



UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTHERN COLORADO**

College of Natural and Health Sciences  
School of Sport and Exercise Science

**SES 604: Teacher and Coach Action Research**  
**Spring 2017**

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**Course Location:** Online  
**Course Credits:** 3 hours  
**Pre/Co-Requisites:** N/A  
**Class Format:** Online

**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to self-inquiry and pedagogical reflection through coach/teacher action research. The material covered will focus on the historical background, purpose, instruction and guidance needed for teachers and coaches to conduct action research.

**Course Overview and Purpose:**

Although there are many types of research that may be undertaken, action research specifically refers to a disciplined inquiry done by a teacher or coach with the intent that the research will inform and change his or her practices in the future. This research is carried out within the context of the teacher's or coach's environment – that is, with the students or players and at the site in which the teacher or coach works – on questions that deal with matters at hand.

Implicit in the term action research is the idea that teachers or coaches will begin a cycle of posing questions, gathering data, reflection, and deciding on a course of action. Many action research projects are started with a particular problem to solve, whose solution leads into other areas of study. While a teacher or coach may work alone on these studies, it is also common for a number of teachers or coaches to collaborate on a problem, as well as enlist support and guidance from others.

Therefore, the purpose of this course is to gain an understanding of action research for teaching and coaching and develop an action research plan that will be carried out in the near future that seeks to answer relevant questions in the school environment.

**Required Text:**

Johnson, A. P. (2012). *A short guide to action research (4<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Identify key characteristics of action research.
2. Formulate an action research problem.
3. Describe methods of collecting and analyzing data.
4. Plan an action research project to be conducted and written during an internship.

**Course Outline**

- Understanding Action Research
  - Discover and discuss the relationship between research and teaching/coaching
  - Identify key terms and the importance of action research
  - Consider examples of action research and problem solving
- Developing a Research Problem
  - Select an appropriate area of focus
  - Perform a reconnaissance
  - Review related literature
  - Formulate a question or problem to investigate
- Gathering and Interpreting Data
  - Identify and consider methods of collecting qualitative and quantitative data
  - Identify and consider methods of analyzing qualitative and quantitative data
- Putting a Plan Into Action
  - Develop a research plan that will guide the action research project
  - Plan to collect and analyze data analysis

**Course Requirements:** The following assignments will encompass the graded portions of this course:

Assignment	Points (%)
Discussion Board: Introduction - You will introduce yourself and discuss your thoughts about research at this post.	5
Understanding Action Research - You will discuss your understanding of the readings in this unit.	5
Area of Focus Statements - You will identify your general idea and area of focus for getting started research project.	5
Proposed AR Question - You will share your proposed action research question and abstract.	5
Qualitative-Quantitative Questions - You will consider the methods used to collect data from a researcher	5
Data Analysis	5

- You will consider ways a student researcher might analyze and interpret data she collected for a project.	
Initial Research Plan	35
- You will develop an action research plan that you could implement in your second year project.	
Revised Research Plan	35
- You will revise and submit your action research plan based on instructor feedback.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Summary of Action Research Plan Details

1) **Initial and Revised Research Plans** should include the following:

- Problem, rationale, research question
- References and abstracts of at least 5 resources (scholarly articles) on your research topic
- Participants
- Data collection plan and timeline
- Anticipated research instruments

2) **Final Action Research Report** (due during second year)

The final report should be 15-20 pages in length (excluding appendices), written mainly in paragraph form with charts and tables inserted as necessary. Include the following:

- Revised problem/area of focus, rationale for the study; clearly stated research question
- Literature review
- Setting
- Outline of research participants and recruitment strategies
- Data collection methods
- Data Analysis
- Description and interpretation of findings/results, and resultant plan for action
- References – in APA format

Stay focused to your topic throughout the report. Writing should be clear, coherent, and focused in order to contribute to the overall quality of the report.

**Method of Evaluation:** Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

90-100%	= A
80-89%	= B
70-79%	= C
60-69%	= D
Below 60%	= F

**Course & University Policies:**

- **Assignments:** Review your submitted and graded assignments carefully. Any grade challenges must be addressed within one week of an assignment's initial grade posting. Grades may not be disputed after this deadline. Assignments submitted after the deadline will receive a 10% grade reduction for each day late.
- **Disability Support Services:** Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.
- **Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Statement:** The University of Northern Colorado prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct or gender-based discrimination of any kind. UNC is legally obligated to investigate sexual misconduct (including, but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence). If you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a faculty member, they have an obligation to report it to UNC's Title IX Coordinator. "Disclosure" may include communication in-person, via email/phone/text message, or through in/out of class assignments. If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact the UNC Counseling Center (970-351-2496) or the Assault Survivors Advocacy Program (970-351-4040). If you would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, please visit [www.unco.edu/sexualmisconduct](http://www.unco.edu/sexualmisconduct)
- **Equity and Inclusion Statement:** The University of Northern Colorado embraces the diversity of students, faculty, and staff, honors the inherent dignity of each individual, and welcomes their unique perspectives, behaviors, and worldviews. In this course, people of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, military or veteran statuses, size and/or shapes are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. Course content and campus discussions will heighten your awareness to each other's individual and intersecting identities. The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities (located in Decker Hall) serves as resource to anyone seeking support or with questions about equity and inclusion at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). If you are a witness to or experience acts of bias at UNC and would like to learn more about bias response or report a bias incident, please visit Bias Response at <http://www.unco.edu/biasresponse/>
- **Academic Integrity Statement:** You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course. Make sure you know and understand the pillars of the UNC Honor Code: Honesty, Trust, Responsibility, Respect, and Fairness. Become familiar the Student Code of Conduct, especially the section on acts of dishonesty. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to grading consequences with regard to this course and/or university disciplinary procedures through the office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

