SPTH4440 - Speech Pathology Honours Thesis

Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Sally Hewat
Room: GP1.17
Ph: 02 - 49215159
Fax: 02 - 49217386
Email: Sally.Hewat@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: by appointment only

Semester 2 - 2009
Unit Weighting 20
Teaching Methods
Student Projects

Brief Course Description
SPTH4210 and SPTH4440 together form the Research Component required for students who have been accepted into the fourth year Honours program in the Bachelor of Speech Pathology. SPTH4440 involves the development and conduct of a major research project (thesis). This research is carried out under the supervision of a member of academic staff in the discipline of speech pathology. Students CANNOT take SPTH4440 with SPTH4220.

Contact Hours
Student Projects for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts

Required Readings

The following readings are available on Shortloans Online.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2009

CTS Download Date: 15.7.09

Other recommended readings

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Independently interpret and critique, at an advanced level, theoretical and empirical research literature with regard to theoretical validity, clinical relevance and methodology.
2. Develop and implement a research project which is theoretically and methodologically sound to address a relevant issue or specific question, with supervision.
3. Demonstrate the awareness and ability to manage ethical issues in the research context.
4. Present information in a manner consistent with scientific and professional requirements.

Course Content
Details of honours research topics for which supervision is available will be advised at the commencement of the Research Component.

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other: (please specify)</th>
<th>Ethics Clearance: Clearance from ethics committee(s) must be obtained prior to the commencement of data collection, as appropriate.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other: (please specify)</td>
<td>Presentation: Students will present a conference-style paper summarising their research at an appropriate forum (e.g. a student presentation or professional development forum).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: (please specify)</td>
<td>Individual Thesis reporting on research of approx 7000 words. The final report will be submitted on completion of SPTH4440. Examination and grading will be conducted in line with 'embedded+honours' procedures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumed Knowledge
SPTH4210 Research Review is assumed knowledge for SPTH4440.
Students undertaking SPTH4440 must meet the eligibility requirements of the 'embedded+honours' structure.
Students undertaking SPTH4440 are encouraged to also do SPTH4211 Research Preparation (10 units) as an elective.

Callaghan Campus Timetable
SPTH4440
SPEECH PATHOLOGY HONOURS THESIS
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2009
Consultation Friday 14:00 - 15:00 [GP212/214]
IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavour in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning. To preserve the quality of learning for the individual and others, the University may impose severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity. There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

Academic fraud is a form of academic dishonesty that involves making a false representation to gain an unjust advantage. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it can include:

a) falsification of data;

b) using a substitute person to undertake, in full or part, an examination or other assessment item;

c) reusing one's own work, or part thereof, that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission);

d) making contact or colluding with another person, contrary to instructions, during an examination or other assessment item;

e) bringing material or device(s) into an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item; and

f) making use of computer software or other material and device(s) during an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item.

g) contract cheating or having another writer compete for tender to produce an essay or assignment and then submitting the work as one's own.

Plagiarism is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

a) copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;

b) using another person's ideas without due acknowledgment;

C) collusion or working with others without permission, and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

Turnitin is an electronic text matching system. During assessing any assessment item the University may:

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or

- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).

- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

RE-MARKS AND MODERATIONS

Students can access the University's policy at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html)

MARKS AND GRADES RELEASED DURING TERM

All marks and grades released during term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING ASSESSMENT ITEMS

*Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations* items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless
the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy.

Requests for Extensions of Time must be lodged no later than the due date of the item. This applies to students:

- applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
- whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment.

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, as outlined in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- Special Consideration Requests must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- Rescheduling Exam requests must be received no later than 10 working days prior the first date of the examination period.

Late applications may not be accepted. Students who cannot meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak firstly to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness. If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au . As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester. For more information on confidentiality and documentation visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability .

