



Course Syllabus: Research Methods in Sport Management
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education & Professional Studies
SPAD 5013 Section X20
Spring 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Stacia (Whitworth) Miller

Office: Bridwell Hall 323

Student Drop-In Hours (Office hours): Mon 9-11, Tues 12-2, Wed 1-2, and Fri by appointment

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Class Meeting Information

This course is delivered via distance learning and will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online management system (D2L) will be made available to each student.

As this is an online course, no attendance is required. However, regular and timely participation in discussions and on-time submission of other assignments is required. Each course module is 1 week long, with the exception of spring break and the last week of classes. See the course schedule for all due dates.

Over the course of the semester, if you engage in quality participation in this course, you should tabulate 135 working hours. Divided over the 15 weeks, this comes to 9 hours per week of work in this course. It is best that you log on to the course site daily to stay on track, even if it is just to check announcements and emails. I have provided a few links here about quality study hours for online learning.

[US News Article](#)

[Best Colleges Online Article](#)

Instructor Response Policy

During the week, I will typically respond to your emails within 24-48 hours. Any emails received over the weekend will receive a response no later than Tuesday, 8 AM. Emails received on holidays typically will receive a response no later than 8 AM on the second business day after the holiday.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Andrew, D.P.S., Pedersen, P.M., & McEvoy, C.D. (2020). *Research Methods and Design in Sport Management* (2nd ed). Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).

Access to a personal computer with Microsoft Software, high speed Internet and the ability to access D2L the MSU Online Learning System.

Course Description

An introduction to reading, evaluating, conducting, and writing research in the sport management field. A study of the basic methodological approaches to research, writing a literature review, and the basic statistical techniques common in sport management research.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

Throughout the class and upon completion of the course the student will:

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of selected types of research, designs, and methodologies relevant to sport management.
- Students will become familiar with the MSU electronic library, useful databases, professional journals, and sources for sports and education statistics.
- Students will demonstrate utilizing the criteria for evaluating research and using appropriate research methods.
- Students will identify and write a research problem.
- Students will demonstrate competency using APA style and formatting for citations, references, and writing a review of literature.
- Students will define and complete the steps in conducting a literature review.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Integrity is a core value at MSU, holding students to high expectations for honesty, honor, and respect for truth. For this purpose, it is imperative to

consider how we are using Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools in the classroom setting and our academic work. As an extension of the MSU Academic Dishonesty Policy and in order to fairly evaluate all students' work, all work submitted in this course must be generated by the students themselves and it is a violation of university policy to misrepresent work submitted that has been generated by another person/entity and the use of GenAI tools as your own. Therefore, in this course, students shall give credit to GenAI tools and are **required to disclose** information whenever used in the following situations (Tarleton English Department, 2025):

- If you use an AI-generator to help you brainstorm, come up with an outline, or summarize a concept for you, you must acknowledge that use in a statement in the end of your work. Your statement must contain the following information:
 - GenAI program(s) used and reason for using the program(s)
 - Explanation of how GenAI was used; responses may address
 - Summarizing readings or other content
 - Brainstorming ideas
 - Sharpening your writing for clearer and more concise ideas
 - Generating text to help you refine your position
 - Getting it to prompt you to develop your thinking
 - Asking questions
 - Having it check your grammar and citations
 - Soliciting feedback on what you wrote
 - Summary of your general interactions with the GenAI; responses may address
 - In what ways the algorithms were helpful
 - In what ways the algorithms were not helpful, inappropriate, or incorrect
 - What you might do differently if you were using it again
 - **Include ALL inputs and outputs used (your prompts and the GenAI's responses).**
- If you use text that was created by an AI-generator within your work, you must acknowledge the AI-generator as the source of that text withing your work just as you would any other source.

Any violations of this policy or failure to disclose will be treated as academic misconduct. If you have any questions about this policy or if you are unsure about the use of GenAI tools, please do not hesitate to ask for clarification.

