

Clinical Research in Athletic Training

ATR7628 | 3 Credits | Fall 2025

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Course Info

INSTRUCTOR

Christopher Brown, LAT, ATC, CSCS, TSAC-F, PES, OPE-C
Clinical Associate Professor
Clinical Education Coordinator, Doctor of Athletic Training Program
Office: FLG122
Email: cdbrown7@ufl.edu

OFFICE HOURS

This will be 2 hours per week and the details will be posted in CANVAS.

MEETING

Yon Hall 11: Thursday 8:30am-11:30am

TIME/LOCATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Equips Athletic Trainers with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to make independent judgments about the validity, results, and application of clinical research and to implement evidence-based clinical practice in their careers. Content addressed will enhance professional writing, scholarship appraisal and application of current evidence for improved patient outcomes.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Admission into the Doctor of Athletic Training program.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

Textbook	ISBN	
Research Methods: A framework for evid. based clinical practice Author: Wendy Hurley, Jay Hertel, and Craig Denegar Year: 2010, Edition: 1 st	978-0781797689	Required
All other reading materials will be available on the class web page (E-Learning) or the instructor will provide soft or hard copies in person. Journal articles will be used frequently. Most articles will be available on-line, but some will need to be retrieved from various libraries on campus.		
Please view course fees (if applicable)		

COURSE FORMAT

Course material will be presented through in-person lectures, online materials and interactive workshop formats with 3.0 contact hours per week. This class will consist primarily of class roundtable discussions and some didactic presentations. Canvas e-learning platform will provide students with content to supplement discussions, details regarding assignment expectations and grading criteria/rubrics and serve to assist the student with applicable resources for programmatic success within the Doctor of Athletic Training Program.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify and examine the components and application of current evidence related to diagnostic accuracy, clinical decision-making and efficacy of clinical interventions (preventative and therapeutic).
2. Differentiate between research designs including cross-sectional, prospective cohort, and case-control.
3. Distinguish various levels of evidence and strength of recommendation information and select appropriate information for use within clinical practice.
4. Design a scholarly project suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal and/or sports medicine related conference presentation

University Policies

- University policy is listed [here](#)

Course Policies

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Throughout the semester we may have various guest speakers' present information to the class. Your attendance at these presentations is expected; written notification of an absence (i.e., email) prior to the class is required for an absence to be excused (see university regulations as stated above). Prior preparation through chapter readings and outlining will enable active participation for productive discussions. All students are required to attend lecture and lab experiences (*please review the academic absence policy in the AT Program Student Handbook*). Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies found in the [online catalog](#)

APPROPRIATE USE OF AI TECHNOLOGY

The UF Honor Code strictly prohibits [cheating](#). The use of any materials or resources prepared by another person or Entity (inclusive of generative AI tools) without the other person or Entity's express consent or without proper attribution to the other person or Entity is considered *cheating*. Additionally, the use of any materials or resources, through any medium, which the Faculty / Instructor has not given express permission to use and that may confer an academic benefit to a student, constitutes *cheating*. In some instances within this course, the use of AI tools will facilitate student development of skills and knowledge acquisition within the stated learning objectives. However, in other components, the use of any AI enabled tool in this course substantially compromises the student's ability to achieve the stated learning objectives. Each assignment and assessment will include a statement clarifying acceptable AI use for that respective learning assessment. If there is no statement please do not use AI. When students opt to leverage AI tools to augment their submitted products, they will be expected to appropriately cite the tool(s) utilized. Further, students will be held accountable under the scope of the UF Student Honor Code & Conduct Code for the content of all work they submit (including the portions that may have been produced in part or whole by an external Entity—inclusive of AI). Thus, students should engage in active editorial and underwriting efforts to ensure the totality of the work submitted reflects their intentions and ethical values.

IN-CLASS RECORDING

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in

connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited.

To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

MAKE-UP POLICY

Examinations and Practical Examinations: There will be NO make-up examinations unless exceptional conditions occur (as defined in the University of Florida Undergraduate Catalog). Please see [this link](#) for more information. Prior permission from the professor is required. There will be a time limit for each examination. Examinations will evaluate the understanding of material from lecture, text, and other supplemental material provided.

Quizzes: Quizzes will assess learning progress from lecture material and assigned readings. To ensure that students are reading the assigned material, the quizzes will be both announced and unannounced. There will be NO make-ups for missed quizzes (showing up late, etc.), unless exceptional conditions occur as defined in the University of Florida Undergraduate Catalog. Please see [this link](#) for more information.

