

**SPLH 868: Professional Issues
Fall 2009**

Instructors: Susan Jackson 913-588-5937 sjackson@kumc.edu
 Matt Gillispie 785-864-0643 wmg@ku.edu
Meeting time: 6:30-8:15 Thursdays as scheduled (8/20, 9/3, 9/17, 10/22, 11/5, 12/10)
Location: Room 2094 Dole, Lawrence & Room 3031 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 now or in the future.

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. The ASHA website is one in particular that you should bookmark and with which you should become familiar.

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 one of 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. **Attendance at and summary of a professional presentation.** You will attend at least one session at the KSHA annual convention (October 1-3) in Wichita, KS (see www.ksha.org for convention program and registration form) or ASHA convention in New Orleans, LA (see www.asha.org). Several conference sessions at KSHA address current “hot topics” in our field and there are a number of very good presenters, including several of our own faculty and students. We recognize that school, clinic and work responsibilities may limit your ability to attend the entire conference; however, there is a half-day of programming on Saturday that should not interfere with your field study and school responsibilities. Your registration expense as a student is \$30 - \$50 depending on whether or not you are a KSHA student member and whether you register before or after a deadline date. Check the KSHA web site for registration deadlines (www.ksha.org). After you attend the convention, complete the attached form and turn it in at the class on October 22, 2009.

If you are planning to attend ASHA, you may substitute attendance at an ASHA presentation. In this case, the assignment is due at the last class December 10th. The instructors will consider other substitutions for the KSHA/ASHA experience (e.g., other professional conferences or presentations that may be happening where you are at or that you can access) but you must first clear it with either instructor.

2. **Submission of resume.** On September 3rd, bring 2 copies of your up-to-date resume. One copy will be submitted to the course instructors. The second copy will be shared with your classmates for discussion and feedback. On September 17th, your course instructors will return your resume with feedback and suggestions. The final draft of your resume is due November 5th.

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC(s)	RESOURCES
8/20	KUMC	Transitioning from student to professional Field study expectations Workplace skills Communication with professionals	See link in the Readings section of Blackboard
9/3	Either campus	The Job Search Writing Resumes & Cover Letters <i>DUE: 2 copies of your resume</i>	http://www.asha.org/students/job http://www.kucareerhawk.com/s/762/start.aspx See other links in the career-related links of the Website section of Blackboard
9/17	Lawrence	Professional organizations; Guest speaker - Lois Waldo, KSHA President Elect, Topeka Public School SLP The Praxis Continuing education	http://www.ksha.org/ http://www.asha.org/certification/praxis/preparation.htm http://www.asha.org/about/continuing-ed/ Lubinski et al (2007) – Chapter 3
10/1	No Class	KSHA Conference begins – runs through 10/3	http://www.ksha.org/mc/page.do
10/22	Either campus	Clinical Ethics & Legal Issues Terminology Perspectives Processes for dealing with situations <i>DUE: KSHA assignment - turn in form and provide a short presentation to the class</i>	http://www.asha.org/docs/html/ET2003-00166.html http://www.asha.org/practice/ethics/ethics-articles.htm See other links in the Ethics-Related Links in the Websites section of Blackboard Lubinski et al (2007) – Chapter 4
11/5	Either campus	Interviewing <i>DUE: Final draft of your resume</i>	Mock interviews in small groups
11/19	No Class	ASHA Convention	
12/10	Either campus	SLP Assistants – Lawrence Adult Protective Services – KUMC <i>DUE: ASHA convention assignment - turn in form and provide short presentation to the class.</i>	Lawrence attendees read: http://www.asha.org/publications/leader/archives/2007/070508/f070508b.htm http://www.asha.org/docs/html/GL2004-00054.html KUMC attendees read: http://www.srskansas.org/ISD/ees/adult.htm