:
Year: 2008

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Course Professors and Teaching Assistants

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Course Aims and Objectives

The overall purpose of this course is to provide students with the necessary knowledge and understanding in order to implement the various qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods used in Human Kinetics research. An understanding of the concepts and techniques relevant to research writing, design and analysis is an essential component of students' abilities to evaluate, propose and carry out research in each of the disciplines that constitute Human Kinetics research. By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Understand different knowledge claims and philosophical assumptions that underpin research approaches.
- Critically evaluate the appropriateness of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods to answer different types of research question.
- Understand and apply the processes that underpin scientific enquiry.
- Understand ethical issues involved in human kinetics research.
- Determine the role of theory in supporting research.
- Critically read and evaluate human kinetics research.
- Prepare and present a research proposal for a feasible independent research project.
- Employ critical thinking skills related to research methods in human kinetics.

Course Timetable

Lectures:	Mondays and Wednesdays 12-1pm in War Gym Room 208.
Seminars:	The Friday 'slot' will be used for a combination of seminars, self-directed study components, as well as the mid-term exam. See timetable on page 3. See WebCT for your group allocation (and location) for seminars.
Dates:	Teaching period: 7 th January to 11 th April. Exam period 15 th to 29 th April.

Week-By Week Timetable

Week No	MONDAY (Lecture)	WEDNESDAY (Lecture)	FRIDAY (Seminar sessions)
1 Week starting: 7.01.2008	Course outline and introduction to research methods in human kinetics.	A framework for research design.	Poster assignment #1.
2 Week starting: 14.01.2008	The scientific method and types of quantitative research in human kinetics.	The art of research writing: A quantitative design perspective.	Library Lab (Ellen George): APA referencing and database searches.
3 Week starting: 21.01.2008	Relationship and difference testing.	Validity and reliability	Seminar 1 [4 articles]
4 Week starting: 28.01.2008	Ethical issues in human kinetics research.	Research, planning, sampling, and measurement.	Seminar 2 [4 articles]
5 Week starting: 04.02.2008	Questionnaire development, implementation, and use.	Experimental and quasi-experimental designs.	Review of quantitative methods
6 Week starting: 11.02.2008	Poster Presentation A.	Poster Presentation B.	MID-TERM EXAM
7 Week starting: 18.02.2008	MID-TERM BREAK		
8 Week starting: 25.02.2008	A brief history of qualitative research in social sciences.	A framework for research design: Paradigmatic assumptions.	Seminar 1: Paradigm talk [2 articles].
9 Week starting: 03.03.2008	Characteristics and strategies of qualitative inquiry.	Politics of representation and evaluation.	Film 'Born into Brothels'. [War Gym 208]
10 Week starting: 10.03.2008	Traditions and genres of qualitative research: An overview.	The use of theory in qualitative research.	Self-directed study: Mixed methods. <i>Assignment #2: reflection.</i>
11 Week starting: 17.03.2008	Theoretical workshop.	Developing understanding through interviewing. <i>Assignment #2: response.</i>	University Closed
12 Week starting: 24.03.2008	University Closed	Guest lecture: Narrative research <i>Assignment #2: paper is due.</i>	Seminar 2[3 articles]
13 Week starting: 31.03.2008	Developing understanding through participant observation.	Steps of qualitative research process.	Seminar 3: Phenomenology. [3 articles]
14 Week starting: 07.04.2008	Guest lecture: Action research.	Review of qualitative inquiry.	Tutorial

Course Format

This course will involve a variety of teaching methods that will involve lectures, seminars, self-directed study, and group work. Active involvement in *all* aspects is an important part of the course. Powerpoint slides and resources for each lecture will be made available on WebCT at least one week before each class. Any additional information concerning this course will be posted on the WebCT and through use of email.

Contacting Instructors

If you have a problem with specific academic material, such as lecture content, then you should first try to solve it for yourself, perhaps in consultation with your friends and by looking at the course readings and resources. If you cannot sort it out, speak to one of the TAs or Drs. Beauchamp or Ryba at the end of the next class. Students may also make an appointment with the appropriate TA/Professor during their office hours (See Page 2 for details).

Assessment and Feedback

Assessment for this course will involve **coursework (50%)**, a **mid-term exam (20%)**, and an end of course **final exam (30%)**. The coursework will involve a variety of assessment procedures, and specifically will consist of:

- (A) **Assignment 1: Group Poster Presentation (25%)**. In Week 1 (Lecture 1) students will be assigned to one of three seminar groups for the following Friday 'slot' (7th September 2006). The locations of the FRIDAY seminar sessions will be:

Group A – War Gym Room 208

Group B – War Gym Room 206

Group C – Food and Nutrition Sciences, Room 50 (FNFC 50)

Location of FNFC 50: http://www.maps.ubc.ca/PROD/index_detail.php?show=y.n.n.n.n.y&bldg2Search=n&locat1=449

In this session you will be asked to form groups of 3-4, and you will be required to produce a **group research proposal** for a feasible final year **quantitative** research project (e.g., HKIN 499). This research proposal will take the form of a group poster presentation that will be presented on Monday 11th or Wed 13th Feb in Week 6 (allocation will be determined in week 1).

