Course Description and Methods:

This course is designed to introduce the student to an in-depth analysis of research in the area of motor control and learning.

For the first few weeks we will be meeting as a group to discuss 3-4 new papers per week related to topics of common interest in motor control and learning. Everyone will be expected to read each of the assigned papers and engage in the discussion. Each student in the class will be specifically responsible for leading the discussion on one of the papers each week. The responsibility is to prepare a written summary (one-page maximum) and lead a one-half hour discussion about the paper. Specific areas of interest will be identified after the first few weeks and from that point forward each student will be responsible for identifying and assigning readings for the following weeks.

A term paper will be due at the end of the course. This paper will involve the preparation of a research proposal and should take the form of a journal manuscript - except without the actual results. Students will be required to speculate how the results would have turned out had the experiment actually been conducted.

Assignments and Grading:

Final grades in the course will be based on an equally weighted combination of class participation (50%), which includes written summaries, leading discussions, and preparation for discussing assigned papers lead by others. The research proposal (50%) will be based on the overall quality of the research proposal, as outlined below.

A+ = excellent; publishable-quality work
A  = excellent; publishable with revisions
A- = excellent; potentially publishable with significant revisions
B+ = very good, but not publishable work
B  = good, not publishable work
B- = fair, minimally acceptable work
C+ or less = weak overall project
The term paper is due no later than Friday April 15, 2011, and may be submitted as an email attachment. The penalty for late submissions is 2% per day overdue.

Resources and Reference Materials:

To be assigned and distributed weekly.

PLEASE NOTE:

On occasion, it is difficult to predict the direction the course may take and the instructor may need to revise the course outline during term. Students will be informed as early as possible of any changes.

The Department of Kinesiology reserves the right to change dates, deadlines, and/or methods of assessment for this course in the event of unforeseen circumstances, such as illness of the instructor or a labour disruption.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences (e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript reading “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”, and/or suspension or expulsion from the university). It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at: http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

• Plagiarism (e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained),
• Improper collaboration in group work.
• Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

END