Grading/Assessment

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments before or by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals I understand you must manage

competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

This course is organized into weekly modules, one module per week. Before you access the assignments in a module, you must first visit the Module "To Do" list where you will find a list of assignments and other notes/directions. Each week you will have reading assignments that are all provided in the module materials. See all due dates below in the schedule and on D2L. Any assignment can be submitted before the due date. Modules can be viewed and completed at any time, excluding quizzes, but all work must be submitted by the appropriate due date.

Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and late assignments (not discussed ahead) will have a minimum automatic 25%-point deduction for each day late. Students may be permitted to make-up course work under 2 conditions, 1) notify the instructor prior to the absence to devise a make-up plan, or 2) provide evidence of an excused absence.

Format – For All Papers: 12-point Times New Roman font, one (1) inch margins, and doubled spaced. The heading should have your names, the class and section number, and the right-justified on the page. Papers that do not follow this format will not be accepted or graded. Grammar will be graded as a part of any course work. All work should be in your own words.

Grades for each assignment will be posted in the D2L course grade book. I will give feedback on assignments when appropriate, including, comments through "news items", comments directly in the discussion board, and comments to the feedback box associated with each assignment submitted to dropbox. Please take the time to read these comments as I am taking the time to make them.

Table 1: Weight allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Weight
Weekly Module Assignments	40%
Professional Writing Assignments	60%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Searching for Scholarly Sources- 5%• Selecting a Research Topic & Question- 5%• Annotated Bibliography- 12%• Literature Review Outline- 8%• Rough Drafts of Literature Review-15%• Peer Editing of Rough Drafts- 15%• Final Paper: Literature Review- 40%	
Total Weight	100%

Table 2: Range for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
F	Less than 60

Weekly Module Assignments

Students will learn weekly through doing assignments based on the readings, participating in discussion forums, and/or completing quizzes associated with readings. These assignments are formative assessments to check students understanding of knowledge on each of the topics covered. Students are provided with different types of questions or tasks they are required to answer based on readings, content, and lectures.

Professional Writing Assignments

Students will also continually complete assignments related to preparing a professional paper, which will conclude in a final paper (literature review) at the end of the semester. "Professional Writing Assignments", which are all part of the research and writing process, will be spread throughout the semester during the weekly modules. Each of these assignments is designed to prepare you for the final literature review paper and have been designed to build on one another.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 23, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: February 16, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor. There is an extensive [D2L Student help site](#) through MSU Distance Education.

Attendance

This course is delivered via D2L as an asynchronous course. Access to the MSU D2L online management system will be made available to each student.

Asynchronous online instruction occurs anytime during the week. Students watch lectures, read assigned materials, inspect websites, answer and write questions,

discuss readings and engage in learning activities in a virtual environment. Course materials are organized into weekly modules. Modules contain tasks to complete in order to accomplish the objectives and assessment activities. Your success in this course depends on how well you engage in your own learning.

An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 8 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10-week summer term, or the 11th class day of a 4- or 5-week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date.

If you would like to receive notifications via a regularly checked email or via text message, you can set it up in D2L. Once you are logged in, go to the drop down by your name in the gold navigation bar. Click "notifications", then you can register an email address or mobile number and customize which notifications you would like to receive.

Computer/D2L Requirements

Taking this course requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. *Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.* Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!! There are many places to access your class. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Below are specific policies which apply to this class.

Citation and Reference Style

Students will follow the APA Style Manual, 7th Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation used in the APA Style Manual, 7th Edition.

Three Then Me Rule

Before you email me, make sure to follow the "Three then Me" rule. The "Three then Me" rule says that you search for your answer regarding the course in at least three other places before you email me. For example, if you have a question about an assignment, you could consult your syllabus, the assignment description on D2L, or another student in the class. Remember, check three sources before you email me your question. It is very likely you'll find the answer and not need to email me. If you don't find the answer, and need clarification, feel free to email me.

