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

NURS 4318 – Nurse as Research Consumer

Syllabus

Spring 2016

FACULTY: Meng Zhao, Ph.D., R.N.

OFFICE: Island Hall, 350A

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 1pm – 5pm; Wednesday 1pm-5pm; telephone meetings by appointment

TELEPHONE: (361) 825-3279

EMAIL: meng.zhao@tamucc.edu

FAX: (361) 825-xxxx

CREDITS: 3 semester hours (3:0)

Students are encouraged to communicate with the faculty as needed to facilitate their learning. Telephone calls & email notes will be addressed in a timely fashion.

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 online 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, the student 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 TEXTBOOKS:


Required Reference:

**Grading Scale: College of Nursing & Health Sciences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 to 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75 to 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67 to 74</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>66 &amp; Below</td>
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**Learning Experiences & Teaching Methods**

The course objectives may be met through individual study using the required texts, resources suggested throughout the semester, active involvement in blackboard activities, and formal and informal exchange of ideas with classmates and colleagues regarding course topics. Teaching and learning methods will include blackboard 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 REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Activity Participation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Ethics Module</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Club Project</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Question &amp; Database Search</td>
<td>(10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrieved Publications with APA Reference List</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly Presentation</td>
<td>(15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Online Exam</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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</table>

**Discussion & Participation** is expected of all students for each class period, not once or twice during the semester. If you are not in class, it is very difficult to participate!!

**Evaluation** is ongoing to enhance experiential learning, providing the student with feedback about performance in meeting the course objectives. Conferences with Dr. Zhao provide opportunities to discuss progress toward accomplishment of the course objectives. I use criterion referenced evaluation methods, therefore each student is ultimately evaluated on an individual basis.

**Student Course Evaluations**

All courses in the College of Nursing & Health Sciences require a 70% return of evaluations from the entire class before final grades are released. The faculty of the College expects that students will thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process, which assists the College faculty in making curricular decisions.

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decisions including developing course content and presentation. A link to the course evaluation will be available in Blackboard toward the end of the semester.

**Blackboard Activity Policies:**

Blackboard activity involvement is expected. Students are responsible for all information given on the blackboard. Students are expected to be considerate of others by being on time for online discussion and assignments. In the event a student cannot make it to blackboard, he or she should contact the course instructor; messages can be left on voice mail or Blackboard mail.

**Graded Assignments including Ethics Module:**

Students are expected to follow instructions associated with the activities for this course. Instructions for all graded activities are posted in Blackboard in the Assignments area. In addition, paper copies are provided once on the first day of class. Students who are confused about an assignment should contact Dr. McDonald in a timely manner to ensure satisfactory completion of the assignment on the date it is due. *Late papers are rarely accepted.* Assignments are made at the beginning of the semester thus allowing students sufficient time to plan the necessary work to accomplish the assigned course components. Exceptions would be considered for extreme and unplanned emergencies. No, the flu or a cold is not in this category.

**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).

Active Military Duty

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

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.