

Research Methods

KINE 5305 | Fall 2026 | Second Eight Week Term

October 19 through December 9 | Online Asynchronous

Instructor	Doug W. Renshaw, Ph.D.
Email	doug.renshaw@sulross.edu Include KINE 5305 in the subject line
Office phone	432-837-8661
Office hours	Mon 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Tue 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; Wed 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Thu 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; or by appointment Monday-Friday when not teaching, in person or through Teams.
Course delivery	Blackboard Online asynchronous Weekly deadlines

Course Description

KINE 5305 provides an applied overview of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research approaches used in kinesiology, health, education, and human performance. Students will learn how to move from a practical question to a defensible research proposal.

Purpose of the Course

The course develops the judgment required to design, evaluate, and communicate research. The central product is a complete kinesiology research proposal built through five connected assignments. Students will design a study but will not collect data.

Required Textbook and Course Access

How to Design and Evaluate Research in Education, 11th Edition by Jack Fraenkel and colleagues. McGraw Hill Connect access is required and is provided through Inclusive Access. Students should contact the instructor immediately if access is unavailable.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Develop a focused, researchable problem in kinesiology or human performance.
- Locate, evaluate, and synthesize peer reviewed evidence.
- Select a research design that matches the research question and variables.
- Describe participants, sampling, measurement, procedures, and ethical safeguards.
- Construct an appropriate data analysis plan.
- Write and revise a coherent research proposal in APA style.

Marketable Skills

- Critical thinking through evaluation of evidence and competing study designs.
- Professional writing through weekly proposal sections and revision.
- Information literacy through database searching and source evaluation.
- Project management through staged deadlines across an accelerated term.

Grading and Course Requirements

The course contains 1,000 possible points. No examinations are administered. Half of the course grade comes from Connect learning activities, and half comes from the staged research proposal.

Requirement	Description	Points	Course grade
Connect and SmartBook	Assigned reading and research-method activities completed through McGraw Hill Connect.	500	50%
Research Proposal Project	Five proposal assignments worth 100 points each. Each submission becomes part of the final integrated proposal.	500	50%
Total		1,000	100%

Grade Scale

A = 900-1,000 points B = 800-899 C = 700-799 D = 600-699 F = 0-599

Final Research Proposal Project

The final project is worth 500 points. Students will create a research proposal addressing a meaningful question in kinesiology, health, sport, exercise science, physical education, or human performance. Data collection is not required. The work must demonstrate that the proposed study is logical, ethical, feasible, and grounded in peer reviewed research.

Weekly writing requirement. Five assignments are due on consecutive Sundays beginning November 8. Each assignment adds 1-2 pages of new writing to the proposal. The fifth assignment also includes the complete, revised proposal as one cohesive document. Students must use feedback to revise earlier sections before final assembly.

Five Proposal Components

Part	Due	Proposal section	Required focus	Pts
1	Nov 8	Introduction and problem	Background, problem statement, purpose, research question, hypotheses when appropriate, and value of the proposed study.	100
2	Nov 15	Review of literature	Synthesize at least 10 peer reviewed journal articles by themes, agreements, conflicts, methods, and unanswered questions.	100

Part	Due	Proposal section	Required focus	Pts
3	Nov 22	Methods and design	Design, participants, variables, measures, procedures, reliability, validity, feasibility, and design rationale.	100
4	Nov 29	Data analysis plan	Explain what will be analyzed, why each analysis fits, how assumptions and results will be handled, and what software will be used.	100
5	Dec 6	Ethics and final proposal	Add ethics, limitations, and value; then submit the revised, integrated proposal with in text citations, references, and AI disclosure.	100

Proposal Writing Standards

- Each assignment must add 1-2 full pages of new body text. Proposal Part 5 also includes the complete integrated proposal.
- Use APA 7 formatting, double spacing, one inch margins, page numbers, and a readable 11 or 12 point font.
- Use headings that match the section of the proposal being developed.
- Support claims with peer reviewed sources. A textbook may clarify methods but does not replace research literature.
- The review of literature must use at least 10 peer reviewed journal articles. This means 10 articles, not 10 different journals.
- Cite every borrowed idea, finding, definition, or method. Include an APA reference list with every submission.
- Write in complete sentences. Fragments, notes, and bullet lists do not count as submitted paper content unless specifically requested.
- End every submission with an AI disclosure statement, including a statement that no AI was used when applicable.
- Email every assignment to doug.renshaw@sulross.edu as a Word document using the required subject line and filename in the assignment guide.
- Revise earlier sections after receiving feedback. Simply pasting five unrevised papers together will produce a disjointed final proposal and a weak grade.

