

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SRST 623-001 – Research Design and Statistical Reasoning (3)  
Spring 2014

<b>DAY/TIME:</b>	R 7:20-10:00pm	<b>LOCATION:</b>	FX – RAC – Room # 2203
<b>PROFESSOR</b>	Dr. Christopher Atwater	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	catwater@gmu.edu
<b>OFFICE LOCATION:</b>	PW – Bull Run Hall Room: 223	<b>PHONE NUMBER:</b>	202-500-6279
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	TR 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	<b>FAX NUMBER:</b>	703-993-2025

### **PREREQUISITES**

Graduate standing.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Introduces basic principles of scientific and scholarly inquiry in Sport and Recreation Studies. Explores the logic and practice of methods and techniques employed in research related to sport and recreation.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate appropriate use of research terminology and application of basic concepts and principles associated with scientific research;
2. Critically evaluate published research in scientific journals and the popular press;
3. Demonstrate the use of research methodologies and designs employed in SRST research;
4. Apply critical thinking and research findings in SRST practice;
5. Use descriptive and inferential statistics in analyzing research data; and
6. Prepare a sound and feasible research proposal.

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION PRINCIPLES**

Courses offered in the Sport and Recreation Studies (SRST) graduate program are guided by the principles of the Commission of Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA). COSMA (2010, p. 1) “bases its accrediting process on principles, rather than standards.” The eight recommended principles are:

- outcomes assessment;
- strategic planning;
- curriculum;
- faculty;
- scholarly and professional activities;
- resources;
- internal and external relationships; and
- educational innovation.

For more information, please see:

Commission of Sport Management Accreditation. (2010, June). *Accreditation principles and self study preparation*. Retrieved November 23, 2013 from <http://cosmaweb.org/accredmanuals>

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

Unless otherwise noted, **all written papers will be submitted electronically via email.**

Assignments will be **due at the beginning of class** on the specified date due. **All written papers are to be submitted using WORD (with a .doc or .docx file extension) - .pdf or other formats are not permitted in this course. Papers received late will receive a 20% deduction in points per 24 hour period.**

## **INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS**

1. All assigned readings and assignments for each session are expected to be completed prior to attending.
2. All written assignments must be typed in APA format (computer word processing is recommended).
3. Attendance and participation is **REQUIRED**. Attendance will be monitored and attendance is defined as arriving on time for sessions and remaining in class.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

It enhances your academic success to be in every scheduled session; therefore, you **MUST ATTEND ALL** scheduled sessions. Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register and attend those classes **on time**. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but to the class as a whole. Because class participation is a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Texting in class is **NOT** acceptable behavior; neither is falling asleep. It is assumed that laptops are being used to take notes or to follow Blackboard power points; other use is a distraction to your classmates and me.

## **PARTICIPATION**

Respect the free exchange of thought in an academic environment and the participants therein. For example: a) do not have any sound emitting devices turned on; b) wait until the teacher/guest speaker has finished prior to gathering your belongings; and c) do not smoke, chew tobacco, eat, sleep, disrupt others by inappropriate talking, or disrespect the class schedule by being tardy. You are encouraged to a) feel free to openly and respectfully contribute your thoughts; b) listen actively to the comments of others; c) be punctual; d) ask any and all appropriate questions that you have; and e) maintain civility in your interpersonal communications. Class discussions will be conducted in a civil, informed fashion wherein disruptive students will be asked to leave the class. Your contributions are not only welcomed, they are essential.

## **ALTERNATIVE WORK**

There is **NO** make-up work. Only those excused absences supported by documentation will be addressed at the instructor's discretion on an individual basis (e.g. a physician's note for an illness). Alternative work due to intercollegiate athletic competitions or other legitimate university activity must be arranged **PRIOR** to due date. A grade of '0' will be assigned to all missed work unless otherwise determined by the instructor. You are strongly encouraged to hand assignments in on time.

## **GRADING**     *There will be NO extra credit.*

The instructor is solely responsible for assigning grades. As such, the instructor reserves the right to assess student performance in each of the categories identified in the **EVALUATION** section of this syllabus. Student non-compliance with stated academic, honor, attendance, or participation expectations will result in a '0' for the associated evaluation.

## **NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY**

Face to face

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

## EVALUATION

This course will be graded on a percentage system, with a total of 100% possible.

## GRADING SCALE

A	= 94 – 100	B+	= 88 – 89	C	= 74 – 79
A-	= 90 – 93	B	= 84 – 87	F	= 0 – 73
		B-	= 80 – 83		

REQUIREMENTS	% of Grade
<b>Attendance and Participation:</b> Students are expected to attend all sessions and participate in active discussions and lectures.	10%
<b>Literature Review and Research Design – Pages 1-10:</b> Students are required to complete the first ten pages of their literature review and research design sections – Guidelines Provided.	30%
<b>Literature Review and Research Design – Pages 11-20:</b> Students are required to complete the second ten pages of their literature review and research design sections – Guidelines Provided.	30%
<b>Literature Review and Research Design – Pages 21-30:</b> Students are required to complete the third ten pages of their literature review and research design sections – Guidelines Provided.	30%
<b>Total</b>	100%

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS DUE	
January	23	Introduction to Research Design and Statistical Reasoning	Syllabus
	30	The Selection of a Research Approach	Chapter # 1
February	6	Review of the Literature	Chapter # 2
	13	The Use of Theory	Chapter # 3
	20	Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations	Chapter # 4
	27	Independent Writing Day # 1	N/A
March	6	The Introduction	Chapter # 5 <b>Pages 1-10 Due</b>
	13	The Purpose Statement	Chapter # 6
	20	Research Questions and Hypotheses	Chapter # 7
	27	Independent Writing Day # 2	N/A

April	3	Quantitative Methods	Chapter # 8 <b>Pages 11-20 Due</b>
	10	Qualitative Methods	Chapter # 9
	17	Mixed Methods Procedures	Chapter # 10
	24	In-Class Research Discussion and Debriefing	N/A
May	1	Independent Writing Day # 3	N/A
	8	Final Literature Review and Research Design Sections Due by 5pm	<b>Pages 21-30 Due</b>

*Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary.*

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu/>].

**PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR**

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

**CORE VALUES COMMITMENT**

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

