



**NURS 6304 - Spring 2018**  
Measurement in Culturally Diverse and Vulnerable Populations

**Instructor(s):** Jing Wang, PhD

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Section Information:** NURS 6304-001

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:**

Place: Pickard 554

Data & Time: 1/25-1/28, 3/8-3/10, 4/19-4/21 at 9:00-11:50 am

**Description of Course Content:**

This course presents the process involved in designing, testing and/or selecting instruments, methods and procedures for measuring variables in clinical, educational and research settings.

**Prerequisites:** NURS 6301 Theoretical Evolution in Science or permission of instructor.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Design and employ measures that are operationalized within the context of theories and conceptual frameworks.
2. Use statistical methods and software to test and select measures for research studies.
3. Critique the measurement methods in research articles.
4. Integrate ethical and legal principles into research instrumentation and measurement.

**Recommended Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

There are no required textbooks. Lecture notes are the main texts and are posted every week on Blackboard.

- David L. Streiner and Geoffrey R. Norman. (2008) *Health Measurement Scales: A practical guide to their development and use*. Oxford University Press; 4 edition.
- Krabbe P (2016). *The Measurement of Health and Health Status: Concepts, Methods and Applications from a Multidisciplinary Perspective*. Academic Press
- Waltz, C., Strickland, O., & Lenz, E. (2010) *Measurement in nursing and health research* (4<sup>th</sup> ed). New York: Springer.

**Course Schedule**

It is possible that this schedule will be adjusted to best serve the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

Week	Dates	Topic	Class Format	Assignments
1	1/25-1/27	Introduction, basic concepts, & software	<b>On Campus</b>	
2	1/28-2/4	Constructs and scales	Online	HW1 due 2/5 Quiz 1: 2/6-2/16
3	2/5-2/11	Measurement reliability	Online	HW2 due 2/12

4	2/12-2/18	Measurement validity	Online	HW3 due 2/19 Quiz 2: 2/20-3/3
5	2/19-2/25	Selecting items	Online	HW4 due 2/26
6	2/26-3/4	Classical test theory	Online	HW5 due 3/5 Quiz 3: 3/4-3/23
7	3/5-3/11	Generalizability theory	<b>On Campus</b>	HW6 due 3/11
8	3/12-3/18	Spring vacation		
9	3/19-3/25	Measuring change	Online	No homework due
10	3/26-4/1	Preference-based measurement and models	Online	HW7 due 4/2 Quiz 4: 3/27-4/13
11	4/2-4/8	Preference-based measurement valuation techniques	Online	HW8 due 4/9
12	4/9-4/15	Item response theory	Online	HW9 due 4/16 Quiz 5: 4/15-4/27
13	4/16-4/22	Item response theory (cont'd)	Online	HW10 due 4/23
14	4/23-4/29	Measurement error and bias Measurement Issues	<b>On campus</b>	HW11 due 4/30

### Requirements:

Course prerequisite: Introductory statistics course; mastery of basic computer management tasks, proficiency in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel, proficiency performing functions within any statistical software package. Moreover, prior to the start of this class, students must have a mastery of classical hypothesis testing, p values, descriptive statistics, correlation, confidence intervals, ANOVA, t-tests, and chi-square tests.

This course requires the completion of 11 homework assignments, 5 quizzes, and 6 participative online forums. Homework will be assigned regularly to help students apply the lecture topic. Most assignments will be completed using the statistical software package, the SAS Studio or SPSS. Homework and quizzes are submitted within Blackboard.

The SAS studio is an application that allows you to write and run SAS codes through your web browser. You can register for a SAS Studio account at the following link:

[https://odamid.oda.sas.com/SASLogon/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fodamid.oda.sas.com%2FSASStudio%2Fspring\\_cas\\_security\\_check](https://odamid.oda.sas.com/SASLogon/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fodamid.oda.sas.com%2FSASStudio%2Fspring_cas_security_check)

For help with this SAS application, check the documents at the following link:

[https://support.sas.com/software/products/university-edition/faq/SASStudio\\_UI.htm](https://support.sas.com/software/products/university-edition/faq/SASStudio_UI.htm)

### Online Discussion Forums:

For those weeks that involve an online discussion, your topic will be introduced on Blackboard on the Sunday prior to the date shown on the schedule at 8:00 pm CST. Postings of comments and questions should begin on Monday and no later than Tuesday at 11:59 pm so that all discussion can be completed by Friday at 1:00pm. Essentially, the main discussion points should be made in the early to middle part of the week so that everything can be wrapped up by Friday afternoon.