CHANGING YOUR ENROLMENT

Students enrolled after the census dates listed in the link below are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/fees/censusdates.html

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of term. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of term will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of term must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online go to myHub: https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

STUDENT INFORMATION & CONTACTS
Various services are offered by the Student Support Unit:  
www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia. Student Hubs are located at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus/Hub</th>
<th>Location/Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Callaghan Campus</strong></td>
<td>Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>City Precinct</strong></td>
<td>City Hub &amp; Information Common, University House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)</strong></td>
<td>Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Port Macquarie students</strong></td>
<td>contact your program officer or <a href="mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au">EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone 4921 5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singapore students</strong></td>
<td>contact your PSB Program Executive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION**

| Faculty Websites          | www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/                     |
|                          | www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/                   |
|                          | www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/                      |
|                          | www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/                           |
|                          | www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/science-it/                        |

General enquiries  
Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie  
Phone: 02 4921 5000  
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

Ourimbah  
Phone: 02 4348 4030  
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

The Dean of Students  
Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)  
Phone: 02 4921 5806; Fax: 02 4921 7151  
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

This course outline will not be altered after the second week of the term except under extenuating circumstances with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of the change.

--- End of CTS Entry ---

**Studentmail and Blackboard:** Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Important Additional Information**

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
• No Assignment Re-submission
• Re-marks & Moderations
• Return of Assignments
• Preferred Referencing Style
• Student Representatives
• Student Communication
• Essential Online Information for Students
Relationship of course objectives and Graduate Attributes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Newcastle Graduate Attributes¹</th>
<th>Community Responsiveness</th>
<th>Professionalism</th>
<th>Scholarship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Competencies²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generic Professional Competencies³ (COMPASS™ Unit, Element)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objectives</th>
<th>Clinical populations</th>
<th>CBOS Unit, Element</th>
<th>Professionalism</th>
<th>Reasoning</th>
<th>Lifelong Learning</th>
<th>Communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Interpret, critique research</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>5.7, 5.8</td>
<td>GC1.2, 1.3</td>
<td>GC3.2, 3.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Develop and implement a research project</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>5.7, 5.8</td>
<td>GC4.3</td>
<td>GC1.2, GC1.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Manage ethical issues</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>5.7, 5.8</td>
<td>GC4.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Present information verbally, &amp; in writing</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>5.7, 5.8</td>
<td></td>
<td>GC2.2, 2.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Relationship of course objectives and assessment tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objectives</th>
<th>Ethics Clearance Ungraded requirement</th>
<th>Thesis (100%)</th>
<th>Presentation Ungraded requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Interpret, critique research</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Develop and implement a research project</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Manage ethical issues</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Present information verbally, &amp; in writing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The University of Newcastle Graduate Attribute Policy (under development May 2007)
² Competency Based Occupational Standards for Speech Pathologists - Entry Level (Revised 2001, Speech Pathology Australia)
Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date (as negotiate with the honours convenor appropriate to individual projects). Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

Hard copy submission:

- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University Assessment Item Coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)
- **Assignments should be submitted to the Student Hub located at:**
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
- **Date-stamping assignments:** All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. If mailing an assignment, this should be address to the relevant School. Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.
- **Do not fax or email assignments:** Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

Online copy submission to Turnitin

In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website available @ [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

**Honours Thesis - 7,000 words: Completed thesis 100% W12**

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

**Penalties for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.


**Special Circumstances**

Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online. Refer - ‘Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items - Procedure 000641’ available @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)
Assignment Re-submission

Students who have failed an assignment which is required to establish clinical competency may be required to revise and resubmit it in this course. Students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Re-marks & Moderations

A student may only request a re-mark of an assessment item before the final result – in the course to which the assessment item contributes – has been posted. If a final result in the course has been posted, the student must apply under ‘Procedures for Appeal Against a Final Result’ (Refer - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/).

Students concerned at the mark given for an assessment item should first discuss the matter with the Course Coordinator. If subsequently requesting a re-mark, students should be aware that as a result of a re-mark the original mark may be increased or reduced. The case for a re-mark should be outlined in writing and submitted to the Course Coordinator, who determines whether a re-mark should be granted, taking into consideration all of the following:

1. whether the student had discussed the matter with the Course Coordinator
2. the case put forward by the student for a re-mark
3. the weighting of the assessment item and its potential impact on the student’s final mark or grade
4. the time required to undertake the re-mark
5. the number of original markers, that is,
   a) whether there was a single marker, or
   b) if there was more than one marker whether there was agreement or disagreement on the marks awarded.

