SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY AND RECREATION
KNR 295 Honors Seminar

Course Information

NAME: KNR 295 - Honors Seminar
LOCATION: McCormick 265G
CREDIT HOURS: 1
MEETING TIME: TBA
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Peter Smith
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WEB SITE: http://www.castonline.ilstu.edu/smith/hs/hs_home.htm
EMAIL: peter.smith@ilstu.edu

Catalog Description

Honors Seminar 1 F, S
Introduction to independent honors study; identification and definition of problems; selected methods of problem solving; use of library resources

Course Overview

This course is open to Kinesiology and Recreation students who have been accepted into the KNR honors program. We meet bi-weekly through the semester. The focus is on helping students identify, define, and find ways to approach research problems in their specific interest areas. Students will become acquainted with introductory research methodology, together with the use of library resources. Assignments consist of evaluating a variety of research problems, developing your own research problem, creating a bibliography for the problem, and proposing a means of tackling the problem.

Student Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Understand and use basic terminology of research methodology
2. Evaluate a variety of research problems using such terminology
3. Apply a variety of techniques necessary for library research (databases, online catalogs, organizing bibliographies)
4. Understand the use of basic research design in order to address various research problems
5. Apply knowledge of research design by developing a research proposal

Topical Outline

I. Foundations
   a. Language Of Research
   b. Philosophy of Research
   c. Ethics in Research
   d. Conceptualizing
   e. Evaluation Research
II. Sampling
   a. External Validity
   b. Sampling Terminology
c. Statistical Sampling Terms
  d. Probability Sampling
  e. Nonprobability Sampling

III. Measurement
  a. Construct Validity
  b. Reliability
  c. Levels of Measurement
  d. Survey Research
  e. Scaling
  f. Qualitative Measures
  g. Unobtrusive Measures

IV. Design
  a. Internal Validity
  b. Introduction to Design
  c. Types of Designs
  d. Experimental Design
  e. Quasi-Experimental Design
  f. Relationships Among Pre-Post Designs
  g. Designing Designs for Research
  h. Advances in Quasi-Experimentation

V. Use of the library as a resource for research
  a. Library Tour & Information Retrieval
  b. Librarian Assistance for KNR
  c. Online searches, Indexes, and Shelving Location of References
  d. Citing of References

Readings
RECOMMENDED (from most to least essential)


   NB: This text is also available on the web. You can either buy the bookstore copy for $40, the web copy for about $20, or access the general pages for free at <http://trochim.human.cornell.edu/kb/index.htm>. It is roughly the same information, but as you spend less ease of access decreases. Personally, I still like holding the book in my hands. I provide links to the free pages on my web site.

Required Student Tasks/Assignments
Assessments are designed to determine the students’ level of mastery of the educational objectives.

1. Evaluate research scenarios 25%
   Evaluation of a number of research scenarios designed to assess your understanding and application of the various validity types essential to research methodology.

2. Construct a bibliography for a particular research problem 25%
   Use the library search skills to construct a list of resources applicable to a particular research problem.

3. Complete a (short!) research proposal 50%
   Propose a research study based on an evaluation the shortcomings of the research in an area of your choice. The review will focus on a particular aspect of the validity of an area of research, and a study will be designed to improve upon it.
Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>A (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
<td>B (good)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
<td>C (careless)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
<td>D (difficult)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F (no way...needs some kind of disaster, or a failure in our admissions process)</td>
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