



KES 5305 – Graduate Research Methods – Spring 2026 8 Week Syllabus
Department of Kinesiology & Human Performance
Sul Ross State University

Instructor Information

Instructor: Alonzo Maestas, PhD, JD, MS, MA, MLS, MCJ

Email: amaest77@unm.edu and axm17kg@sulross.edu (Monday – Thursday, 24-hour response time, Friday – Sunday, 48-hour response time)

Phone: (505) 277-3181 (tell them you are a student in my class, and treat them respectfully)

Syllabus Objective: The purpose of this syllabus is to outline the semester for you in a manner that is easy to read and understand. I will cover the course requirements, assignments, deadlines, grading scale, and any and all other expectations of this course. Remember that this syllabus is subject to change, but I will let you know if I will be making any changes.

Credit Hours: 3 credit hours

Course Delivery

This is a fully online course. This course follows an 8-week calendar as detailed in the course schedule.

Course Description

In this course students are introduced to the basic concepts and techniques that are used in social science research. The course is divided into three sections, which cover social scientific inquiry and research design, quantitative data gathering and analysis, and qualitative data gathering and analysis, respectively.

Required Textbooks

Title: How to Design and Evaluate Research in Education 11th ed.

Author: Fraenkel

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education

ISBN: 9781260837742

For this course you will be required to purchase McGraw-Hill Education Connect® access for How to Design and Evaluate Research in Education 11th ed. by Jack Fraenkel, Norman Wallen, and Helen Hyun. You can purchase Connect access directly from the Connect website at net cost when registering for your course section here:

<https://connect.mheducation.com/class/a-maestas-spring-2023-kes-5305>. Please note that Connect works best on Google Chrome or Firefox.

A print-upgrade option is available via Connect if you find yourself wanting a print companion at some point during the semester. This will be a full color binder-ready version of the text and can be mailed directly to you for an additional \$25.00 (including shipping and handling). You are not

required to have a print text in addition to Connect access, so please be aware that if you purchase a used textbook you will still need to purchase Connect access.

Title: American Psychological Association. (2009). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Edition). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Useful websites for APA style and textbook purchase:

<http://www.apastyle.org/>

<http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

You will also need to access the SRSU Library to locate and download peer-reviewed, scholarly articles. For assistance, you may [Ask the Library](#) or contact the [Graduate Student Center](#) for help.

Expectation Of Students

Students are responsible for keeping up with the reading and are expected to read the assigned chapters and/or other posted readings prior to class in order to contribute to online discussion. Handouts distributed through Blackboard should be kept in a notebook in order to be referred to as necessary.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- A. Demonstrate their understanding of the basic principles and procedures of research methodology through weekly discussions and written assignments.
- B. Critically evaluate both quantitative and qualitative research studies by conducting a literature review on a topic of interest to the student.
- C. Define, give the significance of, and use key concepts in research ethics (particularly but not exclusively research with human subjects) as they apply to research design by creating and evaluating a proposed research study with informed consent documentation.
- D. Evaluate and apply appropriate research methodology by creating a research design for a specific research project of their choice.

Marketable Skills

The following marketable skills are met in this course:

1. Collaboration – students will interact with one another through a multitude of class discussion boards
2. Communication – Through your discussion posts, you will learn to communicate what you have learned with your peers, and how to reply and respond to your peers.
3. Critical Thinking – students will be asked to critically decipher a multitude of real-world scenarios.
4. Career Management – students will develop the skills necessary to thrive in a management roll in their chosen profession.

Introduction



Welcome!

My name is Dr. Alonzo Maestas (you can call me Dr. Maestas), and I will be your instructor for this course. I am looking forward to facilitating your learning in research methods. My training includes the following degrees: Ph.D., Sport Administration (UNM, 2025); M.S., Physical Education Curriculum and Instruction (UNM, 2024); M.A., Athletic Coaching Education (Ball State, 2018); Master of Legal Studies, NCAA Compliance and Sport Law (Drexel University, 2017); Master of Criminal Justice (NMSU, 2012); Juris Doctor (The UNM School of Law, 2009); and Bachelor of Arts, Government and English Literature (NMSU, 2002).

I design my classes in a way that you can succeed; that being said, if you are having any problems with the course at any time during the semester, please reach out to me as soon as possible so we can work out an arrangement for you to get your work turned in. If you have any questions about the course, I prefer email at amaest77@unm.edu and axm17kg@sulross.edu. Please see the "Instructor Information" section above for my response time.

Finally, if you did not learn, I did not do my job, so let's work together to see to it that you learn and enjoy this class.

