Faculty: Mary Jane Hamilton, RN, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Hamilton Wed 4-6, All others by appt.

Virtual Office Hours: Monday 7-9 pm

Phone: Office 825-2649, Cell 361-834-5000

Internet: mary.hamilton@tamucc.edu

Outreach Phone: 1-800-293-0965

Fax: 361-825-2484

Credits: 3 credit hours

Prerequisites: MATH 1442, 1342, or 2342

Course Description:
The course is a study of theory and research as a base for nursing practice. The student will critically analyze 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 research studies. Prerequisite courses Statistics, all first semester courses. This course meets the core curriculum requirements for the computer equivalency.

Course Objectives with examples of outcome criteria:
1. Understands the need to base nursing practice on theory and creditable research findings.
   a. Describes the scientific basis of a practice discipline.
   b. Explains the relationship between nursing theory development and nursing research.
   c. Identifies clinical nursing problems that need scientific investigation.
   d. States 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. Analyzes the steps of the research process.
   a. In selected research reports, identifies the steps of the research process.
   b. Identifies the decision points and options considered by the investigator as the research process is implemented.
   c. Distinguishes among different research designs and identifies the purposes, strengths, and weaknesses of each.
   d. Utilizes electronic communication to search databases and disseminate findings.
   e. Analyzes basic characteristics of data collection methods.
   f. Evaluates data quality in quantitative and qualitative reports.

3. Judges the value of selected nursing research studies by use of criteria.
   a. Describes selected research studies.
   b. Systematically critiques the research process in each study.
   c. Utilizes critical thinking to summarize the strengths and weaknesses of selected study.
   d. Relates each study to its theoretical base and to clinical practice.
   e. Following a systematic critique states and defends a decision regarding utilization of the findings in clinical practice.
   f. Communicates research findings clearly, concisely, and in a cogent manner via written and verbal communication.

4. Integrates selected adult principles and processes into the learning experience.
   a. Accepts responsibility for prior class preparation and active participation in each class meeting.
   b. Evaluates own progress toward achievement of long-term goals within the nursing profession.
   c. Participates in the creation of a positive learning environment.
   d. Incorporates selected elements of own practice throughout the learning experience.

Required Textbooks:

OWL at Purdue APA (online reference for APA)


Learning Experiences and Teaching Methods:
Course objectives may be met through individual study using suggested resources, active involvement in virtual classroom activities, formal and informal exchange of ideas with classmates and colleagues regarding specific topics as well as utilizing critical thinking skills. Teaching methods include lecture notes, interactive exercises, threaded discussion, small group work, independent study of texts and library resources, computer assisted instruction, audiovisual aids and assignments. While the professor provides guidance and consultation, the student is responsible for identification of
learning needs, self-direction, seeking consultation and demonstration of course objectives. Interactive classes will focus on evaluation, application and utilization of the concepts covered in the assigned readings and activities. **ALWAYS** approach the class module ready to actively participate and discuss the assigned topics. *(See Requirements for specific criteria).*

Grading is a process of measuring the outcome of learning against standards and assigning a symbol to the level of performance achieved. The final determination of the grade, therefore, rests with the professor.

**Web Class Responsibilities**

1. Students are expected to respect the learning rights of others in the virtual classroom, use of inflammatory remarks, not observing netiquette, and lack of respect for others are unacceptable behaviors, disruptive and considered non-contributive to a positive learning environment.

2. Students are expected to complete all required readings prior to the end of each Lesson. As a 3-semester credit course, faculty expects 9 - 12 hours of independent preparation and study each week.

3. Faculty will respond to your posts and assignments within 48 hours. Reviews and grading may take longer. Likewise students need to respond to faculty within 48 hours of faculty response. Waiting several weeks to respond to posts or reviews impede acquisition or knowledge and impede learning.

4. As eLine is an online learning environment students are expected to log-in to the LMS at least daily. While printing of course materials is allowed, be mindful that the content is copyrighted through TAMUCC and the adopted text is for personal use only. No content may be shared or disseminated in anyway, including via facebook, you tube, or other social media. Clinical examples cannot be recorded due to patient confidentiality and HIPAA regulations. Students are expected to act in a professional manner and are accountable for their behaviors and learning.

**Blackboard and Computer Issues**

1. You must log on to the Bb site at least two times a week.

2. Students having difficulty with computer issues will contact Abby Gonzales for assistance. [https://iol.tamucc.edu/support/](https://iol.tamucc.edu/support/) or call **361-825-2825 (Local) or 1-866-353-2491 (Long Distance)**

3. Blackboard tracks your progress in the class and maintains an individual grade-book for you. You may access it any time.

4. The calendar may be used for your personal entries and they are not visible to anyone but you.

5. Instruction specific to the Web Class is located [http://iol.support@tamucc.edu](http://iol.support@tamucc.edu)

6. The research critiques are to be written in APA format (language usage, spelling, grammar, and citation/reference format). Papers not in APA format will not be accepted for grading. An example of the acceptable
format for all papers turned in for this course may be found in your at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

7. The final exam will be a HESI exam and will be scheduled by Ms. Goodman. Nancy.goodman@tamucc.edu. You must contact Ms. Goodman when you have completed all quizzes, final exams and assignments. Out of town students must make arrangements at approved proctored sites. A list of testing sites is listed at the e-line site. Tests will be videoed and personally monitored; no cell phones or any other materials are allowed during testing. Students violating this policy will receive a 0 on their test. There is a nominal fee for most out of testing sites.

8. Each module has specific criteria, reading assignments, assignments and tests. Percentages for the modules are included.