Poster presentations represent an important method of communicating research at conferences, and one format (the one used in this course) involves giving a short (5 minute) verbal summary followed by questions. Marks for this assignment include both a **group component (15% of Marks)**, as well as an **individual component (10% of Marks)**. In the group component, students will receive marks for both the creation of the poster as well as for the verbal summary. For the individual component students will be required to produce a 2-page summary of the theory/research used to underpin the research proposal. Specific details regarding format, structure, and content of this coursework will be presented in the first seminar. The **poster assignment must be presented when indicated**, and failure to do so at the specified time will result in 0/15 marks being awarded for the group-component of assignment #1. The **deadline for the individual paper** to be submitted is **3.30pm on Wed 13th Feb**, and this is to be handed in to Val Hadd in Room 220b War Memorial Gym.

- (B) **Assignment 2: Self-Directed Study of Mixed Methods Procedures and Writing Exercise (15%).** In week ten students will be required to independently study Cresswell's (2003) chapter 11: Mixed Methods Procedures. To assess students understanding of the material, they will be required to participate in the chapter discussion on WebCT and complete a writing exercise that will be made available on WebCT at least two weeks before the due date. The writing exercise must be 2 double-spaced pages, formatted in APA style (5th edition) and submitted in hard copy to Val, in her office, by 3 pm on Wednesday 26th March.
- (C) **Participation in Seminars (10%).** Marks will be awarded based on your contributions to the Friday seminars. Four out of the ten marks will be available for attendance (For every seminar missed a mark will be deducted). The other six marks will be available based on your ability to lead and contribute to group discussions. Specifically, five seminars (two in the first half of the course and three in the latter half) will be used to critique contemporary studies/articles in human kinetics research. In small groups (outlined in Week 1) you will be asked to lead two 12-minute discussions on the methods used in a particular study/article (you will be required to lead one discussion in the first half of the course and another in the second half of the course). The list of potential articles will be posted in WebCT and will be assigned on 'first come, first serve' basis.

Feedback

For each assignment students will be provided with explicit criteria that will be used to assess their coursework. In order to be able to turn work around and provide marks plus feedback to students in an expedient manner it is essential that all assignments are submitted on time. Extensions will only be granted in cases of a medical or serious family emergency, and only with the appropriate medical certificates. Extensions will **NOT** be provided for academic workload or for any other reason. **Late assignments will be awarded ZERO.** This criterion applies to both the group and individual assignments. **Special Needs Arrangements:** Please let Dr. Beauchamp know within the first week of class if you have any special needs that interfere with your ability to participate in assignments or write exams.

Grade Scheme

Grades will be assigned based on the following grading scheme. In all cases marks will be rounded to the nearest percent.

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
76-79	B+
72-75	B
68-71	B-
64-67	C+
60-63	C
55-59	C-
50-54	D
0-49	F (Fail)

Written Examinations

Midterm Exam: Mid-term examinations will be held on **Friday 15th February** (Week 6) and will constitute a 50-minute exam that will cover all the material covered in weeks 1-6. The structure of the exam will be as follows: 20 multiple choice questions (each worth ½ a mark) and 2 short answer questions (each worth 5 marks).

Final Exam: The final exam will be held during the official examination period (**15th -29th April**) and will be 2 hours long, consisting of two sections. The first section will be a multiple choice question section (50%). The second section will contain one essay question (20%) and one short answer question in which you must answer 4 out of 6 options (30%). The multiple choice and short answer questions will involve material covered in weeks 8-14, and the essay question will cover material covered in the entire course. Three potential essay exam questions will be distributed on the last day of classes, and one of these essay questions will be on the final exam. Alternative exam dates will only be provided for students experiencing medical or serious family emergencies (and only where medical documentation is provided). Do not book flights or make travel arrangements for the holiday period until you know your exam schedule!

All students must attend the exams on the dates allotted. These dates are not negotiable and failure to show up at these times will result in a zero.

Required and Recommended Reading

Readings will be outlined in the slide notes for each class and will comprise a mixture of journal articles and book chapters. Each of these readings will be made available on WebCT for you to download.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism, cheating or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. **This especially means that individual assignments must be completed individually.** Violations will be taken seriously and will be dealt with according to the University policy regarding academic dishonesty (See Academic Calendar, <http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/>). Any transgression could result in failure of the course.

For group projects, all contributors have joint ownership of the work, and therefore intellectual property rights. Along with joint ownership comes joint responsibility. If group work contains material which has been plagiarised all members of the group will be deemed responsible and will be liable for the same penalty.

Course Review

We are continually trying to improve our teaching, and student opinion is an important factor which influences this. At the end of the course every student should fill in a questionnaire. This involves a set of predetermined questions to grade all aspects of the course, as well as the opportunity to add any written comments. Make sure you do this if you want your opinion to be considered.