

**University of Florida**  
**College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus**  
**SPA 6905: Introduction to Clinical Practice (1 credit hour)**  
**Tuesday (11:45-12:35) Fall: 2024**  
**Delivery Format: In-Person**  
**Classroom: HPNPG103**

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Instructor Name: Kristen Lewandowski  
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Office Hours: By appointment  
Preferred Course Communications: Email and phone

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## **PURPOSE, CONTENT AND OUTCOME**

**Course Overview:** The purpose of this course is to provide student clinicians with knowledge and skills in the professional aspects of the practice of speech-language pathology.

**Relation to Program Outcomes:** The content of this course is designed to help students meet requirements associated with the following clinical certification standards:

- 1) Developing and demonstrating knowledge of principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention (Standard III-D).
- 2) Demonstrating the ability to evaluate and treat clients (Standard IV-G).
- 3) Demonstrating knowledge of cultural bases of human communication and swallowing processes (Standard III-B).

### **Course Objectives**

#### *Knowledge Objectives:*

By the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Describe the principles located in the ASHA Code of Ethics and apply them to clinical dilemmas.
2. Explain the rights of patients during the evaluation and treatment process.
3. Describe the continuum of care in the medical and school setting.
4. Understand coding systems for diagnosis and procedures as utilized by third party payers.
5. Identify and report abuse of children and adults.
6. Identify issues of sexual harassment in the workplace.
7. Identify cultural issues as they impact communication and swallowing treatment.
8. Describe professional liability and understand how to minimize your risks in practice.

**Instructional Methods: Lecture and Canvas**

## Course Materials and Technology:

Texts:

Required -

- Subscription to Simucase

Recommended/Optional:

- Paul, Rhea; Schoen Simmons, Elizabeth. *Introduction to Clinical Methods in Communication Disorders* (4th ed) (2021). Baltimore, MD. Paul H. Brookes Publishing

## Workload:

Students should be prepared to spend 3 hours per week completing the requirements of the course.

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

## Topical Outline/Course Schedule:

Week and/or Date(s)	Topic(s)	Assignments
8/27/2024	Syllabus & Expectations, Introduction to Simucase and Reflective Journaling	Reflective journaling: What are the key components of a clinical practice framework?
9/3/2024	Clinical Practice Framework: Building the Blueprint for Service Delivery Simucase Client #1 "Hadley", Speech and Language	Create our own clinical practice blueprint
9/10/2024	Client-Centered Care - Framework Cont. with Client #1 "Hadley"	
9/17/2024	Client-Centered Care - Application Simucase Client #2 "Don", Language (Aphasia)	Develop patient-centered care session & implement
9/24/2024	Assessment - Framework Simucase Client #3 "Mark", Cognition & Swallow	Case History and Client/Family interviewing
10/1/2024	Assessment - Framework Simucase Client #4 "Cameron", Speech	Create your own assessment checklist/procedure

10/8/2024	Assessment - Application	Hands On Practice
10/15/2024	Intervention - Framework Simucase Client #5 "Everett", AAC and Language	
10/22/2024	Intervention - Framework Cont. with Client "Everett"	Create your own intervention checklist/ procedure
10/29/2024	Intervention - Application	Hands On Practice
11/5/2024	Documentation Framework (Includes Coding & Billing) Simucase Documentation Trainers (School, Outpatient, Acute Care)	
11/12/2024	Counseling Framework Simucase Client #6 - "Jim", Dysphagia	
11/19/2024	<b>Generalizing and Preparing for Unexpected: Strategies for Building the Key Skill Flexibility in Clinical Practice</b>	
11/26/2024	<b>No class - Thanksgiving Holiday - Enjoy!</b>	
12/3/2023	<b>No class - Reflect on integrated framework for clinical services</b>	Submit integrative clinical practice framework

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

**Assignments:** This course is an informative course geared toward preparing you for a career in speech-language pathology. The assignments will be completed in class. Attendance is mandatory; more than two absences used will result in the reduction of one letter grade.

### Grading

Requirement	Due date	% of final grade
Coursework	ongoing	50%
Simucase	ongoing	50%

### Point System

Points Earned																
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	W	I	NG	S-U

<b>Grade Points</b>	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. A grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with an A.

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at:

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work:** You will be given a choice for a time to schedule your presentation; unless there is illness or an emergency you will be expected to comply with your set time.

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST email your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

**Policy Related to Required Class Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. You will be given one absence for use during the semester. If you miss more than one class, unless your absence is excused, you will not receive an "A."**

Please note all faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details: [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalogarchive/01-02-catalog/academic regulations/academic regulations 013 .htm](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalogarchive/01-02-catalog/academic%20regulations/academic%20regulations%20013.htm)

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT**

**Expectations Regarding Course Behavior:** You are expected to behave professionally and courteous to everyone in the class. It will be to your benefit to participate.

**Communication Guidelines:** When communicating, you should always:

- Treat instructor with respect, even in email or in any other online communication
- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if you're in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to them by first name.
- Use clear and concise language
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar
- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you"
- Use standard fonts such as Times New Roman and use a size 12 or 14 pt. font

- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YELLING
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :)
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or offensive
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and others)
- Do not send confidential patient information via email

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

**"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. "**

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>  
<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

### **Professionalism and COVID**

As students pursuing a path in the health professions or public health, it is crucial to demonstrate professional behaviors that reflect integrity and commitment to the health of patients, fellow health professionals, and to populations we serve. To accomplish this, a strong responsibility for the well-being of others must be evident in our decisions, along with accountability for our actions. Professionalism in the health disciplines requires adherence to high standards of conduct that begin long before graduation. This is particularly true during times of health emergencies such as the COVID pandemic, given our professional habits can have a direct impact upon the health of persons entrusted to us.

If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment:

<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

In response to COVID-19, the following professional practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to protect the health and safety of ourselves, our patients, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times while in Health Science Center classrooms and within Health Science Center buildings even if you are vaccinated.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email [covid@shcc.ufl.edu](mailto:covid@shcc.ufl.edu)) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information.
- Continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing.
- Avoid crowded places (including gatherings/parties with more than 10 people)

Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class. Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.

Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Continue to regularly visit [coronavirus.UFHealth.org](https://coronavirus.UFHealth.org) and [coronavirus.ufl.edu](https://coronavirus.ufl.edu) for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> for information about COVID-19 symptoms, which may include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, chills, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of taste or smell.

### **Recording Within the Course:**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### **Policy Related to Guests Attending Class:**

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Please note that guests are **not** permitted to attend either cadaver or wet labs. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. Link to full policy: <http://facstaff.php.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

### **Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to you, which you then give to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

### **Counseling and Student Health *optional in UF Template***

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
- Alachua County Crisis Center:  
(352) 264-6789

<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

BUT - Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

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