Your grade for online participation will be based on postings made between the time at which the topic is introduced on Sunday night and Friday at noon. Students who begin their postings after Tuesday night can receive no more than 7 points for the week.

There will be 6 weeks of online posting requirements, for a maximum of 100 points per week. Students must post at least 2 substantive postings PLUS participate conversationally online to receive a perfect "100".

**Homework:** This course has 11 homework assignments, focused on the application of the week's topic. Most homework assignments will require SAS or SPSS in addition to hand calculations. All require Microsoft Word. Each homework will be assigned on Blackboard, and completed homework will be submitted via the "Homework" function of Blackboard. Homework assignments are due on the date indicated on the Course Schedule by 11.59 pm. Late homework will not be accepted.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes are formatted similarly to each week's homework assignments, with the exception that they are timed. They will be made available for one week (Monday through Friday) but will have a timed limit, once the student begins the quiz. Quizzes are completed on Blackboard. Because they are timed, and students have only one allowed attempt to take a quiz, it is highly recommended that the student have reliable internet access. Technical difficulties, such as a failed internet connection, are the students' responsibility. There are no opportunities to make up quizzes. Therefore, using a hardwired internet connection is strongly recommended. Each quiz will be assigned on Blackboard, and completed quizzes will be submitted via the "Test" function of Blackboard.

**Teaching Methods/Strategies:**

This course involves the applications of statistical formulas and concepts using both pencil/paper problem solving as well as using computer applications. The course materials are presented audio visually and with links to reading materials, and active online participation from all class members is expected.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates: There are 6 discussion forums. The 9 homework assignments are due on the dates indicated above. There are 5 quizzes. Failure to submit assigned work by the due date will result in a zero for that assignment.

**Grading Policy:**

	% of Final Grade
Homework Assignments:	45%
Online Participation via Blackboard Discussion Board	15%
Quizzes:	40%
A= 92-100	
B=83-91	
C=74-82	
D=68-73	

**Attendance Policy:** This class relies heavily on online tutorials and materials. Online participation is expected of all students. Students are responsible for all missed course information. Review sessions will be offered each month, and attendance is strongly encouraged but not mandatory.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Graduate students who wish to change a schedule by either dropping or adding a course must first consult with their Graduate Advisor. Regulations pertaining to adding or dropping courses are described below. Adds and drops may be made through late registration either on the Web at MyMav or in person through the student's academic department. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped

for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information. The last day to drop a course is listed in the Academic Calendar available at <http://www.uta.edu/uta/acadcal>.

1. A student may not add a course after the end of late registration.
2. A student dropping a graduate course after the Census Date but on or before the end of the 10th week of class may with the agreement of the instructor, receive a grade of W but only if passing the course with a C or better average. A grade of W will not be given if the student does not have at least a C average. In such instances, the student will receive a grade of F if he or she withdraws from the class. Students dropping a course must: (1) complete a Course Drop Form (available online <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/phd/forms>); (2) obtain faculty signature and current course grade; and (3) submit the form to your assigned academic advisor .
3. A student desiring to drop all courses in which he or she is enrolled is reminded that such action constitutes withdrawal (resignation) from the University. The student must indicate intention to withdraw and drop all courses by completing a resignation form in the Office of the Registrar or by: (1) Completing a resignation form (available online <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/phd/forms> or Graduate Nursing office room 512; (2) obtaining faculty signature for each course enrolled and current course grade; (3) Submitting the resignation form to your assigned academic advisor and (4) The department office will send resignation form to the office of the Registrar.

