

**NURS 404 Introduction to Research for Nursing Practice
Spring 2014**

Course Syllabus

Course Number:	NURS 404
Course Title:	Introduction to Research for Nursing Practice
Faculty:	Regina C. Aune, PhD, RN, FAAN
Office Hours:	By appointment: Call or email me to discuss course related issues; do not call before 9 am or after 9 pm daily
Phone:	210-621-5234
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Course Description: Research focuses on the introductory use of the research process in the development of nursing knowledge and practice. Steps in the research process are detailed. Research questions are explored with regard to theoretical underpinnings, methods of data collection and analysis, and the interpretation and use of study findings in the care of individuals, families, and communities. Published research reports are critically analyzed to determine the usefulness of findings in nursing practice. The importance of scientific integrity and maintaining ethical standards are highlighted. The roles and responsibilities of nurses as researchers and scholars are examined.

Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explore biologic, developmental, psychosocial, and cultural theories commonly used in nursing research;
2. Explore the contributions of research to advance nursing knowledge and practice;
3. Compare and contrast methods of inquiry;
4. Examine steps in the research process;
5. Utilize critical thinking to formulate nursing research questions;
6. Critique published research reports;
7. Develop strategies to increase the utilization of research findings in nursing practice;
8. Discuss the role attributes and responsibilities of the nurse researcher;
9. Explore the professional nursing role in the utilization of research findings;
10. Examine legal and ethical issues in nursing research.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address: Upon application to Texas A&M University- Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

Drop Policy: To drop this course after the census date (see [semester calendar](#)), a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website <http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html> or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

Required Texts:

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual (6th ed)*. Washington, D.C.: Author.

Polit, D. & Beck, C. (2011). *Nursing research (9th ed.)*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins. ISBN: 9781451145977.

Recommended Texts:

Boswell, C. & Cannon, S. (2011). *Introduction to nursing research (2nd ed.)*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Corty, E. W. (2007). *Using and interpreting statistics*. St. Louis: Mosby/Elsevier.

Houser, J. (2012). *Nursing research: Reading, using and creating evidence (2nd ed.)* Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

LoBiondo-Woods, G. & Haber, J. (2010). *Nursing research (7th ed.)*. St. Louis: Mosby/Elsevier.

Salkind, N.J. (2012). *100 questions (and answers) about research methods*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.

Schmidt, N. A. & Brown, J. M. (2009). *Evidence-based practice for nurses*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Schwartz, B.M., Landrum, R.E. & Gurung, R.A.R. (2012). *An easy guide to APA style*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Trochim, W.M.K. (2005). *Research methods*. Mason, OH: Cengage Learning.

Teaching Strategies/Learning Experiences:

The course objectives can be met through a combination of active involvement in class discussions, reading assigned texts and articles, thinking critically about the topics discussed, and reflecting on them through writing on specific topics. Achievement of course objectives will be evaluated through written assignments and written examinations. The student is responsible for doing all assignments and participating actively in all discussions and learning activities.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or disciplinary actions." For additional information see the university policy manual.

Disability Accommodations Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

Resources Needed: The student will need access to a computer and printer at home or at school or both home/school.

All papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word format or pdf.

[If you are not sure what this means, please consult with the professor.]

Student Technical Assistance:

- Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and online courses are found at this link: <http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/index.php?pageid=37>
- If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a support request detailing your specific problem here: <http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/gethelp2.php>
- Blackboard Helpdesk contacts:

Office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p

Julia Allen (main contact) 903-223-3154 julia.allen@tamut.edu

Frank Miller (alternate) 903-223-3156 frank.miller@tamut.edu

Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu

If you have a web/web-enhanced course, please include the following paragraph:

Class Participation

- Students are responsible for beginning their participation on the FIRST CLASS DAY by logging on and completing assignments according to the COURSE MAP. Failure to submit online assignments between the first day of classes and the “university census date” (according to the university schedule) will result in an ADMINISTRATIVE DROP from the course.

Technical Requirements

Minimum System Requirements

The following computer system requirements are recommended for an online course:

OS: Windows 2000/XP/Vista; Mac OSX 10.2 & above

RAM: 256 MB, Processor: 2.0 GHz, Free space on HDD: 500MB **Internet Connection:** (Broadband/DSL preferred), Dial Up 56k minimum **Browser:** Internet Explorer 6 or 7, Mozilla Firefox 2.0, Safari 1.0

Java: Version 6 Update 11 or later

Sound card and speakers

Software Requirements

Pop-up Blockers

All pop-up blockers installed on your computer must be set to allow pop-ups from Blackboard

Java Runtime Environment

You must have the Java Runtime Environment installed. This is a free plug-in for your browser that can be obtained by going to <http://www.java.com>

Additional Plug-ins

You may need additional software based on the content that your instructor posts in their course. Commonly needed applications are:

Microsoft Office 2007/2003/XP Suite/Works (not free software)
Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download) Windows Media Player (free download)
Real
Time Media Player (free download) Quick Time Media Player (free download)
Macromedia/Adobe Flash (free download)
Macromedia/Adobe Shockwave (free download)

Other: The faculty reserves the right to make any changes that are necessary to facilitate student learning and/or to accommodate any other issues that may develop during the semester for this course.

Evaluation:

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 59 and below

To successfully pass this course, the student must achieve a grade of “C”.

