Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences
College of Health

Course Syllabus for SHS 719-Seminar in Problems and Procedures in Evaluating Children

Instructor
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
To provide an understanding of the underlying principles, philosophies and procedures of assessment of communication disorders in children.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. To review the basic principles and processes related to normal communication development.
2. To understand when communication development is atypical
3. To address the basic principles that insure the foundational integrity of the assessment.
4. To address the steps that are used in the assessment process
5. To review the psychometric principles of tests
6. To discuss the weaknesses and strengths of standardized tests
7. To discuss the weaknesses and strengths of using nonstandard tests
8. To address screening procedures necessary for the screening of communication disorders
9. To address evaluation procedures necessary for completing a comprehensive assessment
10. To address making a diagnostic decision
11. To address how to form appropriate treatment plans and make recommendations for management.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the end of instruction, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the problems inherent in assessing children
2. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of standardized assessment
3. Describe descriptive and authentic assessment
4. Identify and describe various formal and informal procedures for assessing children
5. Choose appropriate assessment procedures for various communication disorders
6. To recommend management goals utilizing assessment information

ASHA STANDARD
All learner outcomes fulfill the criteria for the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Standard for the prevention, identification and treatment of language disorders in children
REQUIRED TEXT AND READINGS.

There is no required text. A list of suggested readings will be provided for each topic. An important reference is Best Practices on the ASHA web site.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

There will be two examinations. No make-up exams will be given. A missed exam requires a doctor’s excuse or the permission of the instructor. The grade on the next examination will count twice. Examinations may consist of multiple choice, matching, diagramming, fill-in-the blank, short answer, and/or essay questions.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT.

Each class member will develop two projects for this class. The first project will be to select an assessment tool or method (formal or informal). Prepare a presentation and handout that describes the assessment tool, how to administer (a demonstration is recommended) how to interpret, strength and weaknesses of the tool. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes. Prepare three questions that may be used on the first examination. You will need to sign up for a date and topic (to avoid duplication).

The second project will be a case presentation. Prepare background information, discuss the assessment method recommended, how the information was interpreted and the recommendations for management. Again, you need to sign up for a date. Also prepare three questions that may be use in the 2nd examination.

GRADING SCALE

Each examination and the projects will be worth 100 points.

A: 360 +
B: 320-359
C: 280-319
D: 240-279
F: Below 240

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments will not be accepted. Papers, presentations, and any other assignments must be turned in on the due date to avoid receiving a grade of “0”.

REMEDIATION:

Should formative and summative assessments indicate that you are not meeting the objectives of the class, you may be required to participate in remedial activities (e.g., additional readings, individual meetings with the instructor, follow-up assessment) designed to permit you to successfully complete the course. Participation in those remedial activities, however, will not guarantee your successful completion of the course.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students at the University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to)

Cheating (including copying from other’s work)

Plagiarism (representing another person’s words or ideas a your own, failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts).

Falsification of documents

Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student

Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members involved

Unauthorized academic collaboration with others

Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct.

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct”. For more details, please see the University’s Academic Integrity Policy(https://www.usm.edu/institutionsl-policies/policy-acaf-pro-012%20). Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University.

ADA POLICY

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 disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address: The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College #8586
Hattiesburg, MS. 39406-0001Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024
Fax (601) 266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA during the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or e-mail Scott Dossett at scott.dossett@usm.edu.

ATTENDANCE
Students are expected to attend class and be on time. If you are absent, it is the student’s responsibility to obtain lecture notes, assignments etc.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones are expected to be OFF during class. If you need to take an emergency call, keep your phone on silent and step out into the hall to take the call.

E-mail;

I will use the USM e-mail account to send important messages.

HIPPA REMINDER;

It is important to remember to be compliant with the HIPPA rules in class as well as in clinic.

TOPICS

Overview of Assessment: Principles of foundation integrity: Steps taken in completing an assessment.

Psychometric Principles: Validity, reliability, standardization.

Assessment Methods: Norm-referenced tests, criterion-referenced tests

Obtaining and evaluating reassessment information (interviewing, case history)

Assessment procedures Common to Most Communication Disorders

Screening procedures:

Comprehensive Evaluation (components of)

PROJECTS

EXAMINATION

Procedures for Specific language disorders in children

Screening

Comprehensive Assessment

Special Considerations for Diagnosis

Reporting Assessment Findings

PROJECT 2

EXAMINATION