Research Methodology in Communication Sciences and Disorders (3 credits)
SLP 500-700 (Full-time web cohort)
Fall 2018

Instructor: Brian Weiler, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Office: 108 J Academic Complex
Phone: 270-745-3519 (office); 615-306-6717 (cell); Fax: 270-745-3441
E-Mail: brian.weiler@wku.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Webchat Class Meeting Information: Tuesdays 5:00-6:30 PM CST, online

Text:
Required -
Orlikoff, R. F., Schiavetti, N. E., & Metz, D. E. (2015). *Evaluating research in communication disorders*. (7th ed.) Pearson Higher Ed: New Jersey

Available to rent or buy from - https://www.amazon.com/Evaluating-Research-Communication-Disorders-Sciences/dp/0133352013/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8
or to rent from https://www.vitalsource.com/products/evaluating-research-in-communication-disorders-robert-f-orlikoff-v9780133551747
Use of earlier editions is not acceptable.
Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard or otherwise supplied by the instructor

Catalogue Course Description:
Interpretation of empirical research designs used in the field of speech-language pathology and audiology. Includes understanding the various statistical analysis used to determine research outcomes and their relevance to clinical practice.

 Course Rationale: An understanding of research methods and interpretation will help you to approach clinical problems objectively and from an evidence-based orientation. Best clinical practice demands that you be lifelong consumers – if not producers – of research. This course will actively engage you in how to effectively, efficiently, and judiciously consume, understand and critique research.

Method of Instruction: Instruction will be provided through a combination of synchronous online classes utilizing Adobe Connect Software, Blackboard, reading assignments, and online learning activities. Asynchronous viewing of instructional material (e.g., pre-recorded lectures, supplemental video) may also be required

Modes of Communication:
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 on Blackboard regularly.

Learning Indicator	Method of Assessment
The student will understand the processes used in research and the integration of research principles into evidence-based clinical practice	Exams, Project, CITI training
The student will be able to demonstrate understanding of basic statistical terms and tests.	Exams, Project, Quizzes/Assignments
The student will be able to critique the methods used in determining research outcomes in order to evaluate levels of evidence for clinical decision-making.	Project

Assessment: Students will be evaluated using the following:
- CITI training **-** Complete the Social/Behavioral Research Course by registering here: https://www.citiprogram.org/index.cfm?pageID=154&icat=0
  Once done, submit proof of your completion and passing scores = 25 points
- Examinations (Midterm & Final): 100 points each = 200 points
- Short open-book quizzes/assignments = 100 points
- Project (Evaluation of research evidence for clinical question) = 100 points

  TOTAL: 425 points

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

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

**The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the topic schedule or point value for assignments based on schedule and/or class needs.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE *(subject to modification at the discretion of the instructor)*

Week of . . .	Topic	Required Textbook Reading
8/27	Course Introduction	
9/3	Evidence-based Practice in Communication Disorders	Chapter 1
9/10	The Introduction Section of the Research Article	Chapter 2
9/17	Research Strategies in Communication Disorders	Chapter 3
9/24	Research Design in Communication Disorders	Chapter 4
10/1	Experimental Designs for Studying Treatment Efficacy	Chapter 5

Week of . . .	Topic	Required Textbook Reading
10/8	No Class - Fall BREAK Blackboard-based Midterm Exam	
10/15	The Method Section of the Research Article	Chapter 6
10/22	The Results Section of the Research Article: Findings	Chapter 7
10/29	The Results Section of the Research Article: Statistical Inference	Chapter 8
11/5	The Discussion and Conclusions Section of the Research Article	Chapter 9
11/12	Best Evidence and Clinical Decision Making	Chapter 10
11/19	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
11/26	Appraising Treatment and Diagnostic Evidence	Dollaghan (2007): Chapters 6 and 7 (see Blackboard)
12/3	Project Presentations / Course Wrap-Up and Review	
12/10	Final Exam Week	

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 or online at**
> **https://www.wku.edu/it/helpdesk/**

Policies:
Attendance and Classroom Participation
Attendance and classroom participation are essential for the successful completion of this course. 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 or post to the discussion board when applicable. Asking questions will help facilitate your learning and often stimulate discussion. There is no opportunity for making up missed work without score deductions.

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 Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC) at 270-745-5004 or at sarc.connect@wku.edu. SARC is located on campus in the Downing Student Union, Ste. 1074. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from SARC.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy
Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at
https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf and
 Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at
https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible

Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

Grievance:
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