



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
Collaborative Bachelor of Science
in Nursing Program
Grande Prairie Regional College
Keyano College
Red Deer College

NURSING 3010
Evidence-Based Research
COURSE OUTLINE
Spring/Summer 2009
Self-Study

Developed by:

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Nursing 3010 Course Outline

CALENDAR STATEMENT:**NURS 3010 *3 (3-0-0)**

Nursing Research

OE3 (*fi 6*) (either term, 3-0-0) Introduction to the process of research through a comparative analysis of selected studies exemplifying different theoretical, methodological, and analytical approaches. Emphasis is on the communicability of research, the needs of the research consumer, and the development of skills of critical appraisal. Prerequisite: Statistics elective.

Note: (NS 3690), and (NS 3010 and STAT [*3]) may not both be taken for credit.

COURSE HOURS: 3 hours of blackboard work independently/week. Face-to-face session with instructor to be determined by students.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to the process of research through critical appraisals of selected quantitative and qualitative studies. Emphasis will be on understanding the research process and in knowing how to critically read, analyze and begin to apply the knowledge gained from research in practice. The focus of this course will be the planning phase of the research process which includes: research problem and purpose, literature review, theoretical/conceptual frameworks, variables, research questions and hypotheses, ethics of research, research designs, and population and samples. The focus of this course is also on the implementing phase (data collection, data analysis, interpretation of findings). Students will also examine trends and issues in developing evidenced-based practice for the profession of nursing.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Loiselle, C. & Profetto-McGrath, J. (2007). *Polit and Beck. Canadian essentials of nursing research*. (2nd ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Describe the purpose and importance of research in nursing.
2. Describe how theory, practice and research are related.
3. Identify a question from nursing practice that can be answered by research.
4. Describe the role of nurses in research.
5. Apply critiquing criteria for the critical analysis of the following sections of a research report: research problem and purpose, literature review, theoretical/conceptual framework, variables, research questions and hypotheses, research design, ethical components, population, sample, and sampling procedures.
6. Compare the major characteristics, strengths and limitations of quantitative and qualitative research.
7. Explain the meaning of internal and external validity of research.
8. Develop a systematic approach for reading and critical analysis of selected components of published research.
9. Describe the four levels of measurement.
10. State the purpose of descriptive statistics.
11. Critically analyze the descriptive statistics used in published reports.
12. Discuss the types, advantages, and limitations of data collection methods used in both quantitative and qualitative nursing research methods.
13. Identify the criteria for determining the validity and reliability of measurement tools.
14. Discuss the criteria for determining confirmability of findings in a qualitative study.
15. Identify appropriate data collection methods for various qualitative and quantitative designs.
16. Differentiate data analysis methods for both quantitative and qualitative research.
17. Identify the purpose of and appropriateness of commonly used inferential statistics.
18. Distinguish between type I and type II errors and their effects on findings.
19. Differentiate between the meanings of statistical significance and clinical significance.
20. Apply critiquing criteria for an analysis of a complete research report.
21. Develop a systematic approach for reading and critical appraisal of multiple published research reports in their entirety.
22. Determine the applicability of knowledge gained from research for evidence-based practice.
23. Identify the role of a nurse in promoting research activities and using knowledge from research in the practice settings.
24. Discuss issues including barriers and facilitating factors influencing the advancement of nursing research and evidence-based practice

LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Students will participate in a number of activities to assist in meeting the objectives of the course:

1. On-line activities

Each week students are expected to

- a. Read the required chapter in the text
- b. Log onto the Blackboard website and review the powerpoint presentation(s)
- c. Complete the required activities provided
- d. Read the required research study
- e. Participate in any discussion threads

2. Appraising Findings from Multiple Studies

The importance of appraising findings from multiple studies related to a nursing practice issue for guiding practice will be the focus of this activity.

Important Policies

Important Dates:

Last day to change registrations dropping the self-study course is **June 30th, 2009**

Nursing Program Policies

Please refer to the Grande Prairie Regional College calendar for specific nursing program policies that may pertain to this course.

Assignment Policy:

Research assignments are due at the date and time they are due in the front office and must be verified (stamped with date and time) by Nursing Office Personnel. Extensions on assignments may be granted and must be negotiated with the instructor prior to the due date and with a date specified for late submissions. Extensions will not be granted the day the assignment is due.

A penalty of one letter grade per day will be deducted from the final grade of a late assignment. For example, a paper graded at a C would receive an adjusted grade of C- if handed in one day late.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure electronically submitted papers and assignments are delivered and retrievable to the instructor (i.e. emailing assignments). If the instructor is unable to open documents or if documents are sent in error via electronically, the assignment will be considered late and the student will have one letter grade deducted from the final grade. It is highly recommended that students ensure their assignments have been retrieved by the tutor prior to the due date and time.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Please refer to your rights and responsibilities in the Grande Prairie Regional College 2008/2009 Calendar.

We expect honesty from our students. This demands that the contribution of others be acknowledged (GPRC Calendar, 2008/2009). Penalties will be given according to the degree of the plagiarism or cheating. If you are unsure whether an action is plagiarism or not, please consult the instructor. Cheating refers to dishonest conduct such as speaking in an exam, bringing written material not authorized by the tutor, tampering with grades, or consciously aiding another student to cheat).

Grading System

A grade will be assigned for each assignment using grading criteria and then based on the grade descriptors (excellent, good, satisfactory, poor). Rationale will be given as to the assigned grade.

