



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
COLLABORATIVE BACCALAUREATE
NURSING PROGRAM**
Grande Prairie Regional College
Grant MacEwan College
Keyano College
Red Deer College
University of Alberta

**NURSING 3010
NURSING RESEARCH
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2003**

Developed by:

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University of Alberta Collaborative BScN Program, 2000

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Nursing Research

NS 3010 3 (3-0-0) 7 weeks

This course provides an introduction to the process of research through a comparative analysis of selected studies exemplifying different theoretical, methodological and analytical approaches. Emphasis will be on the communicability of research, the needs of the research consumer, and the development of skills of critical appraisal. Prerequisites: (or Co-requisite) Statistic elective

Course Hours: 39 hours self study

Course Description:

This course provides an 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, analyse and begin to apply the knowledge gained from research in practice. This course focuses on: the planning phase of the research process (includes: research problem and purpose, literature review, theoretical/conceptual frameworks, variables, research questions and hypothesis, ethics of research, research designs, and population and samples) and, the implementation phase of research (includes: data collection and analysis, interpretation and utilization of the findings).

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 nurses' role in research.
5. Develop and use a systematic approach for reading and critically appraising selected components of published research reports.
6. Identify and discuss the major characteristics, strengths, and limitations of quantitative and qualitative research.
7. Discuss the types, advantages and limitations of data collection methods used in both quantitative and qualitative nursing research methods.
8. Explain the meaning of and identify the criteria for determining the validity and reliability of measurement tools.
9. Discuss the criteria for determining confirmability of findings in a qualitative study.
10. Describe the four levels of measurement and discuss the difference between type I and II errors and their effect on findings.
11. Differentiate data analysis methods for both quantitative and qualitative research.
12. State the purposes and critically analyse the use of descriptive statistics.
13. Differentiate between the meanings of statistical significance and clinical significance.
14. Determine the applicability of knowledge gained from research for evidence-based practice.
15. Identify and discuss the role of a nurse in promoting research activities and using knowledge from research in the practice setting.

16. Explore ethical considerations in the conduct of research.
17. Discuss issues including barriers and facilitating factors influencing the advancement of nursing research and evidence-based practice.

Course Instructor:

Monique Sedgwick, RN, MN
Office: 11228
Phone: 539-2896
email: msedgwick@gprc.ab.ca

Required Textbook:

LoBiondo-Wood, G., & Haber, J. (2002). *Nursing research methods, critical appraisal, and utilization* (5th edition). Toronto: Mosby.

Evaluation:

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Class worksheets (15%) | Due: at scheduled meetings |
| 2. Review exercise worksheets (15%) | Due: January 29, February 26, March 12 |
| 3. Exam (40%) | Date: March 26 @ 0900-1200h |
| 4. Critique (30%) | Due: April 2 @ 1200h |

Class worksheets (15%):

Worksheets are provided at the end of most of the class notes. These worksheets will be completed prior to meeting with the instructor and will be handed in to the instructor during the meeting. The instructor will mark these and return them to the student at the following meeting.

Review exercise worksheets (15%):

The review exercise worksheets will be completed during the scheduled meetings with the instructor. Once these have been completed by the student, discussion of the concepts arising from the worksheets will follow.

Exam (40%):

This multiple choice exam will examine concepts and content presented and discussed throughout the course.

Critique of a Research Report (30%):

The instructor will provide 2 research reports (one quantitative and one qualitative) from which the student will select one of these reports to critique. The literature review will be critiqued using the critiquing criteria form provided. APA format and scholarly writing is expected.

Assignment policy:

All assignments are to be submitted as specified by the date due. Extensions on assignments may be granted however, they *must be negotiated with the instructor prior to the due date*. A date specifying when the late submission will be handed in must accompany the request.

A penalty of 5% for each working day that the assignment is late in submission will be deducted from the final mark for that assignment.

Class schedule:

First meeting: January 29, 1300-1500 in H228 (Monique's office): Overview of the nursing research process

- ⇒ Introduction, expectations, assigned activities, proposed schedule
- ⇒ Link between theory, practice, & research
- ⇒ Importance of nursing research
- ⇒ Role of the nurse in research
- ⇒ Methods of inquiry
- ⇒ Ethical considerations
- ⇒ Framework for critiquing a report
- ⇒ Questions from nursing practice
- ⇒ Overview of the planning phase of research
- ⇒ Identification of problem statement and purpose statement
- ⇒ Literature review
- ⇒ Theoretical framework
- ⇒ Hypotheses/qualitative research design
- ⇒ Assigned reading & activity for next class
- ⇒ **review exercise worksheets**

Second meeting: February 12, 1300-1500 in H228 (Monique's office): Quantitative research

- ⇒ Review of assigned reading/activity: Q & A
- ⇒ Introduction to Quantitative research/research design
- ⇒ Experimental, quasi, and non-experimental designs
- ⇒ Definition of sample and population
- ⇒ Sampling (bias, error, size)
- ⇒ Assigned reading & activity for next class

Third meeting: February 26, 1300-1500 in H228 (Monique's office): Quantitative research

- ⊖ Review of assigned reading: Q & A
- ⊖ Data collection methods
- ⊖ Descriptive statistics and levels of measurement
- ⊖ Inferential statistics including: Type I & II errors, tests of statistical significance, and statistical versus clinical significance
- ⊖ Evaluating quantitative research (generalizability, limitations of the study)
- ⊖ Assigned reading & activity for next class
- ⊖ **review exercise worksheets**

Fourth meeting: March 12, 1300-1500 in H228 (Monique's office): Qualitative research

- ⊖ Review of assigned reading: Q & A
- ⊖ Introduction to Qualitative research
- ⊖ Qualitative designs: grounded theory, phenomenology, ethnography
- ⊖ Interviewer as instrument
- ⊖ Research question
- ⊖ Sampling (determining sample size)
- ⊖ Data collection methods
- ⊖ Rigor in data collection: auditability, credibility, and fittingness
- ⊖ Assigned reading & activity for next class
- ⊖ **review exercise worksheets**

Fifth meeting: March 19, 1300-1500 in H228 (Monique's office): Utilization

- ⊖ Review of assigned reading: Q & A
- ⊖ Ethical considerations in conducting research
- ⊖ Evidence based practice: research-practice gap, utilization
- ⊖ Promoting research
- ⊖ Barriers & facilitating factors

Final Exam will be on March 26, 0900-1200 in classroom TBA