

EPHP 4305, Research Methods

Spring 2021

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

This is a 100% online course, and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Julie Kresta, PhD

Office: 322M Warrior Hall

Phone: 254-519-5428

Email: jkresta@tamuct.edu

Office Hours

By appointment. Contact via email to set up a time.

Student-instructor interaction

Students are encouraged to use email as the primary method to contact the instructor. Email is checked regularly throughout the day up until 9:00pm during the academic week. Email responses will be made within 24-48 hours. Appointments can also be made and are recommended to discuss any course material and/or issues.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office

hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
 - o If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and description

This course will introduce students to research methodologies, data analysis techniques, and research evaluation for fields related to Exercise Physiology and other Health Sciences.

Course Objective or Goal

The purpose of this course is to increase the student’s understanding and appreciation for research and scientific literature as it relates to the field of Exercise Physiology and Health Science.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the components of the scientific research process used in the Exercise Physiology and Health Sciences fields.
2. Evaluate peer-reviewed literature related to the field.
3. Design a complete research proposal related to Exercise Physiology.

Competency Goals Statements (certification or standards)

N/A

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Berg, K.E. and Latin, R.W. Essentials of Research Methods in Health, Physical Education, Exercise Science, and Recreation. 3rd Edition. ISBN: 978-0-7817-7036-1

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements:

Examinations (300 points [3 exams at 100 pts each]): There will be three exams throughout the course. Dates and topics are listed below in the course calendar. All examinations will be delivered online through Canvas on the designated dates. Exams will include questions in various formats including multiple choice, short answer and/or essays. In addition, all examinations may be cumulative and will be explained by the course instructor.

Examination Attendance:

All examinations must be taken on the dates and times scheduled by the instructor. ***Any student missing a scheduled exam will receive a 0 for that exam grade.*** In the cases of extenuating circumstances, the student may petition for delayed or early examination. Requests for an alternate examination period need to be submitting in writing or via email to the course instructor at least ***7 days in advance of the scheduled exam.***

For unanticipated events (i.e. illness, car accident, etc.), students should notify the course instructor by email and/or by phone as soon as possible. Appropriate documentation (i.e. Doctor's note, etc.) at the discretion of the course instructor will need to be provided before an examination is rescheduled.

Examination Policy:

The following items are not allowed during testing:

- Book bags, handbags, or any other bag of materials (bags should be placed outside of the room when possible, or at least away from the testing cite)
- No technology/electronic devices other than the computer used for testing. This includes (but is not limited to) smart watches, cell phones, tablets, PDAs, etc.
- No other individuals, as all examinations are to be completed independently.

Weekly Discussions (100 pts [5 discussions at 20 pts]): On specified weeks, there will be a discussion board created on Canvas to cover specific topics. The course instructor will ask several questions that each student will be asked to answer. Students must comment at least once per discussion board to receive credit and will be graded on the quality of their comments based on a rubric that will be provided to students in advance via Canvas.

Article Reviews (150 points [2 reviews at 75 pts]): Students will be provided with several journal articles with different methodologies related to the field. Students will be asked to evaluate these articles and write an article summary as well as answer some critical thinking questions based on the article provided. Specific rubrics will be made available to the students in advance.

Assignments (150 points [2 assignments at 75 pts]) Throughout the course, there will be several assignments that will relate back to the information being discussed in class at the time. These may include statistical calculation, methodology assessments, critical thinking questions, or other activities to help facilitate learning in the various topics. Students will be allowed to work in groups for these assignments, but must each submit their own work to be graded. General descriptions of each assignment are included in the Course Calendar, but more detail will be provided on Canvas in advance.

Research Proposal (300 points, divided as explained below): Students will be asked to design a research study related to exercise physiology and write a formal research proposal. There will be several deadlines for drafts of the different sections throughout the course to allow for feedback from the instructor. These will include an **Outline (20 points)**, **Literature Review Draft (20 points)**, and a **Study Design Draft (20 points)**. The final draft of the proposal will include the major sections of an **Introduction (20 points)**, **Statement of the Problem (10 points)**, **Literature Review (40 points)**, **Methods (40 points)**, **Anticipated Results/Discussion (20 points)**, and **References (10 points)**. In addition to the formal write-up of the research proposal, students will be asked to present their studies to the class (**100 points**). In this presentation, they will discuss and defend their study methodologies in detail. Specific rubrics will be provided in advance for both the written portion and the presentation.

Item	Weight
Exams	300 pts
Weekly Discussions	100 pts
Article Reviews	150 pts
Assignments	150 pts
Research Proposal	300 pts
Total	1000 pts

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Specific rubrics to be used for grading will be made available via Canvas when the

assignment is posted.

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted within 1 week of the submission deadline, unless stated otherwise. Grades will be posted to the Canvas gradebook for students to view and monitor their progress in the course.