Class Schedule January – May 2013

Date(s):	Topic(s):	Assignment(s):
12 January 2014	Introduction to the course; playing the game of <i>Clue</i> ; ways of knowing; ethical issues in research	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 1, Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 1-48 and Part 2, Chapter 7, pp. 150-174; write the Reflection paper; the paper is due in the SafeAssign dropbox by 11:59 pm, 19 January 2014
19 January 2014	Critiquing research	Read: The Ryan, Coughlan & Cronin articles, Part I and Part II, the Astin & Long article, and the Holt article (these are all located in the class folder under content)

26 January 2014	General overview of quantitative and qualitative research design	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 1, Chapter 3, pp. 48-72; Part 3, Chapter 9, pp. 201-236; Chapter 11, pp. 257-273; and Part 4, Chapter 20, pp. 487-515
2 February 2014	Research problems, questions, hypotheses, frameworks, and the literature review	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 2, Chapters 4, 5, and 6, pp. 73-150
9 February 2014	Planning a study	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 2, Chapter 8, pp. 174-200;
16 February 2014	Rigor and validity in quantitative research and trustworthiness and integrity in qualitative research	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 3, Chapter 10, pp. 236-257; and Part 4, Chapter 24, pp. 582-602
23 February 2014	Sampling in quantitative and qualitative research	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 3, Chapter 12, pp. 273-293; and Part 4, Chapter 21, pp. 515-532; problem paper due in the SafeAssign dropbox by 11:59 pm, 23 February 2014
2 March 2014	Mid-term Exam	Mid-term is an essay exam. It must be completed by 11:59 pm, 7 March 2014. The exam will cover material from the first week of class through the content of the week of 23 February 2014
9 March 2014	SPRING BREAK	
16 March 2014	Data collection in quantitative and qualitative research	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 3, Chapter 13, pp. 293-328; and Part 4, Chapter 22, pp. 532-556.
23 March 2014	Measurement and statistics in Quantitative research	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 3, Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, pp. 328-463
30 March 2014	Quantitative and qualitative data analysis	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 3, Chapter 19, pp. 463-486; and Part 4, Chapter 23, pp. 556-582
6 April 2014	Mixed Methods research	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 5, Chapters 25 and 26, pp.603-652

13 April 2014	Meta-Analysis, Metasynthesis, and mixed studies review	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 6, Chapter 27, pp.653-680
20 April 2014	Reporting research findings	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 6, Chapter 28, pp. 680-701; Research article critique paper due in the SafeAssign dropbox by 11:59 pm, 20 April 2014
27 April 2014	Writing proposals	Read: Polit & Beck, Part 6, Chapter 29, pp. 701-719
4 May 2014	Final Exam	Final exam is a comprehensive essay exam covering the entire course. The exam must be completed by midnight, 4 May 2014

Assignments: In addition to the weekly reading assignments, there are three (3) written assignments, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. The weighting of the assignments is as follows:

Discussions	10%
Reflection paper	10%
Problem paper	20%
Critique paper	25%
Mid-term exam	15%
Final exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

Assignment #1 (due by 11:59 pm, 19 January 2014): In order to write this reflection paper, you must play the game of *Clue*. There are two ways you can do this. Either play the classic board game with family and/or friends or go online and play the game online. Either option is acceptable. After playing the game, write a two (2) to three (3) page paper (excluding the title page) reflecting on your personal experience of playing the game. Because this is a personal reflection paper, you should write it in first person. Incorporate into your paper the answers to the following questions:

1. What skills did you have to use to solve the murder?
2. What kinds of reasoning did you use in making your “guesses” regarding the murder?
3. What did you learn from playing the game of *Clue*?
4. How do you think that what you learned from playing the game will help you in learning research?

Assignment #2 (due by 11:59 pm, 23 February 2014): This assignment is a three (3) to four (4) page paper(exclusive of title page) identifying two (2) researchable problems from the nursing literature. To complete this assignment, go to the nursing literature in an area of interest to you and determine from the literature what research needs to be conducted to further nursing knowledge and

practice. Cite at least two (2) articles for each problem that indicate what initial or continuing research should be conducted.

Assignment #3 (due by 11:59 pm, 20 April 2014): This assignment is a five (5) to seven (7) page written critique of one of the nursing research articles listed below. To write the critique, follow the guidelines given for critiquing quantitative and qualitative articles in the Ryan, Coughlan, and Cronin articles. You may choose any one of the following articles to write the critique.

Bailey, C. Murphy, R. & Porock, D. (2011). Professional tears: developing emotional intelligence around death and dying in emergency work, *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 20, 3364-3372.

Purath, J., Van Son, C. & Corbett, C.F. (2011). Physical activity: exploring views of older Russian-speaking Slavic immigrants, *Nursing Research and Practice*, 2011 (5p).

Salamonson, Y., Kock, J., Weaver, R., Everett, B. & Jackson, D. (2009). Embedded academic writing support for nursing students with English as a second language, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 66(2), 413-421.

Silen, M., Tang, P.F. & Ahlstrom, G. (2008). Swedish and Chinese nurses' conceptions of ethical problems: a comparative study, *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 18, 1470-1479.

Mid-term Exam (due by 11:59 pm, 2 March 2014)

Final Exam (due by 11:59 pm, 4 May 2014)

