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

NURS 4318-001 - NURSE AS RESEARCH CONSUMER

Syllabus

Spring 2016

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

OFFICE: Island Hall, 338

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

TELEPHONE: (361) 825-3957

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 face-to-face lecture 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.
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 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 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 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CITI Plagiarism Course Certificate &amp; Academic Honesty Statement</td>
<td>REQUIRED (Pass/Fail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>REQUIRED (Pass/Fail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Ethics Modules (CITI Training)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Research Paper (Mock Study Proposal)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Research Project (Systematic Review Poster)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Online Quizzes (3 quizzes; 5% each)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Exam 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Final Exam (HESI)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>**Total</td>
<td>**100%</td>
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*Quiz and Exam grades must average to 75 or greater to pass this course.

**GRADING SCALE FOR COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES:**

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<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>66 and below</td>
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**PASS/FAIL REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT:**

CITI Plagiarism Course Certificate and Academic Honesty Statement:
You will find this assignment in the Assignments section of Bb. **You are required** to take the Plagiarism course located at http://research.tamucc.edu/compliance/citi-training.html, upload the completion certificate as instructed in the assignment and read the four sections of the Academic Honesty document within the assignment. Complete the fifth section submitting a
personal statement through the assignment area, certifying your compliance with the Academic Honesty policy. Please sign (type in) your full name as your signature.

**Participation/Attendance:**
Your presence and active participation in class is expected at each and every class, for the entirety of the class. Active participation includes your full attention and discussion involvement, undivided between electronic devices or any other means. I will take attendance and provide multiple opportunities for active and documented class participation in random classes. Late arrival or early leave from class will be noted. If you must miss a class, arrive late, or leave early, please notify me with a valid excuse via Bb mail prior to class.  
*Unexcused documented incidences of absence, inattention, late arrival, or early departure will result in a deduction from your final exam grade.*

**MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**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 will be open book and timed at 50 minutes. Reading and studying assigned chapters, articles, PowerPoint presentations, and active participation in class 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 counts toward 5% of your grade totaling 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 and you must score at least a 90 overall.  
*This assignment counts toward 5% of your final grade.*

**Exam 1 and 2 and Post-Exam Review Sessions:**
To evaluate comprehension of concepts, 2 exams, in multiple choice, timed formats will be given in class. They will cover selected material presented in required reading and class discussions.  
**Specific class time will be utilized for Post-Exam Review.** These reviews (tutoring sessions) are required for all, regardless of your grade. Those who scored higher may be asked to lead a review session for a small group of peers.  
*Exam 1 counts 15% and Exam 2 counts 10% for a total of 25% of your final grade.*
Group Research Paper (Mock Study Proposal):
The class will divide into groups. Each group will plan a “mock” research study and write a brief research proposal paper. The topic and design of the study must be approved by me. Groups will meet on scheduled class days to plan the study and write the paper. Other outside class meetings may be required to complete your paper. Group contracts will be used to organize and divide duties equally among group members. Peer reviews will heavily affect your grade. Complaints to the instructor about other group members will, in most cases, result in the concerned parties completing an individual paper and the remaining group members completing the initial paper as planned. The group Research Proposal Paper will be worth 15% of your final grade.

Group Research Project (Systematic Review Poster):
Continuing in your same group, you will complete a systematic review of the literature including only selected studies. The systematic review will have the same, but likely broader focus, as your mock study. You will design a professional, creative, state-of-the-science research poster on a PowerPoint slide and will make a professional oral presentation to the class as a group. Your poster will be suitable for submission to a research symposium or other research-related venue. The same group rules including the contract, peer review, and complaints apply as above. The group Systematic Review Poster and Presentation will be worth 20% 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 and study guide for the concepts expected to be covered in the exam will be provided. The exam will count toward 20% of your final grade.

Quiz and Exam Grade Average:
The average of all your online quiz grades (3), your Exam 1 and 2 grades, and your Final HESI Exam must equal 75% or higher to pass this 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
- University catalog related to academic integrity and honesty: 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.