Welcome

Hello, and welcome to Graduate Research Methods! I am happy to have you in my class and look forward to a productive semester. Before you start, please review the syllabus, and make sure you order the required materials. Although there are slides for the chapters, you will need the book to ensure you don't miss anything and get all the readings done.

This class is a mix of readings (with homework questions), assignments, discussions, and a final project. In addition, you will be required to locate and synthesize resources to put your final project together, so I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the SRSU library database searches as early as possible.

I encourage you to not wait to read the assigned chapters until the last day of each week. If you take the time to read a chapter or two per day during the week, you will find that the reading is not overwhelming. I suggest blocking time for this class in your weekly schedule. The due dates for the readings, questions, assignments, discussions, and final paper are listed in Blackboard, as well as in your syllabus, so please pay attention to those due dates. All in all, time management will be critical to succeed in this course (as in all your courses). I'm looking forward to a rewarding semester!

Getting Help

SRSU Graduate Center

The Graduate Student Center, located in **BAB 104**, provides resources and services for all SRSU graduate students. There is a computer lab with desktop computers and a networked printer/copier/scanner; laptop computers, which can be checked out; a projector and screen for rehearsing student presentations; and a conference room for group study. Both Alpine and distance education students can receive writing and other assistance by calling 432-837-8524.

Blackboard

Navigating Blackboard and this course is essential to your success as a student. If you have problems submitting assignments, contact the support staff listed below.

Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)

Phone: 432-837-8888

Toll Free: 888-837-2882

Mon-Fri 9:00 am - 6:00 pm: Sandy Bogus, sbogus@sulross.edu; phone 432-837-8523

Sat-Sun 11:00 am - 6:00 pm: Rusty Klein, rklein@sulross.edu; phone 432-837-8595

McGraw Hill Connect

If you have any technical issues or questions, please contact McGraw-Hill's Customer Experience Group at 1-800-331-5094.

Computer and Digital Literacy Skills

To be successful in this course, students are expected to be able to:

- Use a learning management system (LMS); specifically, Blackboard Learn
- Search the World Wide Web and efficiently use a web browser such as Firefox
- Have a basic understanding of their computer operating system
- Use Adobe Reader to view and download PDF documents
- Use email
- Play audio/video files
- Use online libraries and databases to locate and gather appropriate information
- Create and submit files in commonly used word processing formats (specifically Microsoft Office Word)
- Properly cite information sources

Netiquette

When posting or emailing, please remember that professionalism is not only encouraged, but expected. You are practicing your written and electronic communication skills and want to form good habits before you go out in the work force.

On that note, when posting on the Discussion Board, please keep in mind the following:

- Please be courteous. Don't flame (i.e., post insults, invective, or other personally disrespectful comments) or post flamebait (i.e., deliberately provocative or manipulative material intended or likely to elicit flames).
- Please be careful in the use of sarcasm and irony. Online communication lacks the subtle nonverbal cues that help us interpret such rhetorical flourishes in face-to-face

settings, so that it is easy to miss the point or misunderstand. More importantly, it is easy to give or take offense where none is intended. Accordingly, give people the benefit of the doubt, and if you are misunderstood, don't get defensive.

- Avoid typing in all capital letters, as this is considered to be shouting and is considered rude.
- Limit the use of emoticons (emotion icons) to introductions and less formal communication.
- Use proper grammar and spelling. Avoid abbreviations and informal language. Text messaging abbreviations are not appropriate.
- Be tolerant of those who are still learning how to use this forum (e.g., people who accidentally send multiple copies of the same message, PEOPLE WHO FORGET AND LEAVE THEIR CAPS LOCK KEY ON WHEN TYPING).
- Don't post excessively or monopolize the conversation. Remember that multiple shoot-from-the-hip posts are much less effective than fewer carefully-thought-out ones, and that patience in responding will encourage more contributors with a wider variety of ideas and perspectives to participate.

In addition to the above, please keep in mind the following:

- A professional and respectful tone is expected for all course communication.
- Respect the privacy of your classmates and what they share.
- Understand that we may disagree and that exposure to other opinions is part of the learning experience.
- Be respectful of the views and opinions of others. We are in this together. Before posting a comment, ask whether you would be willing to make the same comment face-to-face.
- Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source.
- Be careful with acronyms. If you use an acronym, it is best to spell it out first, then put the acronym in parentheses afterward. For example: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Methods of Evaluation (See below 'Course Requirements' for more details)

Outcome Measure	Points per unit	Available Points	Percentage of Grade
Connect LearnSmart Chapter Readings Questions	14	350	35%
Discussions	50	250	25%
Assignments 1 and 2	100	200	20%
Chapters 1 through 3 Rough Draft	50	50	5%
Final Project	150	150	10%
Total/Final Grade*	--	1000	100%

*Letter grading as per SRSU policy will be used in this course.

