San Francisco State University
Department of Kinesiology

KIN 330: Becoming a Kinesiologist

Term
Spring 2010

Class Days, Times, Location
M, W, 9:10-10:25am, GYM xxx

Number of units
3 units

Instructor
Name:
Email:
Phone:
Office Location:
Office Hours:

Prerequisites
C- or better in English 214 or equivalent course

Course Description and Objectives
This course is designed to nurture students’ critical thinking and writing abilities specific to the discipline of kinesiology. Kinesiology uses a multidisciplinary approach to identifying the factors that define and influence human movement, and integrates knowledge related to the biological, physical, environmental, socio-cultural, philosophical, and psychological factors underlying all forms of physical activity. In this course, students will read and review literature from a diversity of perspectives in kinesiology on physical activity and movement. Students will complete various writing assignments as well as written exams to demonstrate knowledge of content in kinesiology and proficiency in writing. Throughout the semester, students will also participate in a variety of in-class, low-stakes exercises to practice their writing style and form. The aim of this course is to equip students with effective writing skills that will translate to success as a kinesiology major as well as a practitioner and/or scholar in the field.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)
This course satisfies the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) and meets the guidelines set forth by the University Senate. Each student will complete a minimum of 15 pages/4,000 words of formal writing through a variety of assignments distributed throughout the semester. Students will be given extensive in-class instruction on writing proficiency and opportunities to give and receive substantial feedback on their writing assignments. Each student’s course grade will be directly tied to the quality of their writing. As such, students who do not meet the standards of writing competence cannot pass the course. Students MUST receive a C or better to satisfy the GWAR.

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of the semester, students will be able to:
• Apply written communication skills to succeed as a kinesiology major
• Self-regulate writing quality related to content, structure, and grammar
• Describe the values and diverse perspectives within the discipline of kinesiology
• Analyze current issues in physical activity and movement from a

multidisciplinary perspective
• Create a literature review that effectively synthesizes research articles on a particular topic area
• Build a resume and cover letter specific to kinesiology-related professions

• **Textbooks**
  • **Required**
  • Supplemental readings available through iLearn.
  • **Recommended**

• **Resources**
This course requires students to gather kinesiology discipline-based articles and demonstrate proficiency in writing. For additional help with these tasks, the University offers several resources for students.

• **Writing Resources**
The Campus Academic Resource Program (CARP) and the Learning Assistance Center (LAC) provide free tutoring and academic support to all SFSU students. Both CARP and LAC offer assistance with writing, reading, and study skills in any English and/or content courses and are especially committed to helping students with GWAR courses. To make an appointment or find open tutoring hours, visit http://www.sfsu.edu/~carp1/index.htm and http://www.sfsu.edu/~lac/.

• **Research Resources**
The University’s J Paul Leonard library is the ultimate source for research located at http://www.library.sfsu.edu/. Research assistance is available via email, IM, text message, in-person, or telephone during Library hours.

• **Requirements**
• **Writing Assignments (60% of overall grade)**
Students will complete four comprehensive writing assignments to demonstrate writing proficiency and knowledge of content. Each assignment includes a developmental process in which students will write, receive feedback on, and re-write several drafts of their paper. This progression is designed to improve critical thinking and writing skills and end with a thoughtful well-written document. As such, students will be graded on the quality of their
drafts (25-30% of total assignment grade) and final paper (75% of total assignment grade).

**Process**
To complete each writing assignment, students will follow a series of steps:
- Step 1: Access the assignment sheet outlining specific details through iLearn.
- Step 2: Write and submit a draft (including a cover letter explaining the students’ writing process and expected outcomes).
- Step 3: Give and receive feedback by completing an in-class peer response.
- Step 4: Re-write and revise paper by incorporating suggestions from earlier drafts.
- Step 5: Submit final paper for evaluation.

**Content**
Below is a brief description of each of the 4 writing assignments. Additional details for each assignment can be found in a separate document on iLearn.

- **Reflecting on the Discipline of Kinesiology (750 words/3 pages).** Students will read a scholarly article describing the field of kinesiology and write a reaction paper that describes students’ perspectives on the present and future of our discipline. Students must demonstrate an understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of kinesiology.

