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# SHS 221 Introduction to Audiology Online Syllabus Fall 2008

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## Class objectives

Students in this class will:

- learn about the profession of audiology
- learn about the anatomy of the ear and the types of hearing losses that affect auditory function
- learn about sound and its measurement
- learn about assessing hearing function in children and adults
- learn about the etiologies that affect hearing
- learn about the treatment and management of hearing loss

## Instructional outcomes assessment

Meeting the objectives noted above will be determined by your performance on:

- the completion of online quizzes ( which will determine approximately 30% of the final grade),  
and
- grades the final examination ( which will determine approximately 70% of the final grade)

**Text:** Martin, Frederick N. and Clark, John G., Introduction to Audiology (9th ed.) Boston: Allyn and Bacon (2006). ISBN 0-205-45330-9 or Martin, Frederick N. and Clark, John G., Introduction to Audiology (10th ed.) Boston: Allyn and Bacon (2008). ISBN 0-205-59311-9.

(both books have similar content and either will be acceptable)

Other readings (written and/or internet) may assigned as necessary.

**Bulletin Board, Chat and E-mail:** There will be occasional postings on the class bulletin board. Please check the bulletin board frequently to make sure you don't miss any important information about the course. Periodic chat sessions *may* be held to clarify information from the lessons and to ask questions of the instructor. The chat sessions are optional; you do not have to attend. You can ask questions via the *private mail* feature or by posting them on the bulletin board.

**Presentation Format:** The modules in this class consist of information presented via standard web pages and on videos presented in Macromedia Flash format. Most computers can play Macromedia videos. You can check your computer's ability to play videos by

clicking on the "Macromedia Flash Test Video" icon on the homepage. Although the videos are produced in a format that provides efficient internet downloading, if you have a slow dial-up connection it may take 5-10 minutes for the videos to download. If you have DSL or cable modem connection to the internet, files will download very rapidly. Modules will become available on Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m. and will be available to you until the following Thursday at midnight. The quiz on that module will be available from Friday at 8:00 a.m. until Sunday at midnight. You must take the quiz during that time period.

**Quizzes:** The course is comprised of lessons or "modules" on different topics. Each module concludes with a quiz on the material contained in the module and on any readings associated with the module. The dates that quizzes become available will be noted on the course calendar. Quizzes will be available for three days only; make sure that you check the calendar to determine when quizzes are available. Make sure to complete each quiz within that time frame - please don't ask for extensions for any reason. If you don't complete the quiz by the deadline, you won't receive any points for that quiz. You should take notes and study the material in each module carefully before taking the quiz. There is a time limit for each quiz, so you must know the material before taking the quiz (you won't have time to re-read your notes while you're taking the quiz). You may only take the quiz once.

If you encounter technical difficulties with a quiz, please send me a WebCT email with details of the problems you have encountered (internet interruption, program freezing, dog chewing computer cable during quiz, etc). I will review the online logs of your activities and, if appropriate, make accommodations. If an extension is warranted, I will allow you to access the quiz *for a limited time (usually one day)*. Be sure to log on to WebCT before the extension passes or you'll miss the opportunity to re-take the quiz. I will allow you ONE DO-OVER if you have a technical glitch in taking a quiz. If you have excessive technical difficulties in completing quizzes you will be required to take the quiz at an on-campus location or at a more reliable internet site. Make sure that you have access to a computer when the quizzes are available. Taking a weekend trip, going to your friend's wedding for 3 days, tailgating for 3 days prior to a football game are not valid excuses for failing to take a quiz.

Remember to save your quiz answers after completing the quiz. If you don't click on the "submit" button, your answers won't be saved and the quiz time period will expire.

**Checking the Calendar:** The calendar lists the dates that each lesson module becomes available. It also lists the dates of availability for each quiz. Modules will appear on the date indicated on the calendar. If you don't have access to a module or a quiz when it should be available, send me an email *immediately*. Remember, it is your responsibility to check the calendar and to notify the instructor promptly if you do not have access to a module or a quiz.

**Exams:** The midterm and final examinations will be given at the University of Southern Mississippi campus at a location and time to be determined. Information regarding the time and place will be posted on the bulletin board. If you do not live within driving distance of the campus, you may take the exams using an approved off-campus proctor. Prior arrangements for proctored examinations must be made two weeks prior to the scheduled examination with the Office of Distance Learning. For additional information about proctored examinations, click on the off-campus proctor link on the homepage.