Grading Policies

- Computer Issues
 - If a student should have issues regarding submission of assignments due to technical or computer issues (i.e. computer malfunction, network outage, etc.), the student is responsible for submitting the assignment on time. They should email or phone the course instructor to notify them of the issue and attempt to submit the assignment via email or other means as decided by the course instructor. Submission of a late assignment due to technical computer issues as described above will follow the Late Work Policy. No exceptions will be made for technical problems involving the internet, email, or Canvas.
- Late Work
 - Students should turn assignments in by their due date and time as indicated by the course instructor or syllabus. In the event that assignments are turned in after the appropriate designated date/time without prior approval by the course instructor, the following course policy applies:
 - On the first offense, the student will receive a decrease in their grade on the assignment by one letter grade in addition to any missed points on the assignment.
 - On the second late offense, or any thereafter, the student will receive a "0" for the assignment.
 - No exceptions will be made for technical problems involving the internet, email, or Canvas. Emergency or illness are some of the only exceptions to this policy. All potential exceptions will be dealt with on an individual case-by-case basis.
- Examination Review
 - Students will be provided with one opportunity to review their examination. Students are not permitted to copy, write, reproduce, photograph, or identify in any way examination questions, answers, and/or rationale (hard or electronic formats) provided during an examination review and will be considered an honor code violation if done so. Students may request an appointment with the instructor to review exams and additional time.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

COURSE SCHEDULE: 1st 8-WEEK TERM

WEEK 1 – January 19-22

- Syllabus and Course Overview
- *Book Chapters to Review:*
 - Chapters 1-2
- *Lectures to Review:*
 - Lecture 1 – Introduction to Research and Ethics in Human Subject Research
- **WEEKLY DISCUSSION #1**

WEEK 2 – January 25-29

- *Book chapters to Review:*
 - Chapters 3-6
- *Lectures to Review:*
 - Lecture 2 – Research Writing
- **ASSIGNMENT #1 – Writing an Abstract**
 - **Due Friday January 29 by 11:59pm**
- **WEEKLY DISCUSSION #2**

WEEK 3 – February 1-5

- **EXAM 1 – Intro to Research and Research Writing (Posted Monday, February 1)**
- *Book Chapters to Review:*
 - Chapters 13-14
- *Lectures to Review:*
 - Lecture 3 – Measurement and Data Collection Concepts
 - Lecture 4 – Experimental Validity and Control
- **ARTICLE REVIEW #1 – DUE Friday, February 5 by 11:59pm**
- **RESEARCH PROPOSAL OUTLINE – Due Friday, February 5 by 11:59pm**

WEEK 4 – February 8-12

- *Book Chapters to Review:*
 - Chapters 15-17
- *Lectures to Review*
 - Lecture 5 – Experimental Research and Design
 - Lecture 6 – Descriptive Research
 - Lecture 7 – Qualitative Research Methods
- **LITERATURE REVIEW DRAFT – Due Friday, February 12 by 11:59pm**
- **WEEKLY DISCUSSION #3**

WEEK 5 – February 15-19

- **EXAM 2 – Measurement and Research Design (Posted Thursday, February 18)**
- **ARTICLE REVIEW #2 – Due Friday, February 19 by 11:59pm**

WEEK 6 – February 22-26

- *Book Chapters to Review:*
 - Chapters 7-10
- *Lectures to Review:*
 - Lecture 8 – Statistics #1 – Basic Concepts, Central Tendency, Variability, Normal Curve
 - Lecture 9 – Statistics #2 – Probability, Hypothesis Testing, Relationships and Predictions
- **RESEARCH PROPOSAL METHODS DRAFT – Due Friday, February 26 by 11:59pm**

WEEK 7 – March 1-5

- *Book Chapters to Review:*
 - Chapters 11-12
- *Lectures to Review:*
 - Lecture 10 – Statistics #3 – Comparing Means, Select Nonparametric Statistics
- **ASSIGNMENT #2 – Statistical Calculations and Interpretation**
 - **Due Friday, March 5 by 11:59pm**
- **WEEKLY DISCUSSION #4**

WEEK 8 – March 8-12

- **EXAM 3 – Statistics (Posted Monday, March 8)**
- **RESEARCH PROPOSAL FINAL DRAFT – Due Friday, March 12 by 11:59pm**
- **RESEARCH PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS – Due Thursday, March 11 by 11:59pm**

Important University Dates

January 26, 2021 – Deadline to drop first 8-week classes with no record

February 26, 2021 – Deadline to drop first 8-week classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives

for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),
[https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)
[https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. By providing a practice audience for students’ ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students’ texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOonline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

For Spring 2021, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

OTHER POLICIES

Copyright Notice

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Copyright. (2021) by (Julie Kresta) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, (College of Education and Human Development); 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; 254-519-5428; (jkresta@tamuct.edu).