Final Integrated Proposal

The completed proposal should read as one coherent document rather than five disconnected assignments. The expected length is approximately 8-12 pages of body text, excluding the title page, references, tables, figures, appendices, and AI disclosure. The 1-2 page limit for Part 5 applies to the new ethics, limitations, and value section; the complete integrated proposal is submitted in addition to that new writing.

- APA 7 student title page and a concise abstract
- Introduction, problem statement, purpose, research questions, and hypotheses
- Integrated review of relevant literature
- Methods including design, participants, variables, instruments, and procedures
- Planned data analysis
- Ethical safeguards, limitations, expected value, and practical significance
- APA reference list, AI disclosure statement, and any necessary appendices

How Weekly Proposal Work Is Evaluated

Criterion	What strong work demonstrates	Typical weight
Research logic	The question, design, variables, procedures, and analysis fit together.	30%
Evidence and synthesis	Claims rely on credible evidence and literature is synthesized rather than listed.	25%
Methodological detail	Another researcher could understand and evaluate the proposed study.	25%
Writing and APA	The paper is clear, organized, correctly cited, and professionally edited.	20%

Submission and Feedback

Email every proposal assignment to doug.renshaw@sulross.edu by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on the listed Sunday. Use the subject line KINE 5305 Proposal Part X - Lastname Firstname and attach a .docx file named Lastname_Firstname_KINE5305_PartX.docx. Links to cloud documents do not count as submissions. Verify that the attachment opens before sending. Feedback on one section should guide the next section.

Eight Week Course Schedule

Blackboard contains the assigned chapters, Connect activities, course resources, and announcements. Proposal assignments are submitted by email as directed in each assignment guide. The schedule below identifies the major focus and proposal milestone for each week.

Week	Dates	Research methods focus	Major work due
1	Oct 19-25	Research problems, questions, variables, and feasibility	Connect work; explore proposal topics
2	Oct 26-Nov 1	Database searching, source evaluation, and the research gap	Connect work; refine topic and begin source search
3	Nov 2-8	Scholarly argument, problem statements, purpose, and research questions	Connect work; Proposal Part 1 due Nov 8
4	Nov 9-15	Literature synthesis, themes, gaps, and conceptual reasoning	Connect work; Proposal Part 2 due Nov 15
5	Nov 16-22	Research design, sampling, measurement, validity, and procedures	Connect work; Proposal Part 3 due Nov 22

Week	Dates	Research methods focus	Major work due
6	Nov 23-29	Descriptive statistics, inferential logic, effect size, and analysis planning	Connect work; Proposal Part 4 due Nov 29
7	Nov 30-Dec 6	Ethics, limitations, value, revision, and proposal integration	Proposal Part 5 and complete proposal due Dec 6
8	Dec 7-9	Course synthesis and professional evaluation of research proposals	Complete remaining Connect work and review feedback

Fall 2026 Key Dates

Date	Academic calendar event
October 19	Second eight week term begins.
October 21	Last day for schedule changes for the second eight week term.
October 26	Last day to drop a second eight week course without creating an academic record.
November 20	Last day to drop a second eight week course with a grade of W.
November 25-27	Thanksgiving holiday. University offices and classes are closed.
December 9	Final examination date for the second eight week term and end of the course.
December 14	Final grades due by noon.

Dr Renshaw Course Policies

Communication

Communication is part of professional conduct. Use your SRSU email account, include your name and KINE 5305 in the subject line, and write in complete sentences. Check Blackboard announcements, SRSU email, and the syllabus before sending a routine course question. Communicate early when a documented circumstance may affect your work. Silence after a deadline gives me very little room to help.

Weekly Participation

Because this is an accelerated online course, participation means logging in regularly, completing assigned reading and Connect work, reviewing feedback, and submitting work by the posted deadline. A student who disappears for a week has effectively missed a substantial portion of the course.

Late Work

Late work is not accepted unless the instructor approves an exception for a documented extenuating circumstance. Contact the instructor before the deadline whenever possible. Technical problems that occur shortly before a deadline do not automatically justify reopening an assignment. Upload early enough to verify the submission.

