

Honors Contract SPH 207 – Guidelines and Example

Students wishing to enroll in SP H 207 for Honors credit can devise an individually tailored project to complement the course.

Requirements

1. The student must earn an A in the regular portion of the class. To be certain that adequate progress is being made toward a final grade of A, the course average must be an A (90% or greater) after the 2nd and 3rd exams.
2. A project contract must be established in writing and completed by the date of the final exam in the course.

Planning your project

1. During the first section of the course, decide what content area you would like to pursue for your project. Example content areas:
 - a. Biological foundations of speech or language or hearing
 - b. Respiration – normal aspects, disorders
 - c. Voicing – normal aspects, variations of voice in the general public, voice disorders
 - d. Articulation/Resonance – normal aspects, developmental aspects, variations in the general public, resonance disorders, speech sound disorders, bilingual issues in speech production.
 - e. Language – language development, language disorders in children, language disorders in adults (aphasia, alexia, agraphia), dementia, right hemisphere disorders, neurological syndromes that affect language.
 - f. Hearing – normal aspects of hearing and balance, hearing loss, genetic syndromes associated with hearing impairment, cochlear implants, noise-induced hearing loss, age-related hearing loss.
2. Project Options
 - a. 10-page (double-spaced) written paper reviewing a topic of interest, using APA style, appropriate citation of references. Graded for content, clarity, and form.
 - b. 5-page (double-spaced) written paper complemented with some sort of media (photographs, videoclips)
 - c. Extensive media project with shorter (3-page – double-spaced) written narrative.
 - d. Your own plan – presented for my approval.
3. To confirm contract
 - a. Meet with Dr. Beeson during office hours to discuss and confirm plan.
 - b. A written contract will be established and filed with the Honors College.
4. How much work should be involved?
 - A rough estimate would be the equivalent of an additional single unit of credit, which equals 45 hours over the course of the semester (3 hours/week for 15 weeks)
5. How will I be graded?
 - Your course grade will be what you earn from the regular requirements.
 - Your honors credit will be awarded if your project is of A quality.

Example of a media-intensive project.

Over the course of the semester, I will be involved in several activities that will advance my understanding of the nature and treatment of acquired impairments of language in adults. At the outset, I will read information about aphasia and aphasia types so that I will gain an understanding of the nature of the disorder. I will also view videotapes of a standard aphasia assessment administered to a range of individuals. Specifically, I will do the following:

1. Assist in the cataloguing and characterizing of audio, visual, and written data collected from individuals with acquired impairments of language and healthy controls.
 - a. Sources of data will include videotaped samples of standardized tests (including the Western Aphasia Battery), transcription of spoken narratives, or other behavioral measures of language performance.
 - b. I will follow the standard format for dubbing the videotapes and for generating a PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate examples of the nature of the language difficulty on subtests of the assessment battery.
 - c. I understand that that I am to respect the confidentiality of the individuals whom I observe in the videotapes.
2. At the end of the semester, I will write a 2 - 3 page paper semester on a topic regarding aphasia. I will select the topic to for my paper by October 14th. I will confirm the exact nature of the paper with Dr. Beeson. The paper will be due on the first day of exams, Dec. 10th.

I understand that some of what I do will contribute to on-going research projects within the Aphasia Research Project (ARP). As such, some activities will be well prescribed; however, I understand that I am encouraged to think through the information that I read, data that I record, or behaviors that I observe, and to take the opportunity to learn more and to discuss these issues with members of the ARP.