

I. EHS 7900 MASTERS THESIS  
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE SCIENCE AND SPORT MANAGEMENT  
Spring 2019

II. INSTRUCTOR: AEHS Graduate Faculty serving as thesis committee chair

III. CLASS MEETING: Determined by the student and the thesis committee chair

IV. OPTIONAL TEXT(S): American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

V. CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Development and writing of a thesis under the supervision of a graduate faculty member.

VI. PURPOSE/RATIONALE:

The primary purpose of this course is to provide the student with an opportunity to conceptualize, design, conduct, and disseminate an original research project related to exercise and health science. The completion of a thesis is paramount for students who plan to pursue a Ph.D. in the future.

*Knowledge Base:* Exercise and health science has a long history originating from the medical community and years of basic and applied research to understand the plasticity of the human body. This course is designed to be an advanced level of study with an emphasis on the formulation of a research hypothesis, conducting a research project to test the hypothesis, and developing a final written product.

*Use of Technology:* Technology is an important aspect of the exercise and health science field. Therefore, for the majority of thesis topics the student will be engaged in the use of laboratory technology to collect data, and all students will be utilizing computer technology for data analysis and data presentation for the thesis.

*Diversity:* It is our vision to create a strong multicultural and diverse educational environment at KSU in order to increase student satisfaction and to promote an understanding and awareness of people from various backgrounds upon graduation. In this way, KSU students will be educated for, and can effectively compete in the global society.

VII. COURSE GOALS/ OBJECTIVES:

The student should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the research process in exercise and health science by being able to:

- a. develop a research hypothesis for a topic related to exercise and health science
- b. design an independent research study aimed at testing the proposed hypothesis

- c. conduct a research study
- d. compile and statistically analyze the data from a research project
- e. disseminate the findings from a research project in both verbal and written form

**ASSESSMENT OF GOALS/OBJECTIVES**

Your instructor will assess your achievement of each objective in the following ways:

Goals/Objectives	Instructional Activity	Assessment
a - e	Discussion with thesis committee chair/members, conducting the research project	On-going feedback from thesis committee chair/members, defense of project before the Thesis Committee

**VIII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS:**

Thesis: In consultation with a Thesis Committee and advisor, the student will conceptualize, design, conduct, and disseminate an original research project related to exercise and health science. This project will be presented before the Thesis Committee.

1. The student will first identify, with assistance from the graduate advisor if needed, a graduate faculty member who has expertise in the area that the student is interested.
2. The student will work with the graduate faculty member to select two additional graduate faculty members, initiate a preliminary meeting with those three faculty members to select one of the three faculty to serve as his or her Thesis Committee Chair, and have the other two serve as committee members. The committee chair and at least one committee member must be AEHS faculty. The student may select a fourth person who is an expert in the field, but not an ESSM graduate faculty to serve on the committee and this fourth person must submit a CV to AEHS Program Coordinator and be approved by AEHS Faculty before that person can serve on a thesis committee, if approved by AWEHS graduate faculty then the potential committee member must then be approved with graduate faculty status by the KSU Graduate College.
3. During the initial thesis committee meeting, the student will discuss the potential topic/subject for his or her thesis project. In consultation with the thesis committee, the student will formulate the research design and determine the final form of the prospectus.
4. It is expected that the committee chair will take primary responsibility in working with the student to make any required changes. When a student's thesis committee recommends changes in the prospectus, members of the committee will not sign forms showing approval of the prospectus until all of the corrections have actually been made.
5. Students will not gather data for their theses until final approval of the prospectus has been given by the thesis committee. **No data may be gathered without official approval granted by the University Institutional Review Board.**
6. Acceptance of the prospectus in its final form constitutes an agreement between the candidate and the thesis committee that the thesis will be acceptable, provided the candidate satisfactorily fulfills all terms outlined in the prospectus. Additionally, the

candidate's thesis is expected to reflect current developments related to the topic of study. Procedures used in pursuing the completion of the thesis must conform to the procedures in the prospectus, as approved by the committee.

