Research Methods in Communication Disorders – COMD 6361

CRS 139
Monday, 1 – 4 pm
Office hours – by appt.
Phone: 713-743-5503

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Office: CRS 116
Email: mmchenry@uh.edu

Required Texts:


Student Learning Objectives

This course enables students to demonstrate the required knowledge and skills as specified by the following standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology. Information will be provided by class lectures, guest speakers, hands-on practice, readings, and class discussions. Student performance will be measured by successful completion of assignments, a midterm, comprehensive final exam, a written literature review, and a written study design.

The standards are:

**Std III-E: The applicant must demonstrate knowledge of standards of ethical conduct**

1) Assess ethical issues in published research

**Std III-F: The applicant must demonstrate knowledge of processes used in research and the integration of research principles into evidence-based clinical practice**

1) Describe basic and applied research methods
2) Develop analytical skills to interpret research findings
3) Identify and access relevant sources of information related to research topics
4) Outline methods for obtaining institutional approval for human subjects
5) Propose a coherent research proposal
6) Critique research methodology
7) Determine the ethics of various research designs
Student Responsibilities
Your assigned readings include the pages indicated on the syllabus. During the lectures, I will highlight certain points in the readings and clarify others. I will also supplement the text material with information that is not presented in the text. You are responsible for all lecture material and all of the information in the assigned readings, even if it is not reviewed in the lecture. If you do not understand material in the text or lecture, please ask questions during class, or make an appointment to meet with me. You are also welcome to email me with questions at mmchenry@uh.edu, and I will respond to them on Blackboard.

Examinations and Assignments
All submitted work must be typed and double-spaced (12 point font, Times New Roman – no special fonts for headings, etc.). The only identifying information on your work should be the last four digits of your PeopleSoft number.

Work will be submitted online using Turnitin. A folder for each assignment will be placed on the Blackboard website. All work must be submitted by the stated time (typically an hour before class). Five points will be deducted for each day late (beginning with the due date).

Examinations will consist of a midterm and a final, worth 100 points each. There will be occasional quizzes.

You will complete two, 50 point papers. The first paper will be your literature review. The second paper will consist of your research design, including hypothetical results and discussion.

Remediation
Each student must demonstrate at least an emerging level of competence for each of the above learning outcomes. If a student does not demonstrate emerging mastery on an initial evaluation of the content (e.g., assignment, exam) s/he will have to complete remediation(s) until emerging competency is demonstrated. Remediations provide additional time/activities needed to obtain knowledge; they will not result in a grade change. Successful completion of a remediation results in the professor’s ability to indicate that the target competency level has been achieved (as recorded on KASA form or in SAMS).

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>87% - 89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83% - 86%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80% - 82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77% - 79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73% - 76%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70% - 72%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>67% - 69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63% - 66%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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Blackboard classroom

You will be able to track your grades, and link to websites of interest. Handouts and class notes will also be posted to the website, so be sure to print them out before class.

Blackboard Access

First-time student users of Blackboard need to get their Blackboard ID by using one of the following options:
1) Online at http://www.uh.edu/Blackboard - click “New Users” to get a Blackboard ID.
2) In person in Room 58 in the basement of the MD Anderson Library on the main campus (use entrance on University Center side of library), Monday-Friday, 8 am to 8 pm.
3) By phone at 713-743-1411 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Once students have their Blackboard IDs, they can log on to Blackboard courses by going to http://www.uh.edu/Blackboard and clicking the red “Blackboard” button.

A student’s initial password is his/her birth date in the format mmddyyyy (example: April 1, 1984 would be entered as 04011984). Blackboard IDs and passwords are case sensitive. Students should change their password the first time they log on to Blackboard.

Support for students using Blackboard is available in four ways:
1) Online at http://www.uh.edu/Blackboard - click on “Get Help” and then select “UH Main Campus”
2) In person in Room 58 in the basement of the MD Anderson Library on the main campus (use entrance on University Center side of library), Monday-Friday, 8 am to 8 pm.
3) By phone at 713-743-1411 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
4) By sending email to support@uh.edu with the student’s full name, course name and number, section number, instructor’s name and a description of the problem.

Students considering a thesis

To complete a thesis in the Department of Communication Disorders, you must follow the guidelines presented in the graduate handbook.

