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

NURS 4318-001 – NURSE AS RESEARCH CONSUMER

Syllabus

Fall 2015

FACULTY: Theresa J. Garcia, PhD, RN - Assistant Professor

OFFICE: Island Hall, 336G

OFFICE HOURS: Virtual office hours by appointment; please use Bb mail to schedule in-person, online, or phone conference meetings.

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E-MAIL: Theresa.garcia@tamucc.edu

FAX: (361) 825-2484

CREDITS: 3 semester hours

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. 

Prerequisites: Completion of MATH 1342, MATH 1442, or MATH 2342.

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 finds (AACN Essential I, III, VII and IX).
   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 (AACN Essential I, III, IV, and VIII).
   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 (AACN Essential I, III, VII, and VIII).
   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 (AACN Essential I, VI, VIII, and IX).
   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 TEXTS AND RESOURCES:


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/lecture, 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 (includes Web-ex) attendance, including video and audio, is expected and monitored. You are responsible for all information given during class. You are expected to be considerate of others by being on time for class.
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 could 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 exams and assignments must be completed during the class period and absences will result in no credit for work/exam 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/quizzes 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/quizzes 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 WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

You are expected to follow instructions associated with the assignments for this course. **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. 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 me to discuss your writing needs.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING (SEE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR MORE DETAIL):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Honesty Statement</td>
<td>REQUIRED (P/F)</td>
<td>P/F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance /Participation (7 online labs; 7 in-class lectures; ~ 0.7 pts/each)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes (3 quizzes; 5 pts/quiz)</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>Exam 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</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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<tr>
<td><strong>Extra Credit</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Systematic Review of the Literature Poster</strong></td>
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<td><strong>0-10 points possible</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>
</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>
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**PASS/FAIL REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT:**

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.
MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Online Lab Session and In-class Lecture Attendance:
There will be 7 online labs provided via Web-ex during this course and 7 in-class lectures. The class will be divided into lab groups. You will attend each lab session online as designated for your group. Lab sessions will focus on specific concepts and review/critique of specific research articles. The sessions will be hosted by the instructor but participation of students is required. Sessions will take place on designated weeks when in-class lectures are not scheduled. (See Course Schedule for specific dates and topics.) Online attendance via web-ex audio and video will be taken at each lab.
Attendance and participation at each lab and lecture is worth ~ 0.7 points for a total of 10 points possible (or 10% of your final grade).

Online Quizzes:
Three online quizzes will be given in the course. Quizzes will cover items designated on the Quiz Study Guide (see Bb). Each quiz may be taken a maximum of 2 times and only your highest grade will be recorded. Reading and studying assigned chapters, articles, PowerPoint presentations, and active participation in lab sessions and face-to-face lectures is essential to learning the concepts within the course and to your success on each quiz and your final exam. These quizzes will serve as a review for the Class Exams and Final HESI Exam.
Each quiz is worth 5 points and the total of all 3 will count toward 15% of your final grade.

Research Ethics Modules (CITI Training):
You are required to successfully complete a series of 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 may require 4 or more hours to complete.
This assignment is worth 10 points and counts toward 10% of your final grade.

Exams:
To evaluate comprehension of concepts, 2 exams, in multiple choice, timed formats will be given in class. They will cover selected material presented in the required reading, lecture, class discussions, and online labs.
Each exam will be worth 20 points and the total of both will count toward 40% of your final 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.
Extra Credit:
There will be 1 opportunity for Extra Credit in the course:
Independent completion of a Systematic Review of the Literature Poster. See Bb for specific instructions and requirements. **Up to 10 points possible may be added to your final point total for the course.**

POLICIES:

Evaluation Input from Students

The faculty of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences places great value on evaluative input from students. Evaluation of courses, instructors and clinical facilities provides the College with important data which is used to strengthen the program. Data is analyzed as to trends and themes and is important to curriculum and sequencing decisions. All evaluations for courses posted are online. The online mechanism allows us the opportunity to tabulate and store information in order to analyze trends within the curriculum. Please be assured that this information is secured and not released until after grades are submitted. No names are available to faculty. In order to garner some reliability and validity, the College must have representative data from the student population. That representation, based on the literature, has been set at 70%. The College is anticipating that students will thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process which will assist the faculty with the growth of the program. A link to evaluations will be available on Blackboard toward the end of the semester. Thank you in advance for your assistance with the evaluation process.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

It is expected that University students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. 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 intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own). Please see the following sites for additional information:

- University Student Handbook and Code of Conduct: [http://www.tamucc.edu/~students](http://www.tamucc.edu/~students)
- University catalog related to academic integrity and honesty: [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/](http://catalog.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 CCH 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 Disabilities Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Title IX

As part of the Texas A & M Corpus Christi University policy, pregnant students are urged to contact the Title IX office for facilitation of academic issues impacted by pregnancy, delivery and subsequent complications. Contact information: Mr. Samuel Ramirez, Title IX Coordinator or Ms. Rosie Ruiz, Deputy Title IX Coordinator (825-5826).

Grade Appeals Process

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) adheres to the University’s student grade appeal procedures described in Section 13.02.99.C2.01 (revised May, 2013) and follows those guidelines. See http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/ for the University procedure and see http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/ for the CONHS process identified in the Student Handbook.

Support Services

Students are encouraged to seek faculty assistance in accessing University Services, including tutoring, health services, personal counseling, degree counseling, financial aid, learning resources, job/work placement, career guidance, and computer/technical support/instruction. If a student is interested in other support services provided by the University, the student is encouraged by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the University to seek these services.

MILITARY STUDENTS

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