



MOVP 615 Research Methods in Physical Activity

Congratulations on considering challenging yourself in Research Methods for Physical Activity! I am Dr. Holly Noun, Chair of the Movement Science Department at Westfield State University and Professor for this intellectual adventure. The following is a brief introduction of the course and of me to help you make an informed decision regarding taking this course.

The Course

This course is designed to help you sharpen your own intellectual tools to engage in evidence-based practice. You will learn to synthesize current literature and best practices with your own experience as a physical educator. We will work through the process of identifying a problem, developing a question to investigate, and creating a research study to answer the question and address the problem.

This is a reading, writing and thinking intensive course; the goal of which is to help you become a critical consumer of professional literature and develop a timely, relevant research study capable of adding to the body of knowledge in Physical Education. The most important part of the process is that we do this work together.

The Professor

I have been at Westfield State University for 15 years. I have served as the Chair of the Movement Science Department for the last 4 years, and I am deeply committed to advancing the fields encompassed by our department – Physical Education is one of those fields. My own educational process makes me quite well suited to teaching a course devoted to asking critical questions. My Bachelors degree is in Athletic Training, my Master's degree is in Physical Education with a concentration in Sport Psychology, and my doctorate is in Educational Policy, Research and Administration. At each stage of my education, the critical questions of why and how drove my intellectual curiosity; in fact, they still do! It is from this lens that I approach this course.

My philosophy of teaching is to provide you with tools and room to use those tools to explore the limits of your own intellectual curiosity and critical thinking ability. YOU drive your learning in this course! With this in mind, I like to keep the tone of the course light to help create an environment for creative and critical thought to flourish. My assistants (pictured on this page), Rocky and my beautiful niece Michaela, are key players in our course; we will see them periodically – to remind us of the important things!

*All my best for a challenging and rewarding experience.
Dr. Noun*

