



**SLP 500- 005 (Web Group A) Course Syllabus**  
**Research Methodology in Communication Sciences and Disorders (3 credits)**  
**FALL 2024**

---

**Instructor:** Kyla B. Mitchell, Ed.D., CCC-SLP

**Email:** [kyla.mitchell@wku.edu](mailto:kyla.mitchell@wku.edu)

**Telephone:** 601-667-6115

**Office:** Virtual Office Hours

**Office Hours:** by appointment <https://calendly.com/kbmitchell/office-hours-1> -

**Course Day/Time: Group A** Tuesday 5:30-7:00 pm

**Course Semester Dates:** August 19, 2024- December 5, 2024

**Zoom Link:** <https://wku.zoom.us/j/98100907691>

Meeting ID: 981 0090 7691

**Technical Requirements:**

To successfully complete this course, the student will need the following technical equipment/software:

- Computer with Google Chrome web browser, version 74 or higher
  - Webcam (internal or external)
  - Microphone (internal or external)
- Stable broadband internet connection
- Scanner or method of taking photos to submit coursework
  - (Apps Others Have Used: TurboScan, CamScanner)
- Use of student Zoom account

**Required Texts:**

Orlikoff, R. F., Schiavetti, N. E., & Metz, D. E. (2022). Evaluating research in communication disorders. (8th ed.) Pearson Higher Ed: New Jersey.

**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:**

The major goal of this course is to prepare students to be critical consumers of the research

literature and become familiar with evidence-based practice in communication sciences and disorders. The course will focus on the types of research, research designs, and research methods that are commonly used to investigate normal and disordered human communication. Additionally, this course will focus on utilizing tools by which communication research is designed, conducted, interpreted, and critically evaluated. Emphasis will be placed on the problems involved in asking answerable research questions and the selection of appropriate research designs.

**Prerequisite:** Admission to WKU speech language pathology graduate program

**Modes of Instruction:** Instruction will be via online course meeting, lectures exploration, independent learning activities and assigned reading. Synchronous class meetings are held via Zoom. Instruction will be supplemented via Blackboard, additional reading assignments and web-based learning activities, and online learning activities. “Outside-of-class” viewing of instructional material (e.g., pre-recorded lectures, supplemental video) may also be required.

**Modes of Communication:** Students’ 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.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge or research methods used in the discipline.
2. Critically evaluate published research in the discipline.
3. Describe the principles of evidence-based practice in the discipline.
4. Demonstrate the ability to write a literature prospectus.
5. Demonstrate the ability to conduct a literature search and review.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

Competency	ASHA Certification Standard	Evaluation
Demonstrate basic knowledge research methods used in discipline	IV-F	Class discussion, discussion board, class participation, assignments, research project
Critically evaluate published research in the discipline	IV-F	Class discussion, discussion board, class participation, assignments, research project
Describe the importance of critical thinking and writing in the discipline	IV-A	Class discussion, discussion board, class participation, assignments, research project

Demonstrate an ability to conduct literature search and review	IV-F	Class discussion, discussion board, class participation, assignments, research project
Develop a written written research proposal on a topic pertinent to the profession	V-A	Class discussion, discussion board, class participation, assignments, research project
Demonstrate appropriate oral presentation skills	V-A	Class discussion, discussion board, class participation, assignments, research project
Assess the ethical choice of conducting research	IV-E	Class discussion, discussion board, class participation, assignments, research project
Compare and contrast different types of research methods	IV-A	Class discussion, discussion board, class participation, assignments, research project

**Multicultural Infusion:**

Investigation of speech, language, and hearing disorders against the backdrop of culture, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

**Method of Acquisition for Student learning outcome:**

The method of Assessments: *Discussion questions, Quizzes, Presentations, In-class activities, essays and Tests.*

**Class Policies:**

1. **Attendance Policy:**

- a. Class attendance will be recorded during each class session.
- b. Attendance is mandatory. A participation grade will be averaged with your final grade.
- c. If you are 10 minutes late for class, you will be marked **ABSENT**.
  - i. Please correspond with the instructor to avoid absentee reporting.
- d. Regular class attendance is expected during all online synchronous classes and any in-person learning activities. Excessive absences may result in a penalty to course grade.