A re-mark may also be initiated at the request of the Course Coordinator, the Head of School, the School Assessment Committee, the Faculty Progress and Appeals Committee or the Pro Vice-Chancellor. Re-marks may be undertaken by:

1. the original marker; or
2. an alternate internal marker; or
3. an alternate external marker (usually as a consequence of a grievance procedure).

Moderation may be applied when there is a major discrepancy (or perceived discrepancy) between:

1. the content of the course as against the content or nature of the assessment item(s)
2. the content or nature of the assessment item(s) as against those set out in the Course Outline
3. the marks given by a particular examiner and those given by another in the same course
4. the results in a particular course and the results in other courses undertaken by the same students.

For further detail on this University policy refer - ‘Re-marks and Moderations - Procedure 000769’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html

Return of Assignments

Students can collect assignments from the Shortland Student Hub during office hours. Students will be informed during class as to the earliest date that assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.


Preferred Referencing Style

In this course, it is required that you use the use APA referencing system for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.
An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote or specific information includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors’ last names (or by titles for works without authors).

For information about APA – see:

For further information on referencing and general study skills refer - ‘Infoskills’ available @ www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html

Students are also encouraged to make use of ‘Endnote’ software – a reference data base which allows you to select your referencing format style – and which is available at no charge via the library – see:

Student Representatives

Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

Refer - ‘Information for Student Representatives on Committees’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/committees/student_reps/index.html

Student Communication

Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students

Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services is available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html

Description of Assessment Tasks

1. SPTH4440 – Ethics clearance notification. An electronic copy is to be submitted by Week 4 into the digital drop box or hard copy delivered directly to the course co-ordinator.

2. SPTH4440 – Completed thesis (7,000 words, 100%). TWO hard copies of thesis to be handed in Friday 4pm, Week 12. Submit in the first instance electronically through turnitin (located within the Blackboard site for this course). Submit the two hard copies directly to the honours convenor, Dr Sally Hewat.

The Completed Work needs to be a highly polished written thesis that has covered the key literature in the research area, has developed a coherent line of argument for posing a particular research question, and has proposed a valid and feasible methodology for addressing the question. This thesis brings together the work commenced in the previous course (SPTH4210 Research Review), with the further work done on the literature review during this semester, along with data collected, analysed and discussed with reference to the literature, including a discussion of any theoretical and clinical implications as appropriate.

HARD COPIES: two copies of the Completed Work – one will be marked and returned to the student, and one will be made available to staff, students and clinicians via the School of Humanities and Social
Sciences Post-graduate Reading Room. The size of the paper shall be A4 Metric (approx. 21cm x 30 cm), and should be printed on one side of the paper only. The following information should be presented on separate pages in the following order:

- Title page showing thesis title, author's name in full, previous qualifications held in abbreviated form (e.g. B.Sc.) where appropriate, and the statement: "Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Speech Pathology degree, University of Newcastle, (month & year of submission)."

- After the title page, a page with the following declaration: "I hereby certify that the work embodied in this thesis is the result of original research" Signed (Your Signature). Each copy of the thesis should be signed individually by the candidate after printing and binding.

- Acknowledgements and/or a dedication should follow on a separate page. These entries are not part of the required format and are made at the student's discretion.

- A list of contents (with page numbers) shall appear next. (In addition to the list of contents, an index at the end of the work is optional.)

- A synopsis or abstract consisting of approximately 300 words should follow the list of contents.

The main body of the thesis shall be typed in 1.5 or double spacing. The student's own discretion should be used where variation in spacing is considered desirable for the presentation of tables, quotations. The font size shall be 12 pt, and clearly readable, e.g. Times, or Helvetica. Figures and tables may be integrated into the main body, or placed in Appendices at the student's discretion. The margin on each page should be not less than 3 cm on the left, 2.5 cm on the right, 2.5 cm at the top, and 2 cm at the bottom. Pages should be numbered consecutively.