Assignments: Assignments are due at the onset of class on the date assigned to them or submitted prior to the designated deadline in e-learning. Please type all assignments unless otherwise stated in the directions. Late assignments are not accepted. If you will be traveling for a University sanctioned event and will miss an assignment due date, your assignment is due **before** you leave. You must notify me with an explanation for missing class, in writing (email or letter), to receive an excused absence for class. Students are responsible for all materials missed because of an absence.

Scholarly Projects and Research Critiques: Throughout the course students will critically appraise current evidence and design a scholarly project/presentation. Projects, presentations and other assignments will be used to assess and apply content knowledge. Additional guidelines will be provided during class and/or within the e-Learning platform.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in [the online catalog](#)

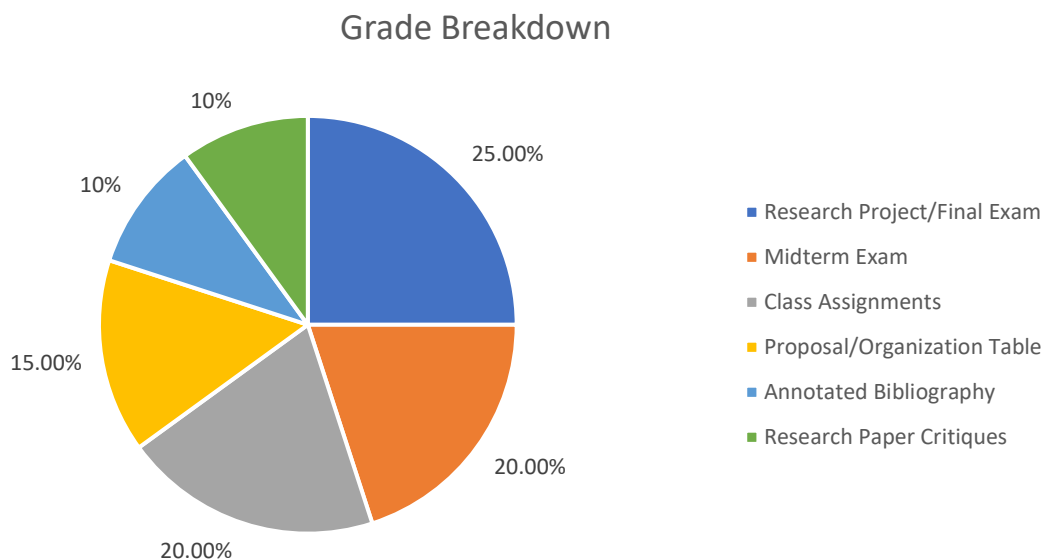
APK ADMINISTRATORS

For suggestions or concerns related to APK courses or programming, please reach out to any of the following:

- Dr. David Vaillancourt, APK Department Chair, vcourt@ufl.edu
- Dr. Demetra Christou, APK Department Vice Chair, ddchristou@hhp.ufl.edu
- Dr. Steve Coombes, APK Graduate Coordinator, rachaelseidler@ufl.edu
- Dr. Anna Gardner, APK Undergraduate Coordinator, akgardner@ufl.edu

Grading (Information on Assignments in CANVAS)

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|---|-----|
| 1. Research Project/Final Exam | 25% |
| 2. Midterm Exam | 20% |
| 3. Class Assignments | 20% |
| 4. Topic Proposal/Organization Table and Articles | 15% |
| 5. Annotated Bibliography | 10% |
| 6. Research Paper Critiques and Presentations | 10% |



GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	Grade Points	Percentage
A	4.00	92 - 100
A-	3.67	89 - 91
B+	3.33	87 - 88
B	3.00	82 - 86
B-	2.67	79 - 81
C+	2.33	77 - 78
C	2.00	72 - 76
C-	1.67	69 - 71
D+	1.33	67 - 68
D	1.00	62 - 66
D-	0.67	60 - 61
E	0.00	Below 60

Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Topics		Assignments
1	8-21	Syllabus and Assignments Overview of Research	Chapter 1
2	8-28	How to Read Research Scholarly Appraisal/Critiques	Chapter 2
3	9-4	Evidence Based Clinical Practice	Chapter 3
4	9-11	Ethics and Responsibility	Chapter 5-6
5	9-18	Searching the Literature Hierarchy of Evidence	Chapter 7
6	9-25	Qualitative Research	Chapter 8
7	10-2	Midterm Exam	
8	10-9	Quantitative Research Reliability and Validity	Chapter 9-10
9	10-16	Measures of Comparison	Chapter 11
10	10-23	Measures of Association	Chapter 12
11	10-30	Screening and Injury Prevention	Chapter 14
12	11-6	Treatment Outcomes	Chapter 16
13	11-13	SR Topics Help (For any unapproved)	
14	11-20	Final Exam/Research Project	