7. The prospectus will include the first three chapters of the proposed thesis. The first chapter should include background (introduction to subject), statement of the problem, delineation of the problem (questions to be answered, relationships to be examined), limitations, and definitions. The second chapter will be concerned with related literature and the third chapter will include the approaches to be used in gathering data and methods for analyzing quantitative and/or qualitative results from the data. This description of the first three chapters required for the prospectus is not intended to limit the thesis committee in making various changes including deletions or additions of content when necessary, but it is provided to help maintain uniformity in the departmental process leading to completion of the thesis.
8. Final oral presentation of the thesis must take place at least three weeks prior to the end of the fall or spring semester and two weeks prior to the end of the summer session (the end of semester is defined as when the grades are due). A notice will be sent by the thesis committee chair informing the AEHS/ESSM faculty of the candidate's oral presentation of the thesis, to include: date, time and location. One copy of the proposed final draft of the thesis must be made available to all faculty at least one week prior to the oral presentation.
9. The candidate's thesis committee chair will preside over the oral presentation.
10. All graduate/ESSM faculty and graduate students will be invited to attend the oral presentation, and members of the candidate's thesis committee will be given the first opportunity to react to the thesis, followed by other faculty members and students.
11. A student will be recommended for the degree only if the members of the committee judge both the thesis and the performance at the final oral presentation to be satisfactory.
12. The student's thesis committee grants final approval of the thesis and may require whatever modifications or changes they agree are necessary before the thesis can be accepted.

Prospectus and IRB 10%

Review of the Literature 20%

Data Collection 30%

Analyses 10%

Dissemination of results 20%

Presentation and final document corrections 10%

## IX. EVALUATION AND GRADING:

### **Grading of Thesis credits:**

- A grade of "IP" will be recorded for all thesis credit work in progress and will automatically be recorded each semester the student is enrolled.
- Unless otherwise approved by The Graduate College, the grade of "S" or "U" must be recorded for all thesis credit when completed.
- Unless otherwise approved by The Graduate College, the program will report a final thesis grade of "S" or "U". Any reported grade other than "S" or "U" may be changed to an "S" or "U" grade according to the following: reported grade of "A", "B", "C" = "S"; "D", "F" = "U"
- Upon completion of the thesis, final grades for preceding semesters will be changed to the appropriate grade.

## X. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the [Student Code of Conduct](#), as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5c of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

## XI. FEDERAL, BOR, and KSU STUDENT POLICIES

The following link is updated annually with all Federal, BOR, and KSU Student Policies:

[https://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/federal\\_bor\\_ksu\\_student\\_policies.php](https://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/federal_bor_ksu_student_policies.php)

## XII. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is the student's responsibility to fulfill all obligations leading to the completion of the thesis and to work with his/her thesis committee chair throughout the design, implementation, reporting and presentation/dissemination of the thesis. Hence, it is imperative that the student maintain regular communication with his/her thesis committee chair throughout the thesis process and meet all deadlines.

## XIII. COURSE Schedule:

The following schedule outlines the deadlines that the student needs to follow to submit the requirement documents to the AEHS program. If the deadline falls on a holiday or weekend, submit the requirement material on the following business day.

Task	Term of Graduation		
	Summer	Fall	Spring
Graduation Petition Form Completed	April 15	July 15	November 15 of previous year
Proposed thesis title and outline (e-copy)	January 30	January 30	August 30 of previous year
Copy of the signed Thesis Prospectus Approval Form	February 15	February 15	November 15
Signed Thesis Oral Presentation Agreement Form	June 1	September 1	February 1
Completed thesis (e-copy)	Mid July	First week in November	First week in April
Revised final copy (e-copy) approved by thesis committee	Last day of term	Last day of term	Last day of term
Final copy due	Last day of finals	Last day of finals	Last day of finals

#### XIV. REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY:

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

Baumgartner, T.A., & Hensley, L.D. (2006). *Conducting and reading research in health and human performance*. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill Publishing.

Berg, K.E. & Latin, R.W. (2008). *Essentials of research methods in health, physical education, exercise science, and recreation* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

Thomas, J.R., Nelson, J.K., & Silverman, S.J. (2005). *Research methods in physical activity*. (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Champaign: Human Kinetics.