Note: Satisfactory progress in the HHP program means a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all core classes (e.g. everything leading up to the final practicum course). In most cases, this means a 'B' or better in each class is considered satisfactory progress.

Late Work Policy

All coursework must be submitted by the provided due dates in Blackboard or Connect. Late work will be subject to the following deductions: Discussions/Responses/Assignments/Quizzes/Final Projects carry a 5% deduction per day late; up to 30% maximum deduction. LearnSmart readings must be completed by the due date for credit.

All Course Requirements Deadline

Due to the time requirement for grading purposes, all course requirements must be submitted/completed by the 'Course Requirements Deadline' of *Tuesday in Week 8 at 11:59pm* to be counted for credit towards the final letter grade in this course. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Late deductions will apply as per above policy.

Academic Dishonesty or Misconduct

Sul Ross State University is committed to the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. Participating in behavior that violates academic integrity (plagiarism, etc.) will result in disciplinary action and may include receiving a failing grade for the assignment, failing the course, and suspension and/or dismissal from the University.

Drop Policy

Students are responsible to register and withdrawal from courses themselves, either through Banner (LoboOnline) or by contacting the University Registrar by published deadlines. For information regarding enrollment/registration changes please review the website at: <http://www.sulross.edu/page/967/schedule-changes-withdrawals>

Tentative Course Calendar

Weeks	LearnSmart Chapters	Assessments
1 (Mar 16 – Mar 22)	LearnSmart Chapters 1 – 5	DUE: Discussion 1 (post by March 20, response by March 22) DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 1 – 5) ASSIGNED: FINAL PAPER
2 (Mar 23 – Mar 29)	LearnSmart Chapters 6 – 9	DUE: Discussion 2 (post by March 27, response by March 29) DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 6 – 9) DUE: Assignment 1
3 (Mar 30 – Apr 5)	LearnSmart Chapters 10 – 13	DUE: Discussion 3 (post by April 3, response by April 5) DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 10 – 13)
4 (Apr 6 – Apr 12)	LearnSmart Chapters 14 – 17	DUE: Discussion 4 (post by April 10, response by April 12) DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 14 – 17) DUE: Assignment 2
5 (Apr 13 – Apr 19)	LearnSmart Chapters 18 – 21	DUE: Discussion 5 (post by April 17, response by April 19) DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 18 – 21) DUE: ROUGH DRAFT, Chapters 1 – 3, due April 19
6 (Apr 20 – Apr 26)	LearnSmart Chapters 22 – 25	DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 22 – 25)
7 and 8 (Apr 27 – May 6)	Continue writing and finish final paper, using instructor comments and recommendations	Due: Final Paper, chapters 1 – 3, due by Monday, May 4, 2026, at 11:59 pm

Course Requirements

Discussions

250 points total (Five discussions, 50 points per discussion)

'Posts'

Each post is worth 40 points. To create a thread, click on the hyperlink to the discussion and then click on create new thread. Put a short title and the week number in the subject line. Please only respond directly in the message area, no attachments.

'Responses'

Each response is worth up to 10 points. Under each discussion post, you must read and respond to one of your classmate's original discussion posts. Responses are due 48hrs after the original discussion due date. The response must be more than "good job," "I like what you said," etc. It must be a substantial response, as if you were having a discussion on the topic in class. Specifically, a substantial response would include, but not be limited to, adding to the discussion with further information you find (cite your source); asking relevant questions; as well as providing constructive criticism / a different viewpoint. Responses should be professional/academic responses and not chat room or informal language. To respond to another's post, click on their post and then choose reply. Title the subject of your response with your "Last name" and "response to Authors Last Name Week 3 post" (e.g., Maestas' response to Henderson's Week 3 post).

Connect LearnSmart Questions

350 points total (Twenty-five chapters, 14 points per chapter)

LearnSmart is an interactive reading program provided through McGraw-Hill Connect. These modules will guide you through each individual chapter asking questions to assess your knowledge along the way.

Assignments

200 points total (Assignments 1 and 2 at 100 points each)

The assignments provide a real-world / practical application of the course content. There will be two assignments at 100 points.

Rough Draft, Chapters 1 through 3

50 points

You will turn in a rough draft for your final paper.

Final Project

150 points

This Final Project will be Chapters 1 – 3 of your research proposal. Detailed instructions on this assignment are found in the Final Project Word document in Week 4 in Blackboard.

Learner Support

SRSU Disability Services

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mschwartze@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, SUI Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.