9. Timelines for assignments and tests are included in the syllabus.

10. WebEX meetings will be held weekly and students may attend in person or access from site.

**Evaluation & Grading Policy**

In order to pass NURS 4318, students much complete all module requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module One: PRA 102</th>
<th>5%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature Search</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Article Review</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module One Quiz</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Two: PRB 207</th>
<th>40%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Research Critique</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Two Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Three: PRB 208</th>
<th>20%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Research Critique</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Three Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Module Four: PRB 209</th>
<th>15%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Utilization Project</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module Four Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
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| Comprehensive Exam (HESI) | 20% |
| Total                      | 100% |
2. A combined average of $\geq 75\%$ on end of module quizzes, including the end of course exam. **Students who do not achieve a $>74.5\%$ quiz average including the end of course exam will receive a D or F for the course based on their exam average.** That is, the average of quizzes and end of course exam must be $>75.4\%$ for all other coursework to count into the final grade. In calculating the final grade, only the final overall course grade will be rounded. If you have not used your quiz reset over the course of the semester, at the end you may request a quiz reset for your choice of one final module quiz.

3. A score of 800 or better must be achieved on the end of course exam (HESI). Students who do not achieve a score of 800 or better will be required to retake the exam after sufficient evidence of remediation is submitted. Cost of the second exam is the student’s responsibility.

Remediation Evidence: If you score less than 800 on the end of course exam, you will be required to do the exam remediation through the Evolve website. You will be required to upload as many screen shots as needed to show evidence of at least 2 hours of time in remediation efforts in Evolve. Your remediation efforts will be reviewed by the instructor. This must include more than adding content items to a study packet. Screen shots will be uploaded to the Remediation Portfolio assignment tab in Blackboard. Students will not be permitted to take the 2nd attempt of the end of course exam until sufficient evidence of remediation is submitted.

**Grading scale for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, School of Nursing & Health Sciences is:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<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>65-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-64</td>
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</tbody>
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**Late Work:**

Course assignments and quizzes/tests submitted late will be subject to point deductions as follows: 5 points per week

In the event that a student is aware they may need to submit an assignment late due to illness or other circumstances, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the professor prior to the due date. Deductions for late assignments with special circumstances and notification before the due date may be waived at the professor’s discretion.

**Dropping a Class:**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with Dr. Hamilton before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you
must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. (For distance students, there is a mechanism to drop where you do not have to come to campus). Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Faculty cannot drop you from a course. Students enrolling in eLine prior to January 2012 have a year to complete their courses. eLine Military students prior to January 2014 have three semesters to complete the course.

**Code of Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to adhere to the rules of their educational institution. Details can be found in the University's student handbook as well as the CONHS student handbook.

[College of Nursing & Health Science Student Handbook](#)
[Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Student Affairs](#)

**Academic Honesty**

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 including purchasing or obtaining tests or test-banks from websites, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work.)


**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 3rd floor of Island Hall, and the eLine advisor is Crystal Ramirez IH 318 Phone: (361) 825-3617.

**Student Course Evaluations:**

Evaluation of courses, instructors and clinical facilities provides the College with important data, which is used to strengthen the program. Please be assured that this information is secured and not released until after grades are submitted. In order to garner reliability and validity, the College must have representative data from the student population. That representation based on the literature has been set at 75%. All nursing courses require a 75% 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.

**Mary Jeff Bell Library:**
There are many resources on the Mary & Jeff Bell Library (http://rattler.tamucc.edu/) website. 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

Center for Academic Achievement (CASA):
The Center for Academic Student Achievement offers a variety of services, including a writing center. For more information about all of these services, go to the website: http://tlc.tamucc.edu/ or call 361-825-5933

Disabilities Accommodations*
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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
*SACs requirement

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.

**Military:**
Active duty military personnel, military spouses, and veterans with special circumstances (e.g., deployment, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the course and clinical instructor.

**Pregnancy:**
If you are pregnant or become pregnant during the semester, please notify the instructor for possible necessary accommodations.

**Spring 2015 Schedule:**
- Do not start this course unless you intend to finish within 14 weeks. This is not a course where you can start and stop, it interferes with your learning and will impede understanding of the concepts.
- The deadlines are firm, many lessons can be completed in less time. Some students have completed in 8 weeks, this is semester bound course so you need to plan accordingly.
- Students who are semester bound or if you need to finish this course this semester must do so or will receive a failing grade. This means all work is to be finished by May.

**Grading Criteria for the Quantitative Critique:**
1. (10) points Introduction, problem, statement purpose.
2. (10) points Review of literature and theoretical framework
3. (10) points Hypotheses or Research Questions
4. (10) points Sample
5. (10) points Research design
6. (10) points Internal and external validity
7. (10) points Data Collection, Instruments and Reliability & Validity
8. (10) points Analysis of data
9. (10) points Conclusion, implications, and recommendations, applicability to Nursing
10. (10) APA format & grammar

**Criteria for Qualitative Critique**
1. (10) points Introduction and APA format
2. (10) points Statement of Phenomena of Interest
3. (10) points Purpose
4. (10) points Method
5. (10) points Sampling
6. (10) points Data Collection
7. (10) points Data Analysis
8. (10) points Credibility, Auditability, Fittingness
9. (10) points Findings
10. (10) points Conclusion, implications, and recommendations

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.
The following receipt form must be signed and returned within the first week of classes.

Student Handbook Receipt & Statement of Syllabus Understanding Form

I have reviewed a copy of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook located on the college website and the course syllabus for eLine NURS 4318. I have been provided an opportunity to clarify questions. Receipt form must be signed and submitted to the course faculty. I understand the expectations set forth in the 4318 course syllabus and the CONHS Student Handbook.

__________________________

Student Name(Print)

__________________________   ________

Student Signature                      Date