<i>Alpha 4-point equivalence</i>			<i>Descriptor</i>
A+	4.0		<i>Excellent</i>
A	4.0		
A-	3.7		First Class Standing
B+	3.3		
B	3.0		Good
B-	2.7		
C+	2.3		Satisfactory
C	2.0		
C-	1.7		

**These are considered passing grades in
Nursing courses**

D+	1.3	Poor
D	1.0	Minimal Pass
F	0.0	Failure

**These are NOT considered passing grades
in Nursing courses.**

Students **may** receive a grade of D or D+ in an assignment or component of a course, but must have an overall grade of C- to achieve a passing grade in a nursing course in order to transfer to the University of Alberta.

Seminar Topics*
Spring/Summer 2009

Dates	Nursing Research
Week 1	Overview of nursing research; review of Nurses' role in research; methods of inquiry; frameworks for critique of research reports and ethical principles. Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5 Assignment: Read Chouinard article and answer questions on p. 103 (Box 5.2). Due: May 8th
Week 2	The research question, problem, purpose, hypothesis. Assignment: Read Chouinard article. Answer questions on p. 127 (Box 6.1) Due: May 15th Chapter 6
Week 3	The theoretical framework and literature review. Assignment: Read Chouinard article. Answer questions on p. 147 (Box 7.1) and questions on p. 165 (Box 8.1). Due: May 22nd Chapter 7-8
Week 4	Quantitative research designs Assignment: Read Chouinard article. Answer questions on p. 9.1. Due: May 29th Chapter 9
Week 5	Qualitative research designs Assignment: Read Ray article. Answer questions on p. 225 (Box 10.1). Due: June 5th Chapter 10
Week 6	Population and Sampling Assignment: Read Chouinard and Ray article and answer questions on p. 271 (Boxes 12.1 and 12.2). Due: June 12th Chapter 12
Week 7	Midterm Exam: Week of June 15th (content is from weeks 1-5)

*** The Schedule May be Subject to Change**

Seminar Topics con't*

Dates	Nursing Research
Week 8	Data collection – Introduction Assignment: Read Chouinard article and answer questions on p. 296 (Box 13.2) and p. 309 (Box 13.6). Due: June 26th Chapter 13
Week 9	Data Collection – Quantitative and Qualitative Assignment: Read Chouinard article and answer questions on p. 331 (Box 14.1) and the Ray article and answer question in Box 14.2. Due: July 3rd Chapter 14
Week 10	Analysis of Data, focus on Quantitative Data Assignment: Read Chouinard article and answer questions on p. 380 (Box 15.2). Due: July 10th Chapter 15
Week 11	Analysis of Data, focus on Qualitative Data Assignment: Read Ray article and answer questions on p. 411 (Box 16.2). Due: July 17th Chapter 16
Week 12	Critique of Results, Interpretation of Qualitative and Quantitative findings Assignment: Read Chouinard article and answer questions on p. 435 (Box 17.1). Due: July 24th. Chapter 17
Week 13	Research utilization Assignment: Just read pages 448-466 before the exam. Chapter 18
Week 14	Final exam: Week of July 27th.

*** The Schedule May be Subject to Change**

EVALUATION FOR NS 3010

Spring/Summer 2009

1. Part I: Critique of Research Report Value: 25% of Final Grade

Students will critique an instructor chosen research report (one qualitative or one quantitative) using the criteria outlined in the text and information from seminars/lectures. Please refer to Loisel & Profetto-McGrath, 2007 for guiding questions to use when critiquing a research article. APA and scholarly writing formats are to be used.

The critique will focus on the following topics:

1. Critique of title and abstract
2. The Research Problem
3. The Research Question or Hypotheses
4. The Literature Review
5. The Theoretical Framework (if applicable)
6. The Research Design
7. Population and Sampling
8. Data Collection
9. Evidence Ethical Review of the Study and Protection of Human Rights
10. Quality of Data Analysis
11. Quality of Data - Reliability and Validity or Trustworthiness of Study
12. Interpretation and Discussion of Findings (include implications for nursing practice)
13. Overall recommendations of the quality of the study for future use

Total length of the critique will be a maximum 15 pages.

Grading Guide is located on Blackboard.

Due Date: July 17th, 2009

- 2. Mid-Term Examination:** **Value: 20% of Final Grade**
Questions will arise from labs, seminars/lectures and the textbook. **Please refer to the Examination Policies located in the GPRC Calendar.** The exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Time: Week of June 15th, 2009

Place: TBA

3. **Weekly assignments:** Value: **25% of Final Grade**

Each week (# 1-12) will have short assignments that can be completed and returned electronically to the instructor. As well, each topic area has critiquing guidelines from the text that are to be completed for the article provided. Feedback on assignments and critique of research studies will be provided weekly.

4. **Final Examination:** Value: **30% of Final Grade.**

Questions will arise from labs, seminars/lectures and the textbook. **Please refer to the Examination Policies located in your Student Handbook.** The final exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Date: Week of July 27th, 2009

Time: TBA

Total 4-Point Equivalent Value is Translated to Final Grade

Grades for each assignment were translated into the 4-point equivalent, then multiplied by the percentage of total mark for each assignment. The value of those percentages are added up to make a total. That total is converted back into the grade scale to receive your final grade. If you have any questions or concerns, please see your tutor. Exams can be viewed by setting up an appointment with your tutor.