2. **Punctuality Policy:** Students are expected to be on time for class.

- a. Class punctuality will be recorded during each class session.
- b. If a student arrives late, or after the roll is called they will get a tardy. The tardy will affect attendance grade.

- c. It is important for the student to realize that both class attendance and punctuality to class are both representative of student professionalism. Student professionalism is an indicator of what can be expected of a graduate student or employee. It is also a courtesy to other students to not disrupt class by having students regularly coming in late to class. Please be respectful of the class instructor, other students, and yourself by arriving at class on time.
3. **Late Assignment Policy:**
  - a. Please read the instructions on each assignment carefully in Blackboard to check for exact due date and time. Due dates may be on dates other than class days, and times that an assignment is due are often (if not always) due at a time prior to the start of class. Advanced due dates and times are set to encourage student punctuality to class and to reduce last minute work on assignments, as last minute assignment work is not conducive to long term learning.
  - b. Please do NOT put off assignments until the last minute. Due dates and times should be viewed as the absolute last opportunity to submit an assignment. Completion of assignments in advance, as well as advance submissions are encouraged, as technology will inevitably mess up or not work at some point when you are submitting an assignment.
  - c. Late assignments are **NOT** accepted for unexcused absences.
    - i. Examples of unexcused absences/tardies include: car problems, overslept, parking issues, unforeseen circumstances or technical difficulties.
  - d. Late assignments are **NOT** accepted when an absence is due to a scheduled university approved function (band, presidential tours, etc). These events are scheduled in advance, and the student is expected to plan to turn the assignment in prior to the missed absence.
  - e. Late assignments for excused absences not due to university approved functions will be accepted only when the student contacts the instructor in a timely manner to schedule a new submission deadline, and the student submits the assignment by the new submission deadline.
  - f. Since the Blackboard Discussions are available for extended periods of time, late contributions will only be considered for extended excused absences. Please make sure to work on these in advance.
  - g. In-Class assignments or quizzes can not be made up without a valid reason. *Reasons must be deemed approved by the instructor.*
4. **Participation Policy:** Students are expected to actively participate in all class discussions and activities.
5. **Class Preparation Policy:** Students are expected to be prepared for class sessions by reading assigned materials and viewing assigned videos/DVDs prior to class and reviewing those materials after each class.
6. **Virtual Learning Policy:** Students are expected to have webcams on during class. Students should be located in a stationary location conducive to learning and active participation during all class times. If a brief temporary distraction occurs, please turn off

your webcam and turn it back on when you return. The instructor highly encourages the use of backgrounds in the instruction delivery platform to block out view of the student's private environment.

7. **Class Posture:** Please be prepared to participate in class lectures and discussions. Please keep your sound muted to avoid distractions from teaching and learning. If you want to speak, please wait to be recognized by the instructor. Be respectful to all class participants and their options. Listen when others are talking. Work hard and have fun in the process.
8. **Electronics During Class Policy:** Students are expected to turn off cell phones, not text or communicate electronically (e.g. email) during class, and respect others.
9. **Technology Management:** This course will be presented using 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) speakers and microphone work properly for the purpose of class interaction and completion of class assignments; (e) 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 (f) 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 the only workable solution may be to drop the course. Please familiarize yourself with the business hours of WKU's IT help desk and resources available to support you with Technology. The IT Help Desk can be reached at 270-745-7000 or online at <https://www.wku.edu/it/helpdesk/>
10. **Grievance Policy:** The Speech-Language Pathology graduate program 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.
11. **Quality Work:** Assignments submitted should be submitted in full and contain proper mechanics in writing (e.g., spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and punctuation). Inadequate demonstration of these mechanics may result in point deduction.

