

KINESIOLOGY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

PE2030 (A3): Skill Acquisition & Performance – 3 (3-0-1) 60 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Brendan Shaffick

OFFICE: K217

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment

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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: The course presents a psychological approach to understanding human motor behaviour. You will examine the processes involved in learning motor skills and controlling movement and the factors that influence acquisition and performance.

PREREQUISITE/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Additional Resources as designated by the instructor.

DELIVERY MODE: In person

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Throughout this course, students will:

- Define the concepts of motor learning and performance and describe the stages associated with motor skill acquisition.
- Construct an information processing model used for motor skill acquisition.
- Know how attentional processes and anxiety can influence motor skill acquisition.
- Classify motor skills and understand the possible effects of previous motor skill learning on the acquisition of new skills.
- Understand how memory impacts learning and apply this knowledge to instructional techniques.
- Compare the differences in processing abilities between expert and novice performers.
- Appreciate the different types of feedback techniques and understand which is best to learn motor skills.
- Create and construct effective learning environments through various practice techniques and practice organization.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Coursework	20%	Each Lab Session
Motor Skill Analysis	10%	Week 3
Contextual Motor Skill Analysis	10%	Week 6
Pedagogical Analysis	10%	Week 10
Capstone Project	20%	Week 13
Final Exam	30%	TBA

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Lecture: Monday & Wednesday – 4:00-5:20pm (J202)

Lab: Monday – 1:00-1:50pm (A211)

Wks	Dates	Lecture	Lecture	Lab
1	Jan 5 & 7	No Classes	Introduction to Skill Acquisition and Performance	No Labs
2	Jan 12 & 14	Classification of Motor Skills	Motor Abilities & Measurement of Motor Performance	Fitts' Law Aiming Task
3	Jan 19 & 21	Integration & Discussion	Motor Skill Analysis	Motor Skill Classification
4	Jan 26 & 28	Neuromotor Basis of Motor Control	Motor Control Theories	Star Excursion Balance Test (SEBT)
5	Feb 2 & 4	Touch, Proprioception, & Vision	Performance & Motor Control Characteristics of Functional Skills	BESS Vision Condition Balance Test
6	Feb 9 & 11	Integration & Discussion	Contextual Motor Skill Analysis	Choice-Reaction Motor Control
7	Feb 16 & 18	No Classes: Winter Break		
8	Feb 23 & 25	Attention & Memory	Attention & Memory	Contextual Interference Practice
9	Mar 2 & 4	Defining & Assessing Learning	Stages & Transfer of Learning	Retention and Transfer Test
10	Mar 9 & 11	Integration & Discussion	Pedagogical Analysis	Feedback Frequency Learning Task
11	Mar 16 & 18	Instruction & Augmented Feedback	Instruction & Augmented Feedback	Internal vs External Attentional Focus
12	Mar 23 & 25	Practice Conditions	Practice Conditions	Near vs Far Transfer Test
13	Mar 30 & Apr 1	Capstone Project		
14	Apr 6 & 8	Emerging Technologies in Skill Acquisition	Professional Pathways in Skill Acquisition	Coordinated Movement & Rhythm
15	Apr 13 & 15	Review - Final Exam	No Classes	No Labs
16		Final Exam		

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Participation and Engagement:

Active participation is key in this experiential course. It's essential to attend and be engaged in all scheduled sessions; unfortunately, we cannot offer make-up classes, however exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis, see Attendance and Exceptions below.

2. Assignment Submissions

Some assignments will require you to submit a video or audio recording of your work. These assignments are designed to assess your practical understanding and application of the course material. When submitting a video ensure that your video clearly demonstrates the required skills or concepts outlined in the assignment instructions. The video should be well-lit, with clear audio and visuals, so your assignment is easily understood.

3. Attendance Protocols:

Attendance is noted during each session. Those present but inactive may be given in-class tasks to ensure they remain engaged. Students arriving up to 15 minutes late should discreetly join the session and may be asked to complete a brief catch-up task after class. If over 15 minutes late, students may be marked as absent or asked to leave, given the significant amount of content missed. If you anticipate being late, please try your best to inform the instructor in advance.

4. Attendance and Exceptions:

For medical-related absences or injuries, a note from a doctor or qualified medical professional may be required. If you sustain an injury and expect prolonged absences, please liaise with the instructor promptly. Students involved in intercollegiate events should preemptively consult with the instructor about possible scheduling conflicts. Alternate assignments might be offered to accommodate unforeseen situations. Please be aware that exceeding 10% (or 5 sessions) absence could render you ineligible for the final exam.

5. Late Policy:

Assignments are due by 12 midnight MST/MDT on the specified due date. Late assignments face a 5% daily deduction, to a maximum of 7 days. Missed exams, barring validated emergencies will result in a grade of zero. Approved alternative assignments will also be subject to the daily penalty.

6. Electronic Devices:

You're welcome to use electronic devices as long as they don't disrupt the learning environment. If they become a distraction, you may be asked to step out or adjust your usage. Remember, our primary goal is a focused and respectful classroom for everyone. If you have an essential call, please step outside discreetly.

7. Code of Conduct:

Let's keep our class environment positive and respectful. Kindly avoid using offensive, inappropriate language or being disruptive to the learning of others during class. As we navigate through this course, conduct yourself in a manner that reflects leadership and inspires others. Students violating this policy may be asked to leave the class.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

INFORMED CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

This course includes physical activity, exercise, and/or fitness assessments as part of its learning and evaluation components. By enrolling in this course, you acknowledge and accept the following: You may be asked to participate in physical activity sessions, which include aerobics and/or musculoskeletal training. While the risk is minimal, physical activity may involve potential adverse effects such as episodes of transient lightheadedness, loss of consciousness, abnormal heart rate and/or blood pressure, chest discomfort, leg cramps, nausea). You voluntarily assume these risks. You are responsible for promptly informing your instructor(s) of any pain, discomfort, fatigue, or other symptoms experienced during or within 48 hours of the course session. You must disclose any health conditions that could be affected by physical activity. The instructor(s) will make reasonable modifications, where appropriate, and may request documentation from a qualified health professional.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Your success in this course is a priority. Please know that we are here to support your academic journey. If you encounter challenges or need clarification on any aspect of the course, do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we'll work towards your growth and achievement.