Course Title: RESEARCH METHODS IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Course Prefix and Number: CD500

Course Discipline: Communication Disorders

Instructor’s Name: Richard A. Dressler, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Semester and Year: Summer, 2008

Instructor’s Office Number: Room 115, Communication Disorders Program
Tate Page Hall, WKU

Instructor’s Telephone Number: (270) 745-6280

Instructor’s E-mail Address: richard.dressler@wku.edu

Instructor’s Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 2 to 4:30 pm

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to research methodologies that are applicable to speech-language pathology and audiology, including statistical and behavioral designs.

Course Rationale: Students need to be familiar with a basic understanding of statistical terms and tests. The course will also place emphasis on understanding and critiquing professional research articles and the statistical methods used to report findings. Additionally, students will understand the applicable methods for calculating results of clinical activities using the statistical methods.

Course Objectives:

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<tr>
<th>Upon completion of the course, the student will</th>
<th>KASA Standard</th>
<th>Method of Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Understand basic statistical terms and tests</td>
<td>III - F</td>
<td>Examination</td>
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<td>2. Be able to evaluate the methods used in determining research outcomes.</td>
<td>III - E</td>
<td>Article summaries</td>
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<td>3. Be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of the methods available to them for objectively evaluating clinical activities.</td>
<td>III - F</td>
<td>Classroom Assignment</td>
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Course Policies and Schedules:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class as scheduled and to participate in class during discussions. Students should withdraw from class if unable to participate in class discussions.

Plagiarism Policy: The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give the author(s) credit for any source material used.

Students with Special Needs: A student must verify that he/she has a qualified disability through The Office of Student Disability Services, Garrett Conference Center Room 101, 1906 College Heights Blvd., Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576

Program Accreditation: The Council of Academic Accreditation (CAA), under the auspices of the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA), has certified the Department of Communication Disorders at WKU as an authorized educational facility. If a student has a comment or complaint, they may contact CAA at ASHA, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.


Assessment: Students will be evaluated using the following:

Assessment: Examinations (2) 50 points each: 100 points
Article Summaries (2) 50 points each: 100 points

TOTAL: 200 points

Grading Scale: The student’s grade will be assigned using the following scale:

A= 93% (or more) of the total points
B= 85% (or more) of the total points
C= 77% (or more) of the total points
D= 68% (or more) of the total points
F= 67% (or below)

Course Schedule:

Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday
Class time: 8:30 am to 12:30 am
Class location: TPH 131
Class 1  Introduction Chapters 1 - 2  (July 8)  Summary of course, grading, and assignments  Background to statistics in Communication Disorders  Ethics

Class 2  Overview Chapter 3  (July 10)  Basic terms  Formulating and supporting a hypothesis

Class 3  Research Types Chapter 4  (July 15)  Experimental  Non-experimental

Class 4  Research Types (cont.) Chapter 5  (July 17)  Group designs  Single-subject design

Class 5  Planning research Chapter 6  (July 22)  Formulating a theory  Designing the research

Class 6  Organizing and analysis Chapter 7  (July 24)  Working with data using SPSS  Qualitative vs. Quantitative

Class 7  Using research in speech pathology Chapter 8  (July 29)  Validity in tests and therapy  Review of articles

Class 8  Reporting results Chapter 9  (July 31)  Describing results  Graphs

Class 9  Research grants Chapter 10  (August 5)  Types of grants  Proposing a grant

Class 10  Final exam  (August 7)  Articles reviews due

References: