TITLE: NURS 4318- Nurse as Research Consumer

COURSE DELIVERY: Blackboard (online)

FACULTY: Dr. Renee Ridley, RN, PhD
Island Hall 347
Office: (361) 825-2238
E-mail: renee.ridley@tamucc.edu
Office hours: Mon 9a-1p; Friday 2-4p (online office)

HOURS: 3 credit hours

PREREQUISITES: MATH 2342, NURS 3614

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of theory and research as a base for nursing practice. Critically analyzes published research studies with regard to implications for clinical practice. The course is planned for collaborative peer examination of the research process through critique of nursing studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the need to base nursing practice on theory and creditable research findings.
   a. Describe the scientific basis of a practice discipline.
   b. Explain the relationship between nursing theory development and nursing research.
   c. Identify clinical nursing problems that need scientific investigation.
   d. State usual barriers to the use of theory and research findings to improve clinical practice.
   e. Analyze the ethical, legal, political, and economic dimensions of research studies and various ways of knowing.

2. Analyze the steps of the research process.
   a. In selected research reports, identify the steps of the research process.
   b. Identify the decision points and options considered by the investigator as the research process is implemented.
   c. Distinguish among different research designs and identify the purposes, strengths, and weaknesses of each.
d. Utilize electronic communication to search data bases and disseminate findings.

e. Analyze basic characteristics of data collection methods.

f. Evaluate data quality in quantitative and qualitative reports.

3. Judge the value of selected nursing research studies by use of criteria.

a. Describe selected research studies.

b. Systematically critique the research process in each study.

c. Utilize critical thinking to summarize the strengths and weaknesses of selected study.

d. Relate each study to its theoretical base and to clinical practice.

e. Following a systematic critique, state and defend a decision regarding utilization of the findings in clinical practice.

f. Communicate research findings clearly, concisely, and in a cogent manner via written and verbal communication.

4. Integrate selected adult principles and processes into the learning experience.

a. Accept responsibility for prior class preparation and active participation in each class meeting.

b. Evaluate own progress toward achievement of long term goals within the nursing profession.

c. Participate in the creation of a positive learning environment.

d. Incorporate selected elements of own practice throughout the learning experience.


GRADING PROCEDURES: The College letter grading scales for all programs consist of the following:

A -------- 90 to 100
B -------- 83 to 89
C -------- 75 to 82
D -------- 67 to 74
F -------- 66 & Below
The course grade will be determined in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #1 Research Question &amp; Database Search</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #2 Retrieved Publications w/ APA Reference List</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Ethics Module (online)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #3 Critiques (10 POINTS EACH)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #4 PowerPoint Presentation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (HESI)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation as determined by Journal Club Peers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRADED ASSIGNMENTS/MODULE:**

Students are expected to follow instructions associated with the activities for this course. Instructions for all graded activities are posted in Blackboard under the Information Icon. Due dates for assignments will be posted in the Assignments section of Blackboard. Assignments will be turned in via the “assignments drop box” unless otherwise specified by the professor. Students who are confused about an assignment should contact the faculty member in a timely manner to ensure satisfactory completion of the assignment on the date it is due. Unless otherwise instructed, students should use the APA Publication Manual, 6th Edition as a reference for formatting and organizing written assignments. *Points will be deducted for poorly written papers.* Late papers will be assessed a 5 point deduction for each day it is late.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

The highest level of on-line etiquette, respect and professional communication is expected. Inappropriate or obscene language or implied obscene communications will result in an immediate meeting with the professor, documentation of the meeting and discussion, and may include other consequences. Making disparaging remarks about other classmates, the professor, racial, ethnic or gender groups will not be tolerated. Such behavior will result in an immediate meeting with the professor, documentation of the meeting and discussion, and may include other consequences. The Internet is not an appropriate forum for voicing anger and hostility at another person. All participants are expected to communicate directly and personally with that person when these occur; a face-to-face meeting is more appropriate in these situations.

Students should review the TAMU-CC catalog and student handbook if they are unsure of the attributes of acceptable behavior. Faculty will take actions to eliminate any behavior that interferes with class activities. The Academic Integrity Guide available on the College of Nursing and Health Sciences web
site outlines additional actions that faculty may take when students violate the
Academic Integrity Standards of the College.

There is one scheduled examination in this class: HESI final. This exam will be
given only on the date and time scheduled. A make-up examination will be
provided only in an extraordinary circumstance. Students must provide
documentation of the circumstance. Students who are absent from an
examination for any reason must call the faculty prior to the examination.
Students who do not call before an examination will receive a zero for that
examination and will not be eligible to take a make-up examination except for
an extreme circumstance. Any make-up exam must be completed within two
business days of the original exam date or at the discretion of the course faculty.
Students must take the exam individually and without assistance from another
person. Students are not permitted to use their textbooks, or notes or any other
textbooks to assist them to answer questions on the exam.

**STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS:**
All nursing courses require a 70% return of evaluations from the entire class
before final grades are released. The College is anticipating that students will
thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process, which will assist the faculty
with the growth of the specific tracks within the CONHS. A link to evaluations
will be available on Blackboard toward the end of the semester.

**LIBRARY RESOURCES:**
There are many resources on the Mary & Jeff Bell Library website:
(http://rattler.tamucc.edu/). The home page will take students to links for online
databases, online articles, the online catalog, and interlibrary loan requests. The
“Distance Learning” (http://rattler.tamucc.edu/distlearn/index.htm) link will be
especially helpful to all students. This site includes all the information students
need for remote access as well as tutorials on using the databases and finding
articles. If eligible, registering as a distance student confers eligibility for a
TexShare card. These cards are a Texas wide library card that allows users to
use all state libraries in Texas. The cards will be mailed to students, so be sure
mailing addresses are current in the University system. For any questions about
receiving the TexShare card, please contact Dan Cayce:
Daniel.cayce@tamucc.edu

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination
statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with
disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with
disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable
accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability
requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at
361.825.5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.
**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to a penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work.)

http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~students/JAffairs/ja_code_of_conduct_article3.htm

There is a zero tolerance policy for Academic dishonesty in this class. Students entering the profession of nursing are held to the highest standards of ethical behavior. These standards include but are not limited to **not giving, receiving, or tolerating unauthorized aid.** Please refer to the University Catalogue, Student Handbook College Student Handbook for descriptions of academic dishonesty. If you violate the rules of academic honesty you **will** receive an F in this course and you may be dismissed from the program.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING:**

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences require that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Island Hall on third floor, and advisors are Rachael Verhayden 825-3748 and Angelica Santillan 825-2461.

**GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:**

As stated in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) Handbook under section VII Policies and Procedures, a student that believes they have an academic grade appeal is encouraged to go through the CONHS academic review process prior to pursuing University Grade Appeal. See the handbook for the process.

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University RulesWeb site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.