The organisation of material will vary depending on the nature of different theses, and students should consult the lecturer with regard to the structure of their work. The different sections or chapters of the work should be headed, and students should consider using sub-headings as needed to guide the reader. If there is to be considerable cross-referencing of information from one section to another, students should consider using a numbering system.

Each copy shall be bound in 'system board' with either coil binding or 3 hole stapling. The student is free to select a plain colour of their own choice for the board and binding. The front cover will have the full title of the thesis, the full name of the student, The University of Newcastle, and the year submitted.

For the Completed Work (100%), marks will be allocated as follows:

- Evidence of independent, relevant and comprehensive reading 10
- Previous research subjected to theoretical and methodological critique 15
- Line of argument justifies significance of question 5
- Arguments are supported 10
- Appropriateness of proposed methodology to research direction 10
- Validity/reliability of research methods 10
- Validity/reliability of data analysis 10
- Research findings/results clearly stated and discussed with reference to previous literature 15
- Writing style is coherent and meets academic publication standards 10
- Presentation (incl. proofreading, spelling, referencing) meets academic publication standards 5

Total Mark 100
3. SPTH4440 – Presentation (ungraded requirement). Friday 27th November (times to be confirmed). It is expected that students will attend all presentations, except where clinic commitments exist. Wherever possible, students who are off-campus for clinical work, are to seek to negotiate leave from clinic for this examination. Individual arrangements will be made where this is not possible.

Information about the presentation
Students will select the type of presentation: either 10-15 minute short papers, or poster presentations. Short papers will involve formal conference style presentation to an audience of peers, staff, and invited guests, and may involve the use of audio-visual aids. Poster presentations will involve the visual display of key information about the research, as well as the provision of further information verbally in response to individual queries during a poster session. Students will have access to video player, overhead projector, whiteboard, and tape player, and data projector (IBM, powerpoint software) facilities. Posters need to be suitable for affixing to particle-board display boards, or to walls by blu-tack.
Speech Pathology  

Honours Marking Procedure

Examination
Students submit two copies for examination. Two examiners are appointed who are both INDEPENDENT of the thesis, i.e. not involved as lecturer, supervisor, or consultant to the thesis. At least one of the examiners is EXTERNAL, i.e. an experienced qualified speech pathologist with experience in tertiary teaching and thesis marking.

Both examiners use the same marking criteria as supplied to students in the course information, and provide comments on the marking sheet supplied. The examiners’ marks are provided to students in order to provide specific feedback to students, but their marks are NOT the final mark for the thesis (see below).

One copy of the thesis is kept as the ‘library’ copy (ie available for other students in later years to consult), and one copy of the thesis is returned to the student.

Final Thesis Mark
The final mark for the thesis is the average of the two examiners’ marks. If there is a difference of ten percentage points or more in the assessment between the two examiners, a third examiner is to be used (not the supervisor). In all cases where three examiners are used, the final mark shall be an average of the two closest marks except where there is disparity between the written report of the examiners and the mark awarded.

There are no other assessable items within this course. For this reason, students are required to complete two ungraded requirements are provided with an expected timeline for completion of each milestone involved in the research process. Students are also strongly encouraged to maintain regular contact with their thesis supervisor for feedback on work submitted at each milestone.

Course Mark & Grade
The final mark for the thesis also forms the final mark for the course (SPTH4440 Speech Pathology Honours Thesis), which determines the Grade. However, in addition to the assessable thesis, the student must also complete two upgraded requirements for the course; (1) Proof of ethical clearance to run the research project and (2) a formal presentation of the research findings at an appropriate forum as discussed and negotiated with the project supervisor and Honours convenor.

Determination of Honours & level of Honours
The determination of Honours and the level of Honours is made in accordance with the procedures stated below. Briefly, students must obtain a high overall academic performance in all 3000/4000 level courses, AND a high standard of performance in the ‘Research Component’ comprised of SPTH4440 Speech Pathology Honours Thesis and SPTH4210 Research Review.
Honours
General Information

Structure
The honours structure in the Bachelor of Speech Pathology will conform to the University of Newcastle’s ‘embedded + honours’ structure. Students undertaking Honours take no longer to complete the four year (320 unit) degree, but are required to complete a ‘Research Component’ of 30 units of research related courses: one 10 unit research related course at 4000 level; (SPTH4210 Research Review, which is a prescribed course for all students in the degree), and one research thesis with a unit value of 20 units at 4000 level (comprised of one 20 unit course ‘SPTH4440 Speech Pathology Honours Thesis’. For student accepted into the Honours stream, this means that they undertake two (not four) elective subjects.

