

**Sul Ross State University**  
**Kinesiology Department**  
**Kinesiology 5316 – Neurological Basis for Motor Learning and Control**  
**Spring 2016**

**Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Dr. Stefanie Latham

**Phone:** 432 837-8255, 405 923-3819 cell (I am always accessible to you, so feel free to text, email, or call) Always check your sulross.edu email.

**Office Hours:** M-F

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**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide an understanding of psychological/physiological principles involved in motor learning, control, and performance. The emphasis will be in understanding the muscular and nervous system control and in skill acquisition for school age children and adult populations.

**Course Discussion Board:** I will be online (Blackboard) every week on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm to help answer any questions or provide more detailed information regarding the chapters. This is not mandatory to attend, but I will be here to answer questions.

**Text:** None, notes and supplemental material will be loaded on Blackboard

**Course Objectives:**

- A. To develop a functional understanding of the psychological and physiological bases of movement behavior.
- B. To be able to apply learning theory to the learning and performance of motor skills.
- C. To understand the factors that influences the learning and performance of motor skills.
- D. To understand the developmental influences on motor behavior.
- E. To be able to apply instructional and training procedures to school age and athletic populations.

**Exams and Grading Procedures:**

- 1. A total of two (2) exams worth 60 points each will be administered on specified dates.
- 2. Weekly article critiques (8) worth 10 points each from professional refereed journals. (SportDiscus in Library) **Articles due every Thursday of every week.**
- 3. An examination of a disorder assignment worth 100 points will be due and submitted at the end of the eight weeks. See attached copy for instructions.
- 4. Viewing and critical analysis of a youth sports program worth 100 points
- 5. Viewing and critical analysis of a collegiate or advanced program worth 100 points

**Under no circumstances will late work be accepted, unless prior arrangements have been made or an unforeseen emergency has occurred.**

**Grading**  
**500-450=A**  
**449-400=B**  
**399-350=C**

### **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

Week 1 January 19-23 Chpt. 0 Understanding Muscle Tissue, Chpt. 01 Understanding Muscle Contractions, Article 1 due Thursday

Week 2 January 26-30 Chpt 001 Understanding the Nervous System, Chpt. 1 Basic Concepts of Motor Learning, Article 2 due Thursday

Week 3 February 2-6 Chpt. 2 Development of Motor Responses, Chpt. 3 The Nature of Motor Learning, Article 3 due Thursday

Week 4 February 9-13 Chpt. 4 Feedback, Article 1 due Thursday

**February 13 Exam 1 Due by 12:00 am**

Week 5 February 16-20 Chpt. 5 Timing, Chpt. 6 Information Processing, Article 5 due Thursday

Week 6 February 23-27 Chpt. 7 Transfer, Chpt. 8 Perception, Article 6 due Thursday

Week 7 March 2-6 Chpt. 9 Personality and Performance, Chpt. 10 Motivation, Article 7 due Thursday, Youth Program Critical Analysis due

Week 8 March 9-13 Chpt. 11 Practice Conditions, Article 8 due Thursday, Collegiate Program, Critical Analysis due, Research Paper Due

**March 13 Exam 2 Due by 12:00 am**

## Article Critique Template

**Contributing Editor:** Your name

**Date:** January, 2014

**Reference:** Christie, J. S. (2014). Health and obesity: The benefits of exercise and lowered risk of diabetes. *Journal of Sport Nutrition*, 13(4), 21–29.

**Sample size:** 38 men, 39 women (experimental, control groups)

**Duration of study:** 3 months

**Measurement tools:** glucometer, scales, calipers, questionnaire's

**Editor's comment:** 200 words or <, single spaced

## **MOTOR LEARNING EXAMINATION OF DISORDER ASSIGNMENT**

For this assignment you will investigate a motor learning/control disorder in exercise science. The topic selected must be related to your career goals. For example, you should investigate a disorder you are likely to encounter in practice. It may be a good idea to select a topic and use all your article critiques to help you write this paper. There is no length on how long your paper must be, as long as the five areas below are addressed. Please check for spelling and grammatical errors on your paper.

1. **What has gone wrong in the disorder?** (this often includes a discussion of the physiology of the normal functioning of the system or structure in question).
2. **Causes for the disorder** should be discussed. If the cause is debated, discuss the different ideas. If the cause is unknown, discuss the hypothesized causes.
3. **Motor learning or control effects of the disorder** should be discussed and related to the motor learning or control principles discussed in class where possible.
4. **Treatments** should be discussed. State whether it is due to drug therapy or physical rehabilitative purposes.
5. **How would you work or mainstream this person with such a disorder.**

## Sample Motor Learning / Control Disorder Topics

Speech disorders

Motor unit control

Cerebral palsy

Maximum voluntary contraction

Muscular dystrophy

Velocity of strength training

Multiple sclerosis

PNF

Spinal cord injury

Reflexes

Clumsy child syndrome,  
a.k.a. developmental coordination disorder

Diabetic

Autism

Touretts syndrome

Essential tremor

Epilepsy

Down's syndrome

Parkinson's disease

Proprioceptive training

Neural basis of plyometric training

Muscle fiber changes with training

Neural contributions to hypertrophy