FACULTY: Pamela K. Greene PhD, RN, NEA-BC
OFFICE: Island Hall, 337
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment
TELEPHONE: (361) 825-2270
E-MAIL: Pamela.greene@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 format. Online technology accessed at http://Bb9.tamucc.edu will also be used. Students will need PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, 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:

   (Note: a newer edition is now available. It is acceptable to use either the 6th or 7th edition.)

2. Understanding Nursing Research: Building an Evidence-Based Practice
   (Please do not use an earlier edition.)
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 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, 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. **You can expect a response from course faculty within 48 hours not counting nights, weekends, and holidays.**

COURSE TIME EXPECTATIONS:

All assignments are due by the time and date specified in the course schedule unless prior arrangements are made with course faculty. 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 is expected. You are responsible for all information given for all classes, modules, and units. **Respect in all venues is expected.**
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. Microsoft Word software for assignment document submissions and PowerPoint. **These are the only formats accepted for assignments.**
4. 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
5. Any problems understanding the assignments or due dates should be brought to course faculty, preferably within the first week of class.
6. **Exams must be completed by the due date and time or may result in no credit.**
7. All assignments are due by the time specified on the scheduled date unless other arrangements have

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been made with the instructor before the due date.

8. Late work will be penalized with a 10% grade deduction/day for up to 3 days, after which a 0 will be recorded.

9. You can expect assignments to be graded within 10 days of submission.

10. All e-mail communication with course faculty should occur through Bb, unless otherwise noted.

11. Please notify course faculty if you are considering withdraw from the course for any reason.

12. You are respectfully requested to complete a course evaluation at the end of the course. Student input is valuable to make revisions and improvements.

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 edition or 7th edition for formatting and organizing the assigned paper. 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact course faculty to discuss your writing needs. 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. If you are confused about an assignment or find the instructions unclear, contact Dr. Greene in a timely manner to ensure satisfactory completion of the assignment by the date it is due. You are invited to schedule appointments for assistance.

Assignments and due dates are made available at the beginning of the semester, allowing students enough time to plan the necessary work to accomplish the assigned course components.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Percentage of grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evolve Review Questions</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes = 5% each</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Ethics Modules: CITI</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</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>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>66 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The only grade that will be “rounded up” will be the final grade. A student must have at least a 74.5 for that score to round up to 75.

MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Quizzes:
There will be quizzes will be given in class as well as homework assignments which are designated to count as a quizzes. Reading and studying assigned chapters, power point, and articles are essential to learning and successfully applying the concepts within this course.

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.

You can begin by going to http://research.tamucc.edu/compliance/citi.html

This assignment may require 4 or more hours to complete. You must follow the directions provided carefully. I cannot help you with the CITI webpage, you must contact their customer support if you have trouble after following the directions provided.

Exam1 and 2:
To evaluate comprehension of concepts, 2 exams, in multiple choice and demonstration formats will be given. These will be timed. They will cover selected material presented in the required reading, lecture, and class exercises/discussions.

Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Paper:
There will not be a final written exam. You will have a written paper that demonstrates the use of a PICO question in the process of developing a review of research literature to then develop an evidence-based practice proposal. (Detailed instructions and Rubric are in Bb). This assignment will reflect a synthesis of course content/concepts. Students may work in pairs, or teams with a three-person maximum.

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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.

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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

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

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 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.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

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.
**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

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 penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.

**Dropping a Class**

Hopefully, 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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**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 faculty.

**Classroom/Professional Behavior**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC), as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. The prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, etc. TAMUCC has a diverse population that represents the population of the state. Our goas is to provide students with high quality educational experience that is free from repression. All students are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state, and federal government. It is expected that every student will have a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another will not be tolerated.