

SPLH 868: Professional Issues Spring 2010

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Meeting time: 6:30-8:15 Thursdays as scheduled (1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, 3/11, 4/1, 4/15, 4/29)

Location: Room 2094 Dole, Lawrence and Room 3001 Miller, KUMC

Purpose of the Course

1. Provide an opportunity for the discussion of current issues of relevance to the practice of speech-language pathology. In this context, “practice” also includes research as well as clinical practice.
2. Supplement the topics covered elsewhere in the formal curriculum in a way that facilitates a student’s transition into the world of professional (clinical and/or research) practice.
3. Increase the students’ ability to orally present information in response to questions that require careful problem analysis and synthesis of ideas and opinions.

Course Format

Each class will begin promptly at 6:30. The first 15-20 minutes of each class period will consist of discussion of current field study issues or concerns. The discussion is intended to be a chance to discuss issues that you might have in order to help you deal with the problem and also to give your classmates a learning opportunity in the event they find themselves in a similar situation.

The remainder of the class period will cover topics identified on the syllabus. This is not a lecture-based course. The instructors will provide structure to the class on a given topic and will help launch the class discussion. However, student participation in the discussion is the heart and soul of information exchanged in a given class period. Your preparation prior to coming to class will be critical for learning. At the end of each class period (or via email shortly thereafter) we will remind you of the next topic and point you in the right direction for readings and other sources of information to help you prepare for the next class.

Requirements and Grading

Grading for this course is satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Attendance at each class is required. The evening meeting time was selected to facilitate course attendance. Any absences due to medical and family emergencies must be excused by the class instructors *prior* to the class. Make-up assignments will be given for students who require more than a single excused absence. **More than one unexcused absence will result in a grade of Unsatisfactory for the semester.**

Pre-class preparation and oral presentation skills will be assessed through class participation. Each student must make a substantive contribution in the form of a comment, question, or opinion during each session. At the end of each class period, the instructors will assign a “grade” of “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory” for each student *for that session*. Failure to make a substantive contribution will result in a grade of unsatisfactory *for that session*. The instructors recognize that there is a fair amount of subjectivity as to what constitutes a “substantive

contribution.” The amount of talking is not what we are evaluating. We want to know what each of you are thinking, to hear the questions that you have, to note your observations on a topic and so forth. Students receiving an unsatisfactory mark for a session will be notified within two days by one of the instructors. **Two or more session grades of unsatisfactory are grounds for a semester grade of Unsatisfactory.** It does not automatically mean a grade of Unsatisfactory, but it is a strong possibility unless substantial changes are noted in student performance or there are acceptable reasons for the unsatisfactory performances in the class periods. One of the stated purposes for this course is to facilitate growth in oral presentation. The instructors will counsel on an individual basis to help a student who struggles with this in group situations, but ultimately, the student must be able to demonstrate professional oral presentation skills within the class to receive a Satisfactory grade for the semester.

In addition to attendance at class and substantive contributions to class discussion, there are two assignments that will be graded. These are described below.

Course Assignments

1. **Journaling-** As a professional you will be required to set goals for your career. To help you with goal setting and attainment, we are asking you to submit at least 7 journal entries reflecting on 2-3 goals you set during the first class period. You may also reflect on issues or opportunities that have occurred in courses, clinic and/or field study this semester that will have an impact on your career. You should submit at least one entry between each class period. Your entries should be at least one typed page - double spaced, one inch margins, size 12 font. To submit your journal entries, go to Blackboard Tools, and then to the Online Journal link. Identify the goal or issue you are reflecting on as well as your reflections and plan/next steps. Instructors will provide guidance and tools to assist with your reflections. The Blackboard instructions recommend that students write their journal in a word processing software, and then cut/paste it to the Blackboard Online Journal.

2. **Presentation of your research (thesis or project).** We certainly are interested in your research. But more than anything, this is a chance for you to have to prepare and give a professional talk. That is what our evaluation of this project will be based on. Presenting to small groups of other professionals and peers is something that you most definitely will have to do throughout your career. Here is a last chance to practice it before your first job! You are expected to prepare a 6- to 8-minute summary of your research to share on 3/11, 4/1 or 4/15. Be sure to prepare and practice what you will say because we will restrict you to 6-8 minutes!

Disability Statements

KU-Lawrence: The staff of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), 135 Strong, 785-864-2620 (v/tty), coordinates accommodations and services for KU courses. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in KU classes and have not contacted them, please do ASAP. Please also see the instructors privately about this course.

KUMC: Any student in this course who, because of a disability, needs an accommodation in order to complete the course requirements should contact the instructor or the Equal Opportunity/Disability Specialist (913-588-7813: TDD 913-588-7963), as soon as possible.

Any student who does not understand and or accept the contents and terms of this syllabus must notify the instructor in writing within one week after receiving the syllabus.

Course Dates, Locations & Topics

Some dates may change depending on availability of guest speakers.

Date	Location	Topic	Resources
01/14/10	KUMC	Semester overview Goal setting and journaling	See Bb web site. If you have difficulty with Bb links, right-click and select open in new tab/window.
01/28/10	Either campus	Evidence Based Practice (EBP) – challenges in the workplace	See Bb web site
02/11/10	Either campus	CFY & Grad Panel	See Bb web site
02/25/10	Lawrence	Licensure: Brenda Kroll from KDHE	Powerpoint See Bb web site
03/11/10	Either campus	Coaching practices/Being a reflective practitioner Being a change agent- leading and empowering others Job Search update In-class presentations: Sharing your research – thesis or project	Hanft, Rush & Shelden, Coaching Families and Colleagues Kouzes & Posner, The Leadership Challenge See Bb web site
04/01/10	Either campus	Professional Panel: collaborations among professionals in the workplace In-class presentations: Sharing your research – thesis or project	
04/15/10	Either campus	Mediation, Conflict Resolution, and Role Ambiguity & Speech-language Pathology In-class presentations: Sharing your research – thesis or project	Bring examples Role plays See Bb web site
04/29/10	KUMC	Ready to graduate? Reflections on goal setting for your first year.	