**Grading:** Grading will be based on quiz scores (approximately 30% of the grade) and the midterm and final exams (approximately 70% of the final grade).

The total number of points you earn in this class will be divided by the total number of possible points. That percentage will be used to determine your grade according to the following scale:

#### Percent Grade

90-100 = A

81-89 = B

71-80 = C

65-70 = D

<65 = F

You can determine your current grade at any time by adding up all the points you have scored and dividing by the possible points. For example if you've taken three 10-point quizzes and have scored 25 out of a possible 30 points, your current average would be 25/30 or 83% (a B average). At the end of the semester I will calculate your final average the same way and assign the appropriate grade. It is my policy to round up your average to the next highest integer. For example, if your final average is 89.33%, I will round it up to 90% and you will receive the grade of A. If your final average is 88.999%, I will round it up to 89% and you will receive the grade of B. Please don't ask for extra credit, extra consideration or extraterrestrial assistance - your final average will determine your grade.

**Office hours:** Since this is an online course, you may contact me at any time via WebCT email or via the WebCT bulletin board. I check my WebCT email at least once a day (except sometimes I skip a day on the weekends). I am also available to meet with you in person; if you'd like to meet face-to-face, please contact me via WebCT email to set up a time. If you live outside of Hattiesburg, you can also contact me by phone.

**Academic Honesty:** The learning in professional preparation courses like this one directly affects your ability to provide professional services to those entrusted to your care. Anyone caught cheating will be subject to all penalties proscribed by university policy. You are expected to complete all quizzes yourself; having others assist you will be considered a violation of the academic honesty policy. Examinations taken at off-campus sites must be taken under the supervision of a qualified proctor. If, in the opinion of the instructor, it is not possible to verify that the examinations were taken by the student without aid or assistance, those examinations will not be accepted and the student may be required to retake the examination under secure test conditions

#### Knowledge and Skills

In this course you will acquire knowledge (areas of content that you can recall, relate and use) and skills (the learned capacity to do some task). Your acquisition of knowledge and skills will be assessed during the course of the semester (through formative assessment) and at the end of the semester (through summative assessments). Formative assessments will measure your progress during the course of the semester; the summative assessment will determine if you have acquired the knowledge and skills expected of students completing the course.

## Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are behaviors that are observable and measurable; at the completion of this course you will be able to:

- discuss the profession of audiology and relate it to other professions that have professional interactions with audiologists
- identify the major structures in the auditory system that contribute ability to hear
- discuss the parameters of sound and how sound is measured and quantified
- describe how hearing ability is assessed in children and adults
- identify the causes and types of hearing loss
- explain how hearing losses are treated and managed

**A final word:** Most students find the format of this class enjoyable and the class material interesting. There is a perception by some students that online courses are easier than regular lecture-type courses. While that may be true in some cases, student grades in my online course compare well with those of students taking the regular lecture course (good students get good grades; poor students get poor grades). Take the quizzes seriously; try to learn the material and take the quizzes without referring to your notes. This is not a class to take if you're looking for an easy grade. This course demands as much effort as any lecture course. If you do not have the ability for self-motivation you can easily fall behind. If you don't have the time or motivation to do the work, you should consider registering for the traditional lecture-style course.

Online courses require the same effort and time required of traditional lecture-style classes. I recommend that you set aside the same amount of time for this class as you would for any other 3 credit hour course. You should block off three hours per week to view the lessons, watch the videos, read the assignments and complete the quizzes. Devoting less time to an online course than to a regular lecture course will result in poor grades. In the interest of honest disclosure, you should know that WebCT provides the instructor with a record of your online activities, so if you don't do well in the class, don't try to exaggerate the amount of time you've spend doing the lessons. The WebCT program tracks your access to system and I routinely review how much time a student spends on each lesson. Students who log on the system for only a brief time each week (usually only long enough to take the quiz) usually fail the class.

Best wishes in this and all your classes this semester!

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*If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical impairments, or chronic health disorders. Students should contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Box 8568; Telephone (601) 266-5024; TTY (601) 266-6837; Fax (601) 266-603*

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updated 15 Aug 08