SLP 500 Syllabus
Research Methods in Communication Sciences & Disorders

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Office Hours: TBD

Class Meeting Information: Thursdays

Required Texts:


**Edition 6 has been significantly reorganized and expanded. Use of earlier editions is not acceptable. Additional Readings assigned via on-line links or WKU Database.

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to research methodologies and basic behavioral designs applicable to speech-language pathology and audiology.

Prerequisites: Reliable access to a computer and high speed internet is mandatory.

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

Modes of Instruction and Communication: Instruction will be via lectures, cooperative learning groups, internet exploration, independent learning activities and assigned readings. Your WKU email address is the ONLY one to which class correspondence will be sent. You are responsible for checking your email and the course site Blackboard regularly.

Grading Scale: Grades are based on the total percentage of points earned. This means that your grade equals earned points/total points. There are 300 total points possible. Grading is as follows:

A 93-100       B 85-92       C 77-84       D 68-76       F below 67
Course Objectives:

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<th>Upon completion of the course, the student will:</th>
<th>KASA Standard - Method of Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate understanding of basic statistical terms and tests.</td>
<td>III - A Quizzes; III–F Class Participation</td>
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<td>Be able to evaluate the methods used in determining research outcomes.</td>
<td>IV-2D Article Critiques; III–F Class Participation</td>
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<td>Be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of the methods for objective evaluation of clinical activities.</td>
<td>IV-E Assignments, Labs; III–F Class Participation</td>
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Course Requirements:

CITI & NIH training (25 points)
This is a self-study research training program required of everyone involved in research at WKU. Each student is required to submit (by hard copy) proof of your completion and scores for the assigned modules. See assignment guidelines for further information.

Attendance (25 points)
Students are expected to attend class lectures as well as access any recorded lectures and other resources posted on Blackboard.

Article Critique (50 points)
Review and critique of two research articles, worth 25 points each, based upon the Complete Evaluation Checklist in Appendix A of the text. The instructor-selected article will be completed in lab groups. See Assignment Guidelines posted in the ‘Start Here’ section of the Blackboard.

Group Research Project (100 points)
Student lab groups will be responsible for planning, designing, and completing a small research project. Student groups will submit a 2-page proposal (25 points), a final product (TBD; 50 points) and a reflection of experience (25 points).

Midterm & Final (100 points)
Two electronic quizzes worth 50 points each. These will be open book, available on Blackboard, under the Tests & Quizzes tab.

Technology Management: This course will include use of Blackboard software. Managing student technology is the sole responsibility of the student. The student is responsible for making sure that: (a) student word processing software is compatible with that used by the University; (b) student email software is working properly and that students know how to use it (e.g., to send attachments to the professor); (c) Internet service providers’ equipment and software are installed and working properly in conjunction with student computers; (d) in the event that a student’s computer stops working properly or becomes totally inoperative, the student has another means by which he or she can successfully complete the course; and (e) any other student technology problem or issue gets successfully resolved; this in part implies that if a student cannot resolve any personal technology difficulties, his or her only workable solution may be to drop the course. Please familiarize yourself with the business hours of WKU’s IT help desk as well as the website and alternative means of communication with the IT department.

The IT Help Desk can be reached at 270-745-7000.
Course Policies:

General Expectations/Information:

- Students are responsible for all information covered during class meetings, and presented on Blackboard.
- Access to the internet and appropriate computer hardware and software is your own responsibility.
- Students are expected to meet all assignment deadlines punctually. If there is something that you do not understand or would like me to clarify, ASK.
- No credit will be given on Quizzes once the answer key has been posted.
- Note: MAC users tend to have more difficulty interfacing with university systems. The Instructional Technology department can be of assistance with difficulties involving access to university online functions, but the ultimate responsibility is yours. The (IT) help desk can be reached at 270-745-7000.
- There are many variations of word-processing and media software. The following are required for this class: Text/Data: Microsoft Word (.docx), Adobe (.pdf) or Rich Text file (.rtf), Excel (.xlsx).
- The instructor will be available for questions after class, during office hours, virtual office by appt., text for immediate & time sensitive issues (270-991-4973), and E-mail at your convenience. I will make every effort to respond promptly but if I have not responded within two business days, please try again.
- When contacting me by e-mail, type CD 500 in the title line and add a brief descriptor of the content. This allows me to quickly identify student emails so that I can respond more promptly.
- All e-mail correspondence will be sent to your WKU e-mail address. You may forward this to your preferred e-mail account but it is your responsibility to either forward your mail or check your WKU e-mail on a regular basis (every other day at a minimum).
- You are expected to check your Bb site and email at LEAST every other day. “I didn’t check my email” or “I didn’t see that announcement” are not valid excuses for late work, absences, or other negligent behaviors.
- ASHA mandates adherence to the American Psychological Association’s writing and style manual for all its publications. All quotes and paraphrased material in this class must be referenced according to APA style.
- The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as needed. Attendance and Classroom Participation Attendance and Adobe classroom participation are essential for the successful completion of this course. There will be point deductions for tardiness. There is no opportunity for making up missed work without severe score deductions. Feel free to ask questions or express concerns outside of the class structure. However remember that if you have questions, others may have similar concerns so please ask IN CLASS when applicable. Asking questions will help facilitate your learning and often stimulate discussion. Collaboration with each other is encouraged outside of class times. In the event that the University cancels classes, such as for severe weather, students will be expected to continue with readings and assignments as originally scheduled. Any assignments scheduled during those missed classes are due at the next class meeting. Students are advised to consult the University’s web page or local media regarding cancellation of class in the event of inclement weather. First and foremost, students should always use their best judgment in determining whether or not it is safe for them to travel.

Plagiarism:

From the Faculty Handbook:

Definition: To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one’s own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a
flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism.

Disposition of Offenses- Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the University Disciplinary Committee through the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions. Students who believe a faculty member has dealt unfairly with them in a situation involving alleged academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure.

Plagiarism in ANY portion of this course including but not limited to abstracts, projects, reports, rough drafts, and final papers will be severely penalized.

**Student Disability Services:**
In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Contact David Coffey at 270 745 5004 or david.coffey@wku.edu. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

**Grievance Procedures:**
The Department of Communication Disorders is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Complaints about programs must be signed and submitted in writing to the Chair, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, American Speech Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850-3289. The complaint must clearly describe the specific nature of the complaint and the relationship of the complaint to the accreditation standards, and provide supporting data for the charge. The complainant's burden of proof is a preponderance or greater weight of the evidence. Complaints will not be accepted by email or facsimile. The University’s Grievance Policy is specified at the following URL: http://www.wku.edu/StuAffairs/StuLife/handbook/2004pdf/16%20Student%20Grievance%20Procedure.pdf