Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
College of Nursing & Health Sciences

NURS 4318 – Nurse as Research Consumer
Spring 2013

Faculty: Meng Zhao, Ph.D., R.N.
Office: Island Hall 350E
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10 am – 12 pm
In-person or telephone meetings by appointment

Telephone: 361.825.3279
Cell: 919.619.5874
Fax: 361.825.2484

Email: Meng.Zhao@tamucc.edu

Students are encouraged to communicate with the faculty as needed to facilitate their learning. Telephone calls & email notes will be addressed in a timely fashion.

Prerequisites

MATH 1342 or MATH 1442 or MATH 2342; NURS 3614: Fundamentals of Nursing Care

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 Overview:

For the purposes of this course, nursing research is defined as scientific inquiry applied to the phenomena of concern to the profession of nursing. It encompasses the validation of knowledge, the generation of new knowledge and refining existing knowledge. The International Council of Nursing further defines “nursing research is a systematic enquiry that seeks to add new nursing knowledge to benefit patients, families and communities. It encompasses all aspects of health that are of interest to nursing, including promotion of health, prevention of illness, care of people of all ages during illness and recovery or towards a peaceful and dignified death”. (ICN 2009)

Semester Credit Hours: 3

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:
1) Understand the need to base nursing practice on theory and creditable research finds.
   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 databases 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.

Required Textbooks:


Required Reference:

Learning Experiences & Teaching Methods

The course objectives may be met through individual study using the required texts, resources suggested throughout the semester, active involvement in classroom activities, and formal and informal exchange of ideas with classmates and colleagues regarding course topics. Teaching and learning methods will include seminar, discussion, critique and analysis, Socratic discussion, independent study of texts and library resources and the specific assignments in this document. While the professor will provide guidance and consultation, the student is responsible for identification of learning needs, self-direction, seeking consultation and demonstration of the achievement of the course objectives.

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Research Study Critique</td>
<td>April 23, 2013</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualitative Research Study Critique</td>
<td>April 30, 2013</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Club Project</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Question &amp; Database Search</td>
<td>March 19, 2013</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Retrieved Publications with APA Reference List</td>
<td>April 2, 2013</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly Presentation</td>
<td>April 23/30, 2013</td>
<td>(10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>May 7, 2013</td>
<td>(15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Ethics Module</td>
<td>February 12, 2013</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>HESI Exam</td>
<td>May 7, 2013</td>
<td>15</td>
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**Total**                               | 100            |

Discussion & Participation is expected of all students for each class period, not once or twice during the semester. If you are not in class, it is very difficult to participate!!

Evaluation is ongoing to enhance experiential learning, providing the student with feedback about performance in meeting the course objectives. Conferences with Dr. McDonald provide opportunities to discuss progress toward accomplishment of the course objectives. I use criterion referenced evaluation methods, therefore each student is ultimately evaluated on an individual basis.

Student Course Evaluations

All courses in the College of Nursing & Health Sciences require a 70% return of evaluations from the entire class before final grades are released. The faculty of the College expects
that students will thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process, which assists the College faculty in making curricular decisions including developing course content and presentation. A link to the course evaluation will be available in Blackboard toward the end of the semester.

**Classroom Policies:**

Classroom attendance is expected. Students are responsible for all information given during class. Students are expected to be considerate of others by being on time for class. Classroom assignments must be completed during the class period and absences will result in no credit for work assigned in class. Class work cannot be made up outside of class or in a later class period. In the event a student cannot make it to class, he or she should contact the course instructor; messages can be left on voice mail or Blackboard mail.

All cellular phones, iPods and other similar devices MUST BE TURNED OFF during class. Students using computers for class notes will be asked to put them away if they are reading email or conducting business not directly related to classroom activities.

**Graded Assignments including Ethics Module:**

Students are expected to follow instructions associated with the activities for this course. Instructions for all graded activities are posted in Blackboard in the Assignments area. In addition, paper copies are provided once on the first day of class. Students who are confused about an assignment should contact Dr. McDonald in a timely manner to ensure satisfactory completion of the assignment on the date it is due. **Late papers are rarely accepted. Assignments are made at the beginning of the semester thus allowing students sufficient time to plan the necessary work to accomplish the assigned course components. Exceptions would be considered for extreme and unplanned emergencies. No, the flu or a cold is not in this category.**

**Important Information**

**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 that 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.) Please review the Code of Conduct at [http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/Articles_-_PDF/Article%20III.pdf](http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/Articles_-_PDF/Article%20III.pdf). There is a zero tolerance policy for academic dishonesty in this class. If you violate the rules of academic honesty you will receive a grade of F in the course and you may be dismissed from the class.
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**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 the 3rd floor and advisors are Rachel 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 Rules web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](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.