- **Synthesizing Research in Kinesiology (1500 words/6 pages).** Students will select a topic area of interest (e.g., motor coordination disorders among young children, community exercise programs for older adults) and identify data-based journal articles related to their topic area. Students will synthesize information from the selected articles to create a succinct and informative review of the literature.

- **Obtaining Employment in Kinesiology (750 words/3 pages).** Students will identify a future career they are interested in pursuing that is related to kinesiology (e.g., athletic trainer, physical therapist, exercise instructor). Students will then create a resume tailored to their career goal and explain in a cover letter how having a kinesiology degree will qualify them for the position.

- **Addressing a Current Issue in Kinesiology (1500/6 pages).** Students will select and research a current issue related to physical activity and movement (e.g., physical inactivity among school-aged children, elite athletes’ use of performance enhancing drugs). Taking a multidisciplinary approach and using scholarly research, students will explain how to address the issue from several areas of kinesiology (e.g., motor learning, sport psychology, exercise physiology, biomechanics).

- **Peer Response (20% of overall grade)**
For each day a draft of a written assignment is due (4 total), each student will read and respond to another student’s paper. Students will react to the writing content and style and provide thoughtful and specific feedback designed to improve the paper. Students will complete a peer response worksheet tailored to each assignment that can be found on iLearn.
- **Final Exam (20% of overall grade)**
  The final exam will be designed to test students’ knowledge and application of proper writing structure and style. The exam will cover information from lecture, textbooks, and/or supplemental readings and include multiple-choice questions, short answers, and/or essays. Students will be notified in advance of the final exam regarding the content and format.

- **Evaluation**

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>Reflecting on the Discipline of Kinesiology [$draft$ (10 pts) $final$ (40 pts)]</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Synthesizing Research in Kinesiology [$draft$ (25 pts) $final$ (75 pts)]</td>
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<td>Addressing a Current Issue in Kinesiology [$draft$ (25 pts) $final$ (75 pts)]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Response [25 pts for each paper]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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  **Total**

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<td>90.0-92.9</td>
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<td>Reading</td>
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| 1/24 | Course Overview  
Writing Assessment  
Introduction to Kinesiology  
Syllabus  
Zissner (2006) pp. 3-6 |
| 1/26 | Continuity of Presentation of Ideas  
Smoothness of Expression  
APA (2009) pp. 61-66  
| 1/31 | Tone  
Economy of Expression  
Precision and Clarity  
APA (2009) pp. 67-70  
Zinsser (2006) pp. 7-12 |
Peer Response of Reflection Paper

Draft of Reflection Paper

Manuscript Structure and Content

Finding Data-Based Evidence in Kinesiology (i.e., Library Visit)

Final Reflection Paper

Crediting Sources

Reference List

Peer Response of Research Synthesis Paper

Draft of Research Synthesis Paper

Writing Ethics
APA (2009) pp. 11-20

Reducing Bias in Language
APA (2009) pp. 70-77

Grammar and Usage
APA (2009) pp. 77-80

Final Research Synthesis Paper

Grammar and Usage
APA (2009) pp. 81-86

Writing a Resume and Cover Letter

Peer Response of Obtaining Employment Paper
Draft of Obtaining Employment Paper

Mechanics of Style
APA (2009) pp. 87-100

3/16

Mechanics of Style

3/21

The Subdisciplines of Kinesiology
Audience

3/23

Final Obtaining Employment Paper

Spring Recess

3/28

3/30

Current Issues in Kinesiology
Unity in Writing Papers
Zissner (2006) pp. 49-54

4/4

The Lead and the Ending

4/6

Bits and Pieces

4/11

Peer Response of Current Issue Paper

Draft of Current Issue Paper

Nonfiction as Literature

4/13

4/18

The Psychology of Writing

4/20

Date
Topic
**Reading Assignment**

Writing Well

Becoming a Self-Regulated Writer

**Final Current Issue Paper**

Becoming a Kinesiologist

Becoming a Kinesiologist

Course Wrap-Up and Final Exam Review

**Final Exam, 8:00-10:30am**