Entry
To be considered for the award of Honours, students will have had a written application approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Education and Arts. This application is to be made at the completion of the 10 unit research related course at 4000 level (SPTH4210 Research Review).

Students must also have achieved the following high academic performance up until the point where the Research Component in integrated (i.e. All courses taken since enrolment in the Bachelor of Speech pathology degree up until, but not including SPTH4210 Research review):

- Grade point Average (GPA) of 5.5 or more over the program:
  AND
- GPA of 5.5 at the 3000/4000 level of the program.

Students must then enrol in SPTH4440 Speech Pathology Honours Thesis.

Grading of the Degree
The awarding of Honours is recommended for those students whose performance is considered of sufficient merit, i.e. not all students who enter the Honours stream will necessarily be awarded with Honours.

There are three classes of the award of Honours:
- Class I
- Class II, Division 1
- Class II, Division 2

The criteria for each class of honours are as follows:

Class I: both GPA of 6.0 or more in the 3000/4000 level courses undertaken and an average of 85 or over in the Research Component (30 units);

If a student fails to satisfy the criteria for Class I Honours, they may be offered:

Class II Division 1 provided they have either:

- both a GPA of 6.0 or more in the 3000/4000 level courses undertaken and an average of 75 or over in the Research Component (30 units);
- both a GPA of 5.5 or more in the 3000/4000 level courses undertaken and an average of 85 or over in the Research Component (30 units);

If a student fails to satisfy the criteria for Class II Division 1 Honours, they may be offered:

Class II Division 2 provided they have both a GPA of 5.5 or more in the 3000/4000 level courses undertaken and an average of 65 or over in the Research Component (30 units).

Students who fail to satisfy the criteria for Honours but who have successfully passed each course within the Research Component are able to be awarded the Bachelor of Speech Pathology degree (assuming all other degree program requirements are met).

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4 The criteria and method for the determination of Honours in the Bachelor of Speech Pathology is based on the embedded+ Honours Models Structures – Policy 000743. http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000743.html
5 Students are also encouraged to complete SPTH4211 as another of the elective courses prior to SPTH4440 as part of the honours elective stream.
## Self-directed Learning Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Self-directed Learning Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July</td>
<td>Review your research question – identify any inter-library (‘GET IT’) Requests that need to be made &amp; organise these</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; August</td>
<td>Reading specific reference works on methodologies, drafting rationale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; August</td>
<td>Review data collection and analysis (consult with Kim Colyvas if required)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4    | 17<sup>th</sup> August | Approved Ethics Application - submit to Honours Convenor (Ungraded Requirement)  
Arranging meeting with Honours Convenor to Review progress |
| 5    | 24<sup>th</sup> August | Review data collection procedure (participant recruitment) |
| 6    | 31<sup>st</sup> August | Draft Outline for Methodology for Thesis |
| 7    | 7<sup>th</sup> September | Data collection and analysis |
| 8    | 14<sup>th</sup> September | Data collection and analysis (consult with Kim Colyvas if required) |
| 9    | 21<sup>st</sup> September | Arrange meeting with Honours Convenor to Review progress |
|      |                  | **Mid-Semester Recess:** |
| 10   | 12<sup>th</sup> October | Final literature searching, reading, re-drafting process |
| 11   | 19<sup>th</sup> October | Penultimate draft, proof-reading |
| 12   | 26<sup>th</sup> October | Research thesis due - 7,000 words (100%) |
| 13   | 2<sup>nd</sup> November | Prepare & rehearse (timing!) of presentation  
Verbal presentation of research - conference style (Ungraded Requirement) Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
(scheduled of presentations to be confirmed) |

**Examination Period:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November