TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – CORPUS CHRISTI  
COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES  

NURS 4318 – Nurse As Research Consumer  
SYLLABUS – FALL 2014  

Instructor:  Theresa J. Garcia, PhD, RN - Assistant Professor  
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Office Hours: By appointment – please use Bb mail to schedule appointments. Also, please feel free to e-mail me through Bb at any time.  

Prerequisites: Completion of MATH 1342, MATH 1442, or MATH 2342 and NURS 3614 - Fundamentals of Nursing Care  

Credit Hours: 3  

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.  

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 inquiry 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).  

Presentation: This course is delivered in a face-to-face format and uses online technology accessed at http://Bb9.tamucc.edu. Students will need PowerPoint, word processing, and possibly other software to complete some requirements of this course.  

Required Textbook:  

Required Reference:


**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.
Learning Experiences:
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 Communication Outside of Class:
The Blackboard (Bb) Mail tool is required for e-mail communication within the course. When contacting your instructor or co-learners in this course via e-mail, always use the Bb Mail tool rather than another e-mail account. This tool is accessed in the Bb Mail section of the Course Menu within the Bb course platform. Messages sent within Bb are archived within the course, thus eliminating lost correspondence.

Course Time Expectations:
All assignments are due by midnight on the specified due date in the course schedule unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor. Please note and remember that a 3 credit hour course requires a weekly time commitment of a 3-hour presence associated with 9 hours of preparation time. The time spent in the course is set by each student’s personal learning schedule. Students should review Bb mail and announcements within the course at least every 48 hours.

Course Requirements:
1. 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. Presence in the class is required for participation and will be monitored.
2. Active and frequent discussion and participation is a requirement of this course and is expected of all students for each and every class period. Disrespect in any form will NOT be tolerated.
3. All electronic devices including cellular phones, iPads, and iPods must be turned off during class. Computers may only be used when requested by the instructor to aid in classwork. Notes from class should be taken on paper.
4. Students are expected to have access to a computer that can support Bb applications and all related course materials. A backup plan should be in place if normal computer access becomes unavailable, i.e. arrange use of a computer elsewhere.
5. Any problems with technology, computer, internet, Bb or other applications should be dealt with through the IT (information technology) helpline at (361) 825-2692 or computer.helpline@tamucc.edu
6. Any problems understanding the assignments or due dates should be brought to the attention of the instructor, preferably within the first week of class.
7. In-class 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 via Bb mail. A colored highlighter is recommended for in-class assignments.

8. All assignments (outside of class) are due by midnight on the scheduled date unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor before the due date. Late work will be penalized with a 10% grade deduction/day for up to 3 days. However exceptions will be considered for extreme emergencies where pre-planning was not possible.

9. The instructor is expected to grade assignments within 2 weeks of submission.

10. All e-mail communication with the instructor should occur through Bb, unless otherwise noted. The instructor is expected to respond to e-mail messages within 48 hours. Students should review Bb mail and announcements at least every 48 hours.

11. Students should notify the faculty if they withdraw from the course and should not attempt to access course materials once they have withdrawn.

12. Students are expected to complete a course evaluation at the end of the course.

Guidelines for Form and Style of Written Assignments and Presentations:

Students are expected to follow instructions associated with the assignments for this course. Instructions for all graded activities are posted in Bb within the Unit to which they correspond. Students who are confused about an assignment should contact the instructor in a timely manner to ensure satisfactory completion of the assignment by the due date. Unless otherwise instructed, students must adhere to the APA Publication Manual, 6th or 7th Edition guidelines for formatting and organizing written assignments and presentations.

The campus Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA) provides writing support both in person and in an online format. The contact at the Center is Noel Ballmer at 361-825-2254 and the web link is http://casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php. Another writing resource is http://www.grammarly.com/edu. The College of Nursing & Health Sciences has purchased a license for students to use this website. Attached to an Item in the Resources section of your Blackboard course menu is a PDF instruction guide providing access information. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor to discuss your writing needs.

Academic Integrity:
The highest standards of academic honesty and conduct are expected from all students. 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/assets/Article%20III%202013. There is a zero tolerance policy for academic dishonesty in this class. If you violate the rules of academic integrity you will receive a grade of F in the course and you may be dismissed from the nursing program.
Some of the materials provided within this course are copyright protected by the publisher of the textbook and should not be used outside of the confines of the course.

