C. Miller  
NURS 4318 Syllabus: Spring 2017  
Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi  
College of Nursing and Health Sciences  
NURS 4318-W01 – NURSE AS RESEARCH CONSUMER  
Syllabus  
Summer  
2017

FACULTY: Cathy L. Miller RN, PhD  
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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 online using online technology accessed at [http://Bb9.tamucc.edu](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  
   (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.

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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. You can expect email responses from me within 48 working hours (not counting weekends, holidays, and nights).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Virtual classroom attendance, including video and audio, is expected and monitored. You are responsible for all information given for all online classes, modules, and units. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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
4. Any problems understanding the assignments or due dates should be brought to my attention, preferably within the first week of class.
5. **Exams and assignments must be completed by the due date and time or will result in no credit.**
6. 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.**
7. You can expect for me to grade assignments/quizzes **within 2 weeks of submission.**
8. **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 not including weekends and holidays. 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.
9. You should notify me if you withdraw from the course and should not attempt to access course materials once you have withdrawn.
10. You are respectfully requested to complete a course evaluation at the end of the course.

**GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

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. Students who are confused about an assignment should contact Dr. Miller in a timely manner to ensure satisfactory completion of the assignment by the date it is due. All assignments are due by 11:59pm on Sunday unless otherwise stated. **Late assignments are not accepted without prior approval from instructor due to extenuating extreme and unplanned circumstances.** 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.
**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>Academic Honesty Statement</td>
<td>REQUIRED (Pass/Fail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes (3 quizzes; each counts 5%)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Ethics Modules (CITI Training)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**GRADING SCALE FOR COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>89.5-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.5-89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74.5-82.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66.5-74.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>66.4 and below</td>
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</tbody>
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**PASS/FAIL REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT:**

Academic Honesty Statement:
In the Assignments section of Bb you will find the Academic Honesty Statement Assignment. **You are required** to read the four sections of the document within the assignment and 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.

**MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Online Quizzes:
Three online quizzes will be given in the course. Reading and studying assigned chapters, articles, and PowerPoint presentations 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. This assignment counts toward 5% of your final grade.

Exam 1 and 2:
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 100 points and the total of both will count toward 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 15% of your final grade.

Extra Credit:
Extra credit is not usually an option in the BSN program, however we feel so strongly that you must learn to understand and utilize research for best practices, generate a desire for you to continue on to graduate school, and be exceptionally competitive on your resumes at graduation you will be offered two extra credit options. You may only choose ONE extra credit option.
1. Utilize the results of the systematic review of literature poster that you complete in class to present at the CONHS Scholarly Works Exhibition at the end of the semester. You will be required to have your own poster printed at your own expense. Instructions on this will be provided in class.
2. Write a 10 page paper on your systematic review of literature. Instructions will be provided in class.
Upon completion of option 1 OR 2, you will be awarded UP TO 5 points added to your final exam score.

An average score of 75% on your exams is REQUIRED to pass the course.

POLICIES:
Evaluation Input from Students

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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.