



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
Spring 2005

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) UT

Calendar Statement:

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: 45 hours

This course is offered from April 30 until June 30th. Classes are scheduled alternate Saturdays (except for the last class which is scheduled Wednesday, June 22, 1800-2100h, 2005), 0900-1700. Room H221.

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 types' 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: H228
Phone: 539-2896 fax: 539-2751
email: msedgwick@gprc.ab.ca

Required Textbook:

LoBiondo-Wood, G., & Haber, J. (2005). *Nursing research methods, critical appraisal, and utilization* (1st Canadian edition). Toronto: Elsevier Mosby.

Evaluation:

1. Review exercise worksheets (3 worksheets valued at 10% each for a total of 30%)
Due: **May 20, June 3, June 17 by 1200h**
2. Exam (40%)
Date: **June 22, 1800-2100 room H221**
3. Literature Critique (30%)
Due: **June 20 by 1200h**

Review exercise worksheets (10%/worksheet for a total of 30%):

The review exercise worksheets will be completed by the scheduled days and are graded by the instructor. Worksheets include activities of matching, short answer, fill in the blank, and multiple choice questions.

Exam (40%):

The exam is comprised of multiple choice questions that examine concepts and content presented and discussed throughout the course.

Critique (30%):

A research report will be provided to the student. The literature review provided in the article will be critiqued. For the critique, the students will use the critiquing criteria given in class and presented in class readings. The paper will be a maximum of 5 pages, double-spaced. APA format and scholarly writing is expected.

Determination of Final Course Grade

Throughout the course, exams and assignments are marked and recorded as raw scores according to the percentage weight assigned to each element. These are then given a letter grade that is converted to a number on the 4-point Alpha Scale. At the end of the term all scores are totaled for a term summary grade in the course. The *final course grade* is based on a combination of absolute academic achievement (an individual student's term summary mark) and relative performance (a comparison of a student's term summary mark to all students' term summary marks achieved in the class).

Due attention is paid to the descriptions of the various grade points according to the University of Alberta calendar. Evaluation procedures and grading system are located in section 23.4 of the University of Alberta calendar (2003-2004). The **passing grade is a D**, which is 1.0 grade point value on the numeric 4-point Alpha Scale. However at the end of semester students must have a GPA of 1.7 in order to graduate.

All assignments will be returned to the student with a letter grade.

Excellent	A+, A, A-
Good	B+, B, B-
Satisfactory	C+, C, C-
Poor	D+

Minimal Pass D

Failure F

POLICY STATEMENTS

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. If unable to meet the re-negotiated deadline for submission, the late assignment policy is enacted.

A penalty of one letter grade for each working day the assignment is late, will be deducted from the final mark for that assignment. For example, a paper scored at B+ would receive an adjusted grade of B if handed in one day late.

Plagiarism:

All written course work must be referenced according to **APA 5th edition**. **The Faculty of Nursing has a *zero tolerance*** policy on plagiarism.

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University of Alberta in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.ualberta.ca/~unisechr/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicion of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation or aiding and abetting any of these offences. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

The Faculty of Nursing is committed to providing an environment of equality and respect for all people within the university community, and to educating faculty, staff and students in developing teaching and learning contexts that are welcoming to all.

The Faculty recommends that students and staff use inclusive language to create a classroom atmosphere in which students' experiences and views are treated with equal respect and value in relation to their gender, racial background, sexual orientation, and ethnic backgrounds.

Class schedule:

April 30, 2005, 0900-1700, room H221:

- ↔ Introduction, expectations, assigned activities, proposed schedule
- ↔ Link between theory, practice, & research
- ↔ Importance of nursing research
- ↔ Role of the nurse in research
- ↔ Methods of inquiry
- ↔ 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

May 14, 2005, 0900-1700, room H221:

- ↔ Introduction to Quantitative research design
- ↔ Experimental, quasi, and non-experimental designs
- ↔ Definition of sample and population

May 20, 2005: Review Exercise #1 due by 1200h

May 28, 2005, 0900-1200, room H221:

- ↔ 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)

June 3, 2005: Review Exercise #2 due by 1200h

June 11, 2005, 0900-1700, room H221:

- ↔ 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
- ↔ Ethical considerations in conducting research
- ↔ Evidence based practice: research-practice gap, utilization
- ↔ Promoting research
- ↔ Barriers & facilitating factors

June 17, 2005: Review Exercise #3 due by 1200h

June 20, 2005: Critique due by 1200h (may be faxed to 539-2751 or sent via email to sedgwick@gprc.ab.ca)

June 22, 2005, 1800-2100, room H221:

******Final Exam***

Marking Guideline
NS 3010
Quantitative Critique

Part A: Body of Paper

- 1 Introduction to article/significance to nursing (7.5)
- 2 Problem statement (7.5)
- 3 Literature review (7.5)
- 4 Theoretical framework (7.5)
- 5 Research question (s), hypotheses and variables (7.5)
- 6 Research methods/design (7.5)
- 7 Ethical considerations (7.5)
- 8 Population and Sampling (7.5)
- 9 Data collection: instruments (3.25)
procedures (3.25)
- 10 Data analysis (7.5)
- 11 Interpretation of Findings and Discussion (7.5)
- 12 Additional considerations and scientific merit (7.5)

/90

Part B: Writing Format/Style

- 1.0 APA format (5)
- 2.0 Development of ideas, introduction and conclusion (5)

/10

TOTAL: /100% = /30%
Marking Guideline
NS 3010
Qualitative Critique

Part A: Body of Paper

- 1 Introduction to article/significance to nursing (7.5)
- 2 Problem statement (7.5)
- 3 Literature review (7.5)
- 4 Purpose of the study (7.5)
- 5 Design/method (7.5)
- 6 Ethical considerations (7.5)
- 7 Sampling (7.5)
- 8 Data collection (7.5)
- 9 Data analysis (7.5)
- Confirmability of the findings (7.5)
- 11 Interpretation and Discussion of the findings (7.5)
- 12 Additional considerations and scientific merit (7.5)

/90

Part B: Writing Format/Style

- 1.0 APA format (5)
- 2.0 Development of ideas, introduction and conclusion (5)

/10

TOTAL: /100% = /30%