*Plagiarism* is a specific form of cheating. Plagiarism means to steal and pass off the work [words or ideas] of another as one’s own work. It usually results from bad paraphrasing or improper referencing. The substitution of a few changes from those of the original author and forgetting to use quotation marks, and reference citation are technically considered plagiarism. The only safe way to paraphrase is to read the original over several times and then write your understanding of what you read without looking at the original. Keep the source book closed! (Wilson, H. (1985). *Research in Nursing.* Menlo Park, Ca., Addison Wesley)

Course Assignments and Grading (See Course Schedule/Assignments document for more detail.):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Honesty Statement</td>
<td>REQUIRED (Pass/Fail)</td>
<td>P/F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (3)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Ethics Modules (CITI Training)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation, Assignments, &amp; Discussions</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Research problem/question (in class)</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 Research critiques (in-class)</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 Film discussions</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Group Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (HESI)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 pts.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Grading Scale for College of Nursing and Health Sciences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASS/FAIL REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS:**

Academic Honesty Statement:
Within Unit 1 you will find the Academic Honesty Assignment. You are required to read the four sections of the document and complete the fifth section submitting a personal statement through the assignment area in Bb, certifying your compliance with the Academic Honesty policy.
GRADED ASSIGNMENTS and QUIZZES

Quizzes:
It is important that students comprehend the content in the assigned book chapters, articles, lectures, and activities in each unit in order to be able to understand and correctly complete the assigned projects. To evaluate comprehension, three 25-question quizzes, in multiple choice formats will be given. They will cover selected material presented in the required reading, lecture, and in-class discussions and activities.
*Quizzes will be open book, open notes and will be given during class time. You will be given 1 hour to complete each quiz and each will be worth 5 points. The total will count toward 15% of the final grade.

Research Ethics Modules (CITI Training):
Students are required to successfully complete online modules concerning the ethical and responsible conduct of research on human subjects provided by CITI training, specifically: SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH – BASIC/REFRESHER, BASIC COURSE consisting of 16 sub-modules. Specific instructions for accessing and completing these modules are provided within Unit 1 in Bb. A completion report will be generated by this website when all 16 sub-modules have been successfully completed. Each student should save this report (in pdf format) and submit it under this Assignment (within Unit 1 in Bb).
*This assignment is time-consuming (at least 4 hours for most students). It is recommended that students split these modules up and complete them in shorter intervals. This assignment is worth 10 points and counts toward 10% of the final grade.

Class Participation, Assignments, & Discussions:
As stated above, class attendance and participation is integral to learning the concepts within this course. The class participation/assignments/discussions grade is worth 25% of the final grade and will be assessed as follows:

- **Research problem/question group decision:** Students will discuss different research problems of interest to them and decide as a group which problem they will focus their final presentation on; then they will formulate a problem statement and research question and the group leader will send an e-mail to the instructor via Bb mail with the agreed on research problem statement and question. *Active participation in this group activity will be worth 5 points or 5% of the final grade;*

- **Two group research critiques:** Each student will be responsible for printing and critiquing a *quantitative* research article and a *qualitative* research article chosen by the instructor. Students will work during class time in groups using a critique sheet (supplied by the instructor) to critique each study, with instructor guidance. The group leader will submit the critique form with the group’s final answers to the instructor by the end of class. *Each critique is worth 5 points for a total of 10 points or 10% of the final grade.*

- **Two film discussions:** Discussion posts on Bb will address specific questions posed by the instructor concerning films presented in class. Follow the directions in the
Discussion Board on Bb. Each student is also required to respond to at least 2 classmate’s posts. Each discussion can be accessed from the specific Unit in which the film is presented. Each film discussion will be worth 5 points for a total of 10 points or 10% of the final grade.

Final Group Presentation:
The purpose of this final assignment is to provide students an opportunity to systematically locate, identify, analyze, and determine the usefulness of a research article to answer or inform a specific nursing practice question. This assignment helps students to identify the design, method, results and implications of a given study; to evaluate its worth to nursing practice; and to present their findings to their peers in a dynamic and engaging fashion.
*The requirements and rubric for this assignment can be found within Unit 4 in Bb. This final assignment is worth 30 points and will count toward 30% of the final grade.

Final Exam (HESI):
The final exam will be a HESI formatted exam consisting of 55 multiple choice questions covering the major concepts covered in this course. A general blueprint for the concepts covered in the exam will be provided. The exam will count toward 20% of the final grade.

Other Important Information:

Academic Advising:
The College of Nursing and Health Sciences requires 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.

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.

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 Rule 13.02.99.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://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Syllabus Disclaimer:** While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, the faculty reserves the right to change non-critical aspects of the course to accommodate emergencies, unexpected technical problems, or any unforeseen circumstances. Such changes will be announced as soon as feasible and will be communicated by course email or announcements via Blackboard. It is the STUDENT’S responsibility to keep abreast of course announcements. Questions regarding course requirements should be addressed when the syllabus is received, within the first week of the course. (TG 08/2014)