Academic Integrity and Original Work

Students must submit their own work and acknowledge all sources. Plagiarism includes copying language without quotation and citation, presenting another person's ideas as your own, reusing work from another course without permission, inventing sources or data, and collaborating when an assignment requires individual work. Suspected violations will be handled under SRSU academic integrity procedures and may result in a zero or additional university consequences.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

Generous, disclosed use of AI is permitted in this project, especially for the review of literature, methods, and data analysis plan. AI may help students learn unfamiliar methods, develop search terms, organize evidence, compare design or statistical options, create outlines, improve clarity, check APA style, and assist with drafting or revision. AI does not replace authorship. Students must understand, verify, and take responsibility for every sentence, source, method, and analysis submitted. Never upload private, identifiable, proprietary, or participant information into a public AI system.

- Permitted: brainstorming, database search planning, article comparison, outline development, explanation of methods or statistics, drafting support, revision, and APA checks.
- Required judgment: verify every citation in the original source, check that each article exists, confirm that the proposed method and analysis answer the research question, and rewrite language so the document reflects the student's own reasoning.
- Not permitted: plagiarism, fabricated citations, invented findings or data, undisclosed AI use, or submitting language or an analysis the student cannot explain and defend.
- Disclosure: every assignment must identify the AI tool, describe how it was used, and explain what the student verified or changed. If no AI was used, state that directly.

Writing and Professional Standards

Graduate work must use accurate grammar, complete sentences, disciplined organization, and precise citation. Good ideas buried under careless writing still count as careless work. Students who need writing support should contact the SRSU Writing Center early rather than treating revision as an emergency on the final day.

Grades

Blackboard displays the points earned on completed work. Students can calculate the current grade by dividing points earned by points possible. The instructor does not provide speculative end of term grade calculations.

Student Support and University Policies

Accessibility Services

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access. Students seeking accommodations must initiate a request through SRSU Accessibility Services each semester. Contact the Accessibility Services office at 432-837-8203 or consult the current SRSU accessibility webpage for procedures and documentation requirements.

Distance Education

Students in distance education courses have access to university academic support, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology assistance. Students must maintain reliable access to the equipment and software needed for Blackboard and Connect and must use secure SRSU credentials for course communication and submission.

Library and Research Support

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library provides books, peer reviewed articles, databases, research assistance, interlibrary loan, and off campus access through the student LobolD. Librarians can help students construct searches, locate full text articles, and distinguish scholarly research from weaker sources. Visit library.sulross.edu or email srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Free and confidential counseling resources are available to SRSU students. Students may contact SRSU Counseling and Accessibility Services or use TimelyCare services available through the university. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24 hours a day by calling or texting 988.

Classroom Climate of Respect

This course supports free expression, critical investigation, and respectful disagreement. Students may challenge ideas, methods, and evidence. Personal attacks, intimidation, harassment, or discrimination do not belong in scholarly discussion. Professional disagreement requires evidence and civility.

Supportive Course Statement

Outside responsibilities, health concerns, financial strain, and unexpected events can affect academic performance. Students should communicate before a manageable problem becomes a crisis. I will help identify a realistic path forward when possible while maintaining the learning outcomes and standards of the course.

Course Success Checklist

- Log in to Blackboard and Connect several times each week.
- Complete assigned reading before beginning SmartBook work.
- Start each 1-2 page proposal section early enough to revise it.
- Use instructor feedback from one section to improve the next section.
- Verify every citation and confirm that each source actually supports the claim attached to it.
- Keep one master proposal document and update it every week.
- Ask methodological questions before building an entire section around a weak design choice.

Quick Reference

Course Essentials	Grade and Project Essentials
KINE 5305 Research Methods Second eight week term Oct 19-Dec 9, 2026 Online asynchronous Instructor: Doug W. Renshaw, Ph.D. Email: doug.renshaw@sulross.edu	Connect and SmartBook: 500 points Research Proposal Project: 500 points Five parts: 100 points each Due Sundays Nov 8-Dec 6 Final integrated proposal: due Dec 6 Total course points: 1,000

Keep this syllabus available throughout the term. Blackboard instructions may add detail to individual assignments, but the grading structure and course standards stated here remain the default framework.