NURS 4318-001 – Nurse As Research Consumer
SYLLABUS – SUMMER 2015

Instructor: Theresa J. Garcia, PhD, RN - Assistant Professor
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E-mail: Theresa.garcia@tamucc.edu
Office Hours: To be announced after 1st class day; please use Bb mail to schedule in-person appointments outside of office hours. 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 blended format including both face-to-face lecture and online units using 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.


Course Objectives: Upon completion of the course, you 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 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 exchange of ideas with classmates and colleagues regarding course topics. Teaching and learning methods will include seminar, discussion, critique and analysis, and independent study of texts and library resources. While I, the professor, will provide guidance and consultation, you, the student, are 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 me or your 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 11:59 pm on the specified due date in the course schedule unless prior arrangements are made with me. 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 your 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. You are responsible for all information given during class. You are expected to be considerate of others by being on time for class. Your 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. Use of any electronic devices including phones, laptops, and other devices is expected to be done in a respectful manner. These devices are more than welcome for use as adjuncts to learning in class but should not detract from learning. Disrespect of this request will affect your grade.
4. You 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 my attention, preferably within the first week of class.
7. In-class quizzes and 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 me, prior to the class, via Bb mail.
8. All assignments (outside of class) are due by 11:59 pm 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, after which a 0 will be recorded. However exceptions will be considered for extreme emergencies.
9. You can expect for me to grade assignments within 2 weeks of submission.
10. All e-mail communication with me should occur through Bb, unless otherwise noted. You can expect me to respond to e-mail messages within 48 hours. Please ensure that...
the e-mail connected to Bb (generally your Islander e-mail, unless you have manually changed this) is one that you check at least every 48 hours – this is where you will receive vital course announcements and emergency messages.

11. You should notify me if you withdraw from the course and should not attempt to access course materials once you have withdrawn.

12. You are respectfully requested to complete a course evaluation at the end of the course.

Guidelines for Form and Style of Written Assignments and Presentations:
You 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. If you are confused about an assignment please contact me in a timely manner to ensure satisfactory completion of the assignment by the due date. **Unless otherwise instructed**, you 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](http://casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php). Another writing resource is [http://www.grammarly.com/edu](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 me 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](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 for more detail.):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Honesty Statement</td>
<td>REQUIRED (Pass/Fail)</td>
<td>P/F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Class Quizzes (5)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Ethics Modules (CITI Training)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Quizzes (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Critique Paper (Groups of 2)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Research Project/Presentation (Groups of 6)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (HESI)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 pts.</strong></td>
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Grading Scale for College of Nursing and Health Sciences:

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

**Pre-Class Quizzes:**
Preparation for class (by reading assigned chapters, articles, and textbook provided PowerPoint presentations) is essential to learning the concepts within this course and to your success on the HESI final exam. There will be a required pre-class quiz on Bb for you to take the day before each class meeting. These quizzes (5) will include the content to be covered in class that week and will usually include 10 questions – from your textbook and PowerPoints. Quizzes will be due by midnight the day before class in order to get full credit. Each quiz will be worth 2 points on your final grade.

*Full points on all quizzes will total 10 points and will count toward 10% of your final grade.*
Class Participation and Discussion:
I do expect that each of you will have some questions while learning this material, and that many of you will have comments, suggestions, or experiences to relate in relationship to the topics of the conduct of research and its ethics. Your participation grade will be based on your success in verbally asking and answering questions about the research-related information you are presented with in this course during class lectures, discussions, and in-class activities or projects. The following in-class activities will be worth 1 point each and will be awarded if you are in class AND you actively participate: (1) Group Problem/Question (each group submits via Bb); (2) Miss Ever’s Boys (debate); (3) Who wants to be a researcher? (review game); (4) Qualitative Research Critique (each group submits hard copy in class); and (5) Journal Club Feud (review game).

*Your participation grade is worth 5 points and will count toward 5% of your final grade.

Research Ethics Modules (CITI Training):
You are required to successfully complete 16 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. This assignment is time-consuming (at least 4 hours for most students) but not difficult. I recommend that you split these modules up and complete them in shorter intervals.

*Specific instructions for accessing and completing these modules are provided within Unit 1 in Bb. This assignment is worth 15 points and counts toward 15% of your final grade.

Unit Quizzes:
To evaluate comprehension of concepts, two (35 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 and will be comprehensive.

*Quizzes will be given during class time within Lockdown Browser and will be available on quiz day. You will be given 1 hour to complete each quiz and each will be worth 5 points. The total will count toward 10% of the final grade.

Research Critique Paper:
You will be asked to choose a partner with which to complete this assignment. It is best to pair up with someone who is strong where you are weak and vice-versa. Each pair of students will turn in a 5-page paper (not including reference list) that critiques a specific article (assigned to you by me) using the guidelines provided within the assignment. This assignment helps you to identify the design, method, results and implications of a given study; to evaluate its value to nursing practice; and to present your findings in a scholarly manner.

*The requirements and rubric for this assignment can be found within Unit 3 in Bb. This paper is worth 15 points and will count toward 15% of your final grade.

Group Research Project:
The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with an opportunity to conduct your own research study, a review of the literature. In groups of approximately 6, based on your research interests, you will work together to define and describe the “state of the science” of a particular
nursing intervention or practice that is of interest to your group. You will present your findings in a research conference poster presentation format (done on PowerPoint). Peer review is included in this assignment (5 out of 20 points are determined by your peers’ evaluation of your performance and value to the group.)

*The requirements and rubric for this assignment can be found within Unit 4 in Bb. *This final assignment is worth 20 points and will count toward 20% of your final grade (group grade).*

**Final Exam (HESI):**
The final exam will be a HESI formatted exam consisting of 55 multiple choice questions on 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 25% of your 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 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://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 01/2015)