12. **Academic Integrity**: Students are required to submit assignments representative of their own work unless otherwise indicated by the professor. Cheating in any form will result in a failed score and is subject to academic disciplinary action. Answers, resources for answers, etc, for assignments should not be shared between students. Group assignments should be completed collaboratively with balanced contributions from each group member.
13. **Plagiarism**: Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism is not tolerated. According to the Faculty Handbook: 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.
14. **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**: The work submitted for any assignments and activities in this class are expected to be your own and you are not authorized to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are not permitted for any type of work in this class. If you choose to use these tools, your actions will be considered academically dishonest and a violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct. Submitting work that was completed using ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence programs creates a false representation of the knowledge and skills that are measured in the class. Using ChatGPT as your own work is plagiarism. Your work should be completely in your own words.
15. **Blackboard**: Students are expected to be familiar with how to use Blackboard to complete some of the assignments in this course. If a student is not familiar with Blackboard, it is the student's responsibility to become familiar with Blackboard. Additional support for Blackboard is from the Blackboard website. One of the important things to remember when working with Blackboard is that technology errors and issues do arise. Therefore, the student is **STRONGLY** encouraged to complete assignments in advance, as issues with technology can result in an assignment not being able to be submitted on time. Late assignments will not be accepted. Students should use the Blackboard instructional guide for assistance with navigating through Blackboard.
16. **Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC)**: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270- 745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at [sarc.connect@wku.edu](mailto:sarc.connect@wku.edu). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.
17. **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](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 or Title IX Investigators.

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.

**Course Requirements-** There are no optional assignments: Course completion is accomplished when all necessary are finished to satisfaction.

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>	<b>Points</b>
Participation and Discussion	TBD	15 points
Citi Training	9-18-2024	20 points
Annotated Bibliography	10-6-2024	25 points
Assignments- Article Critique	10-20-2024	50 points
Syllabus Quiz and Quiz	TBA	25 points
Midterm	10-14-2024	100 points
Final Exam	12-3-2024	100 points
Research Project Paper	11-6-2024	100 points
Virtual Research Poster	11-10-2024	50 points
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>485 points</b>

**Grading Scale:**

*Grades are based on the total percentage of points earned.*

*This means that your grade equals earned points/total points.*

*There are 485 total points possible.*

The grading scale is as follows:

A 93-100% B 85-93% C 77-84% D 69-76% F 68% and below

**Course Schedule:**

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

Dates	Topics	Readings and Assignments
8-20-2024	Introduction to Course/Syllabus Review  Citi Training What is Research?  <b>Chapter 1-</b> Evidence Based Practice in Communication Disorders	<b>Discussion 1:</b> <b>Due:8-25-2024</b>  Syllabus Quiz  Review assigned article
8-27-2024	<b>Chapter 2-</b> The Introduction Section of the Research Article  <b>Chapter3-</b> Research Strategies in Communication Disorders  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Belmont Report  <a href="https://youtu.be/M6AKIIhoFn4?si=hQfON19HjMU2hu1s">https://youtu.be/M6AKIIhoFn4?si=hQfON19HjMU2hu1s</a></li> <li>● Tuskegee Study or Tudor Study</li> </ul>	<b>Discussion 2:</b> <b>Due:9-3-2024</b>
9-3-2024	PICO Informational Chapter 4: Research Design in Communication Disorders Chapter 5 Experimental Design	<b>Due:</b> Citi Training Certificate 9-8-2024
9-10-2024	Introduction to Research Proposal Annotated Bibliography	<b>Discussion 3:</b> <b>Due: TBD</b>
9-17-2024	<b>Quiz</b>	PICO assignment
9-24-2024	SPSS Discuss Research Proposal	<b>Due:</b> Research Proposal 9-22-2024

10-1-2024	<b>Chapter 6:</b> The Methods Section of the Research Article	
10-8-2024	<b>Fall Break (Monday and Tuesday)</b> <b>Chapter 7 and 8</b>	<b>Due:</b> Annotated Bibliography 10-6-2024
10-14-2024	<b>Test 1 - Midterm</b>	
10-22-2024	Chapter 9- The Discussion and Conclusion	<b>Due:</b> Journal Article Critique 10-20-2024
10-29-2024	Group Assignments for Research ass	
11-5-2024	Finalize Research Project. Meeting Times for Assistance	<b>Due:</b> Research Project 11-6-2024
11-12-2024	Presentation	<b>Due:</b> Virtual Poster 11-10-2024
11-19-2024	Presentation	
11-26-2024	<b>Thanksgiving Break (Thursday/Friday)</b>	Study for Final
12-3-2024	<b>Final Examinations</b>	

**Those who attend class tend to PASS.  
Let's have a Great Semester!**

**~HILLTOPPERS~**