Requirements for the course are slightly different if you are considering a thesis. For the literature review, there is no page limit, nor is there a limit on the number of articles to include. I would like your literature review to be as close to the first chapter of your thesis as possible. Second, the research question you generate must be feasible. For other students, an “ideal” imaginary study may be designed. If you are planning on a thesis, your question must be answerable within the given time and resources.
Students with disabilities

Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (C.S.D.) in Room 307 of the Student Service Center (743-5400/voice, 749-1527/TDD). Any student with a documented disability needs to talk to me during the first week of class to discuss appropriate accommodations.

Academic Integrity

"Academic dishonesty" means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that the student knows or should know is not permitted by the university or a course instructor to fulfill academic requirements. (UH Student Handbook) (http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/policies/academ-reg/academic-honesty/index.php)

Any student caught cheating on any quiz or exam will receive a ZERO on that quiz/exam. Plagiarism found in the paper assignment will negatively affect the grade for that paper, decreasing that student's grade by at least 10%, and may result in a ZERO for that assignment. Consequences for repeat offenders will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Weekly topics and assignments


Handouts – To be reviewed in class –
1) Syllabus; 2) APA writing assignment (under assignments on Blackboard home page); 3) plagiarism information; 4) Annotated bibliography guidelines; 6) How to summarize an article in one paragraph

Assignment – due 8/30 at noon - APA writing assignment (25 points)

Reading – Chapter 1, pp. 3 - 6

8/30 – Meet at MD Anderson Library for workshop on accessing electronic resources. Research literature for topic of interest. Room 10F in the basement of the library.

Submit APA assignment by noon.

Assignment due 9/13 at noon – (10 points) annotated bibliography for 5 articles that may be relevant to your research topic

9/6 – No Class – Labor Day


Assignment for 9/20 noon submission – (10 points) annotated bibliography for 5 additional articles that may be relevant to your research topic

Handouts – Analysis protocol for evidence-based reports/ evidence based articles for practice (two under articles)/ cohort/case/RCT analysis protocols;

Reading – Chapter 3

9/20 – Submit second annotated bibliography by noon

Discuss ethics. Review guidelines by Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. Discuss Introduction and Literature Review. Discuss outline for literature review.

Handouts – Literature review writing strategies

Assignment for 9/27 at noon – third annotated bibliography (10 points) and outline of first draft of literature (10 points)

Reading – Chapters 2, 13

9/27 – Submit third annotated bibliography and outline of first draft of literature review by noon - Research Strategies. Practice variable identification/design type with abstracts

Handout – abstracts for practice

Reading – p. 6 to end in Chapter 1


10/4 - Review Nippold & Rudzinski. Review measurement issues. Practice variable identification/design type with abstracts.

Reading – Chapter 6

Assignment – first draft of literature review to be scored for content and organization (10 points)

10/11 – Submit first draft of literature review to be scored for content and organization (10 points)

Review key points of designs. Practice variable identification/design type with abstracts.

Handout – midterm review

Reading – Cummings et al., Conceiving the research question; Chapter 3

10/18 - Midterm (100 points) – One page of notes allowed (using the midterm review is highly recommended) - Assignment due 10/25 at noon – Complete literature review.
10/25 – Submit second draft Literature Review by noon to be scored for editing (10 points)
Discuss potential research questions. Group designs.
**Handout** – Group designs
**Reading** – Chapters 5, 8
**Assignment due 11/1 by noon** – State research question and justification using FINER criteria (5 points)

11/1 – Submit research question and FINER criteria by noon (10 points)
Within -subject designs.
**Handout** – Within-subject designs
**Reading** - Chapter 7

11/8 – Submit final draft of lit review (50 points) - Study designs – small group practice and discussion – Finalize design – Review designs in class.

11/15 Methods – Discuss and complete in class. Data analysis/Statistics/Choose appropriate analysis in class/ Effect size analysis/ reporting reliability.
**Reading** – Chapters 9, 10, sample size and power, p. 99 – 101.
**Assignment** – Human Subjects Application (10 points), and Consent Form (10 points).

11/22 – Submit Human Subjects Application and Consent Form – Human subjects applications will be returned asap.
Small group practice and discussion – results and discussion
**Assignment due by noon on 11/29** - Complete research design paper

11/29 – Last Class - Turn in research design paper by noon - Course evaluation.
Practice for final.
12/13 – 1:00 – 4:00 - Final (100 points) – open book/notes