Plagiarism Statement

"By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a 'limited right' in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The 'limited right' shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality, authenticity, and educational purposes." [MSU Student Handbook](#)

Inclement Weather

In the event of university closure because of inclement weather conditions or emergency situations, students should refer to the syllabus, D2L, and their university email for expectations and alternate online assignments for this course. Students who are unable to complete these assignments during a closure (for example, due to a power outage) will not be penalized.

College and University Policies

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. **HOWEVER**, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified

persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and

visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [Online Reporting Form](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Website](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Each course week begins on Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. Please note that some modules may extend over more than one week. ALL Due Dates are at 11:59 p.m.

Dates	Module # and Content/Topics	Activities/Assignments & Due Dates
1/20 to 1/26	Module 1: Course Welcome & Using the Library Databases	<p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Textbook • Syllabus & Course Navigation Quiz- Due 1/26 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Searching for Scholarly Sources- Due 2/2
1/27 to 2/2	Module 2: Ch. 1 Research Concepts	<p>Read Ch. 1</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classifying Research Assignment- Due 2/2 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Searching for Scholarly Sources- Due 2/2
2/3 to 2/9	Module 3: Ch. 3 Creation of Research Questions	<p>Read Ch. 3</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the Research Process Assignment- Due 2/9 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selecting a Research Topic & Question- Due 2/16
2/10 to 2/16	Module 4: Ch. 4 Research Design	<p>Read Ch. 4</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the Research Design Assignment- Due 2/16 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selecting a Research Topic & Question- Due 2/16
2/17 to 2/23	Module 5: Ch. 5 Data Collection & Analysis	<p>Read Ch. 5</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 5 D2L Quiz- Due 2/23 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Annotated Bibliography- Due 3/2

Course Schedule Continued

Dates	Module # and Content/Topics	Activities/Assignments & Due Dates
2/24 to 3/2	Module 6: Dissemination of Findings	<p>Read Ch. 6</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminating Research Assignments- Due 3/2 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish Annotated Bibliography - Due 3/2
3/2 to 3/16	Module 7: Ch. 7 Surveys <i>This includes Spring Break- no deadlines during the break</i>	<p>Read Ch. 7</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey Research Assignment- Due 3/16 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Review Outline- Due 3/16
3/17 to 3/23	Module 8: Interviews <i>Modules 8 and 9 have been combined- you have a choice on the Weekly Module Assignment</i>	<p>Read Ch. 8</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews and Observations- Due 3/30 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Draft of Literature Review- Due 3/30
3/24 to 3/30	Module 9: Ch. 9 Observation Research	<p>Read Ch. 9</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews and Observations- Due 3/30 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Draft of Literature Review- Due 3/30
3/31 to 4/6	Module 10: Ch. 10 Case Research Study	<p>Read Ch. 10</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing a Case Study Assignment- Due 4/6 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Edits of 1st Draft of Literature Review - Due 4/6

Course Schedule Continued

Dates	Module # and Content/Topics	Activities/Assignments & Due Dates
4/7 to 4/13	Module 11: Ch. 11 Historical Research	<p>Read Ch. 11</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical Applications of Historical Research Assignments- Due 4/13 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Draft of Literature Review - Due 4/20
4/14 to 4/20	Module 12: Part IV- Statistical Methods in Sport Management	<p>Read Ch. 13, 14, 15, and 16</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical Methods Quiz- Due 4/20 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Draft of Literature Review - Due 4/20
4/21 to 4/27	Module 13: Part V- Emerging Methods and Trends in Sport Management Research	<p>Read Ch. 17 and Ch. 18</p> <p>Weekly Module Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Analytics Assignment- Due 4/27 <p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Edits of 2nd Draft of Literature Review - Due 4/27
4/28 to 5/11 **This is a long module through the end of the term**	No Topic- Work on Literature Review	<p>Professional Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Paper- Literature Review - Due 5/11