Senior Seminar (Kinesiology 490)

Kinesiology 490 is offered during the spring semester of the student’s senior year. In this course, each student will conduct an independent research project, or an in-depth literature review, in an advanced area of specialization in Kinesiology which if successfully completed serves to fulfill the comprehensive requirement for the major. The preparation for this course begins in the fall semester of the senior year (see fall schedule below). Topics are restricted to general areas that have been covered in Kinesiology courses completed prior to the spring semester of the student’s senior year and in which the student received a letter grade of B- or better. Students should discuss possible research questions with the appropriate professors in the department. It should be noted that the paper and presentation represents 60% of the total grade for the course and 40% is represented in other course-related work. While the grade for Kinesiology 490 is a letter grade the College has 3 possible “grades” for the comprehensive requirement; Pass with Distinction (PD), Pass (P), and No Pass (NP).

As a Kinesiology major you should be comfortable working in any of the core subject areas (Kinesiology courses required for the major) in addition to any upper division “elective” Kinesiology course you have selected. Only courses taught by members of the Kinesiology Department are eligible. Remember, this is your time to shine…enjoy the challenge and the journey!

In Spring K490 will meet on Monday evenings from 7:15 – 10:15 PM January 22nd to April 2nd. Senior dinner is scheduled for Monday, April 23rd. Attendance is mandatory so please free your calendars. There should be no athletic competitions scheduled on Mondays and practice is not a reason to miss class. Given the advanced notice any work related commitments should be able to be rescheduled.

During the fall semester each student must fulfill the following K490 requirements:

1. Attend mandatory senior meeting on Monday, September 18th at 7:30 in Bioscience 113. Your photo for the Senior Board will be taken at that time.
2. Submit three (3) research questions spanning three (3) different areas of Kinesiology to Professor Mehl by Friday, October 13th (5:00 PM). Each question should have the appropriate course acknowledged.
3. You will be notified of your topic and mentor by Thursday, October 19th (5:00 PM).
4. Research proposal electronically submitted to faculty mentor by Friday, November 10th (5:00 PM). Please see below for proposal information.
5. Students conducting human subject research and needing IRB approval must file IRB (Human Subjects) proposal by Monday, November 20th (5:00 PM).
6. Mentor final approval must be received by Monday, November 27th.
7. Until you receive approval for your proposed topic you will be unable to register.

Research Proposal Components:

1. In one page give a brief and clear description of:
   • Research topic
   • Research question
   • Proposed methodology
2. In one to two page(s) provide:
During the spring semester each student must fulfill the following K490 requirements:

1. **Monday, January 22**nd (7:15 PM) Two-page research summary including topic, question and methodology
2. **Monday, February 12**th (7:15 PM) Paper introduction peer review
3. **Monday, February 26**th (7:15 PM) PowerPoint/Prezi drafts (first 5 slides)
4. **Monday, March 5**th (7:15 PM) Remaining paper section peer review
5. **Wednesday, March 7**th (5:00 PM) Paper draft due to faculty mentor and Professor Mehl
6. **Friday, April 6**th (5:00 PM) Final draft of paper due (Comp grades are due **Monday, April 16**th)
7. **Sunday, April 8**th (all day) Oral presentations will take place.
8. **Monday, April 9**th (7:00 PM) Any student not passing the oral portion will be notified
9. **Wednesday, April 11**th- **Friday, April 13**th – oral retake
10. **Monday, April 23**rd Senior Dinner

The following procedure will be utilized for evaluating the student’s paper and presentation:

1. If the written paper draft submitted by March 7th is not at passing level, students will be required to meet with their faculty mentor within the week.
2. Students who do not pass the presentation, will need to either meet with members of the kinesiology faculty within the week after being notified to answer additional questions or maybe asked to present their work again.
3. In the extreme case when a student receives a grade of no pass on the second attempt at either the paper and or presentation, that student must wait until the next academic year to complete the requirement. Please note that failure to complete the comprehensive requirement will prohibit the student from participating in commencement activities and from receiving a degree in kinesiology at the end of the spring term.

You will receive a breakdown of your points for both K490 and your comps written and oral presentation by May 16th if requested.