Course Title: Thesis Research
Course: CSAD 500T
Units: 2
Dates: January 23rd - May 12th, 2017
Instructor: Heather Thompson, Ph.D CCC-SLP
Office: Shasta Hall, 263
Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30-2:30pm
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PLACE OF COURSE IN PROGRAM
This course is for graduate students interested in completing thesis research. Thesis units will be taken by students once they have advanced to candidacy as part of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Master's degree.

PREREQUISITES
Prior to enrolling in CSAD 500T, the following conditions must be met:
1. The student must have been advanced to candidacy.
2. The first and second readers judge that the first two chapters of the thesis (literature review and methodology) are sufficiently well-developed.
3. Her/his proposal has been approved by the Culminating Experience Committee no later than the 11th week of the second clinical semester. The proposal must include the first two chapters specified above.
4. Institutional Review Board Approval has been obtained. It is possible for this process to take a full academic year.
5. Written approval of the first reader has been accepted by the Department Chair.

SPECIFIC STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Develop a question of inquiry commensurate with the graduate level of training
2. Conduct a search of the literature using relevant keywords and search terminology
3. Review research articles appropriate for the study background and purpose
4. Establish a rationale for the proposed investigation
5. Present the results of the literature search in written and oral modalities
6. Contribute to and/or design a methodology to address the area of inquiry under the guidance of faculty mentor
7. Implement appropriate data collection procedures for the designed study
8. Present study information via written and oral modalities that includes the following components: study background/purpose, methods, results and discussion
The above learning outcomes will be assessed through meetings with the faculty advisor and completion of a final thesis project.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**
A thesis is an independent research project, conducted by the student under the supervision of members of the faculty. A thesis must involve a research question or hypothesis, review of pertinent literature, and the collection and analysis of data. It is the student’s responsibility to locate and recruit participants and to collect the data, as well as to write the thesis. Projects that include the generation of original data are preferred; however, superior proposals based on file data or other secondary data sources will be considered.

The student is responsible for the following:

1. Preparing for and participation in meetings, as scheduled
2. Completing study objectives, data collection, analysis and presentation of the results
3. Completing a written thesis project as agreed-upon by the student and faculty advisor

**REQUIRED READINGS**
Journal articles, textbooks/chapters and/or other online resources will be acquired by the student on an individual basis. Evidence based sources of information from peer reviewed journals will be employed. Additional readings will be provided by the faculty advisor to support the student’s growth and development as a researcher in the field.

**COURSE POLICIES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

*Due Dates for All Assignments*
Due dates will be established by the student and faculty mentor following discussion.

*Policy for Completing CSAD 500T Coursework*
A student enrolls in two units of CSAD 500T each semester s/he works on the thesis, up to a total of four units. If the thesis is not completed within two semesters, the student may enroll in continuous enrollment (CSAD 599) if not otherwise actively enrolled for two additional semesters. Students are allowed a maximum of three semesters past the semester of first registering in 500T to complete their thesis for a maximum of four semesters total. Students who do not finish the thesis within the first semester of enrolling in 500T will receive a grade of “Report in Progress” (RP). If a student does not complete the thesis within the four total semesters, s/he will receive a No Credit (NC) grade for the original units and must enroll in 500C for the culminating experience.

*Thesis Handbook*
A handbook is available for students that describes the policies and procedures of completing a thesis. The student is responsible for adhering to the policies and procedures of the handbook and achieving the milestones delineated therein.

*Plan of Study*
Under the mentorship of the faculty advisor, the student will create a Plan of Study. The Plan of Study is a document used to assist the graduate student in achieving expected thesis milestones. Failing to adhere to the deadlines established in the Plan of Study will delay the timeline to graduation.
GRADING POLICY
The student’s final grade will be computed based upon completion of the thesis requirements.

Letter grades will be based upon the following:

- 95 - 100%-------------------A
- 90 - 94%-------------------A-
- 87 - 89%-------------------B+
- 83 - 86%-------------------B
- 80 - 82%-------------------B-
- 77 - 79%-------------------C+
- 73 - 76%-------------------C
- 70 - 72%-------------------C-
- 67 - 69%-------------------D+
- 64 - 66%-------------------D
- 60 - 63%-------------------D-
- Below 60%-------------------F