



Course: HEAL/KINE 499
Term: Spring 2021
Room: N/A
Class: TBA

TEACHING PRACTICUM IN HEALTH SCIENCES/SPORTS MEDICINE & EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Kinesiology Department Faculty
Office: 203 Tudor Fieldhouse
Email: kinesiologydept@rice.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As an undergraduate teaching assistant (TA) in the Health Sciences or Sports Medicine & Exercise Physiology degree program at Rice University, you are considered a junior scholar who works under the course instructor's supervision. While you serve as a teaching assistant, the faculty member / instructor bears the overall responsibility for the course. Students will assist in conducting a course in which they have previously excelled, including assisting with instruction, grading, and supervising lab activities. HEAL 499 and KINE 499 are intended for upper level students who have demonstrated particular aptitude and interest in one area of Kinesiology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, students will be able to...

- Gain a better understanding of the course material through their increased involvement in the class.
- Promote student learning by providing assistance that makes use of effective communication techniques.
- Exhibit good communication skills, oral and written, as applicable to course format.
- Learn to critically evaluate student work.
- Gain experience in presenting course material in class meetings and/or review sessions.

ELIGIBILITY

- Upper level students who have
 - Demonstrated particular aptitude and interest in one area of Kinesiology
 - Excelled (A- or better) in a previous semester in the course for which they wish to serve as a TA.
- Interested students who meet the requirements must be approved/invited by the course instructor to serve as a TA, and a Special Registration form must be filled out and signed. Enroll in either HEAL 499 or KINE 499, depending on the course chosen to TA and make sure to register in the section with the correct course instructor.

EXPECTATIONS

In order to help you understand what is expected of you, the following summary statements of the expectations and responsibilities of you as a TA are:

1. In the Health Sciences or Sports Medicine & Exercise Physiology degree program in the Kinesiology Department, you will work under the direction of the faculty member responsible for the course for which you have elected to serve as a teaching assistant. This is the person to whom you should go with questions concerning the particular course.
2. As a TA for the course, you are expected to assist the course instructor as needed.
3. You are expected to be available to the course instructor throughout the semester except for scheduled academic recesses.
4. HEAL 499 and KINE 499 provide academic credits hours (variable) towards your degree. There is no monetary compensation.

REQUIRED TEXTS

No required text

RESPONSIBILITIES

This list includes some of the major roles and responsibilities assumed by a TA. It is by no means all-inclusive, nor are the duties necessarily listed in order of importance:

- Attending classes
- Reinforcing basic lecture material
- Emphasizing relevance of course content
- Directing students to additional resources
- Answering students' questions
- Stimulating interest, enthusiasm, and encouraging student initiative
- Interpreting and enforcing course policies
- Usage and understanding of Canvas and classroom technology
- Maintaining clear and complete records
- Drafting course assignments and tests
- Marking and grading course work
- Monitoring course website
- Assisting with audio-visual equipment
- Leading discussion sessions
- Hosting office hours and/or review sessions
- Providing support for lecture and debate sections
- Preparing materials for instruction
- Designing lectures and teaching
- Typing and filing
- Confidentiality with all grades and assignments

****Specific responsibilities will be discussed and determined between the faculty member/instructor and TA prior to registration.****

ABSENCE POLICIES

Your schedule as a TA will be set with the supervising faculty member. You may need to attend the class at the time and in the place assigned, and for the number of meetings designated in the class schedule. If you need to be absent from a set meeting time, please inform the faculty member to make proper arrangements.

TA REWARDS

For starters, this may be the first time you have had to communicate in an instructional role about health sciences or sports medicine topics as a professional. Until now you have filled the relatively passive role of student conveying your knowledge through structured examinations and reports. Your teaching assistantship represents a chance to solidify your overall understanding of health sciences or sports medicine fundamentals. The saying 'the best way to learn something is to teach it' is based on the testimony of most experienced instructors.

As a TA, you may have an excellent opportunity to practice (in a relatively non-threatening arena) skills such as thinking on your feet, answering questions, organizing a presentation, improvising, and establishing a poised presence -- attributes of considerable value in making it through graduate seminars and even oral examinations.

You will encounter long-range benefits from your teaching experience. If you decide to continue in the academic community upon completion of your graduate program, you'll probably be called upon to teach at both the graduate and the undergraduate levels. Your exposure as a TA will provide the initial opportunity to practice the skills that can make you effective in the classroom. Or, if you prefer to eschew the academic world, the ability to communicate effectively about your research or other professional efforts to an audience of peers of non-technical types may prove as valuable in industry or government as the scientific knowledge and experience you acquired with the degree.

GRADE POLICIES

90-100% = A
80-89.9% = B
70-79.9% = C
60-69.9% = D
59.9% or below = F

RICE HONOR CODE

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at <http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/>. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs.

TITLE IX STATEMENT

Rice University cares about your wellbeing and safety. Rice encourages any student who has experienced an incident of harassment, pregnancy discrimination or gender discrimination or relationship, sexual, or other forms interpersonal violence to seek support. Students should be aware when seeking support on campus that most employees, including myself, as the instructor/TA, are required by Title IX to disclose all incidents of non-consensual interpersonal behaviors to Title IX professionals on campus who can act to support that student and meet their needs. For more information, please visit safe.rice.edu or email titleixsupport@rice.edu.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.