In most cases, a student may not drop a graduate course or withdraw (resign) from the University after the 10th week of class. Under extreme circumstances, the Dean of Graduate Studies may consider a petition to withdraw (resign) from the University after the 10th week of class, but in no case may a graduate student selectively drop a course after the 10th week and remain enrolled in any other course. Students should use the special Petition to Withdraw for this purpose. See the section titled Withdrawal (Resignation) From the University for additional information concerning withdrawal. <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/phd/> at the Student Handbook link.

The last day to drop a course is listed in the Academic Calendar available at <http://www.uta.edu/uta/acadcal>.

**Late date to drop this course is: March 30th, 4 PM**

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. According to the UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

Plagiarism: Copying another student's paper or any portion of it is plagiarism. Copying a portion of

published material (e.g., books or journals) without adequately documenting the source is plagiarism. Consistent with APA format, if five or more words in sequence are taken from a source, those words must be placed in quotes and the source referenced with author's name, date of publication, and page number of publication. If the author's ideas are rephrased, by transposing words or expressing the same idea using different words, the idea must be attributed to the author by proper referencing giving the author's name and date of publication. If a single author's ideas are discussed in more than one paragraph, the author must be referenced, according to APA format. Authors whose words or ideas have been used in the preparation of a paper must be listed in the references cited at the end of the paper. Students are expected to review the plagiarism module from the UT Arlington Central Library via <http://library.uta.edu/tutorials/Plagiarism>

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources) for more information.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit <https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/>. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at [helpdesk@uta.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uta.edu).

Librarian to Contact:  
Helen Hough, Nursing Librarian  
Phone: (817) 272-7429  
E-mail: [hough@uta.edu](mailto:hough@uta.edu)  
<http://libguides.uta.edu/nursing>

College of Nursing additional information:

Status of RN Licensure: All graduate nursing students must have an unencumbered license as designated by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) to participate in graduate clinical nursing courses. It is also imperative that any student whose license becomes encumbered by the BON must immediately notify their Associate Dean for the MSN Program, Department of Advanced Practicum Dr. Gray/Dr. Schira. The complete policy about encumbered licenses is available online at: [www.bon.state.tx.us](http://www.bon.state.tx.us)

Student Code of Ethics: The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing and Health Innovation supports the Student Code of Ethics Policy. Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the Code. The Code can be found in the student handbook online: <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/handbook/toc.php>

No Gift Policy: In accordance with Regent Rules and Regulations and the UTA Standards of Conduct, the College of Nursing and Health Innovation has a "no gift" policy. A donation to one of the UTA College of Nursing and Health Innovation Scholarship Funds, found at the following link: [http://www.uta.edu/nursing/scholarship\\_list.php](http://www.uta.edu/nursing/scholarship_list.php) would be an appropriate way to recognize a faculty

member's contribution to your learning. For information regarding Scholarship Funds, please contact the Dean's office.

**Course Evaluation:**

Course evaluation is a continuous process and is the responsibility of both the faculty and the students. Ongoing feedback (formative evaluation) is the only way to improve the course and to assure that it meets your needs and those of the discipline of nursing. It is your responsibility to give immediate, constructive feedback regarding class structure and process.

Formal evaluation of the course and the instructor occurs at the end of the course. You will receive instructions at your University of Texas at Arlington e-mail address about how to complete the course evaluations online. Your ratings and comments are sent to a computer not connected to the

College of Nursing, and faculty members do not receive the results until after they have turned in course grades.

**Bomb Threats:**

If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

Online Conduct: The discussion board should be viewed as a public and professional forum for course-related discussions. Students are free to discuss academic matters and consult one another regarding academic resources. The tone of postings should be professional in nature.

It is not appropriate to post statements of a personal or political nature, or statements criticizing classmates or faculty. Inappropriate statements/language will be deleted by the course faculty and may result in denied access to the Discussion boards. Refer to UTACONHI Student Handbook for more information.

For this course Blackboard communication tools, discussion boards, and UTA MAV email will be used extensively and should be checked often.