**NURS 6304:** Measurement in Culturally Diverse and Vulnerable Populations

Spring 2012

**Instructor:** Patricia Newcomb, PhD, RN CPNP

**Office Number:** Pickard Hall, Room 510

**Office Telephone Number:** 817-272-2776.

**Email Address:** pnewcomb@uta.edu

**Office Hours:** Friday 10-noon on days this course meets on campus or by appointment.

**Section Information:** NURS 6304

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:**

**Place:** Pickard Hall, Room 209 and online via Blackboard.

**Time:** Fridays 1-3:50 PM

**On campus meetings for Spring 2012**: [tentative]

January 20, February 3, February 17, March 2, March 9, March 23, April 13, April 20, and May 4.

**Description of Course Content:** Evaluation of measurement tools/instruments for studying culturally diverse and vulnerable populations.

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**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of the course the student will be able to

1. Apply the constructs underlying measurement theory.
2. Critique existing methods of measuring a selected variable.
3. Use statistical procedures to evaluate the psychometric properties of a selected measure
4. Recommend measures that reflect
5. best psychometric properties
6. sensitivity to cultural variations in selected target population(s)
7. best match with research/theoretical framework
8. Integrate ethical and legal principles into research instrumentation and measurement.

**Requirements:** Prerequisite: NURS 6301 Theoretical Evolution in Science or permission of instructor. Students should be able to use Excel, including formula functions, and should have access to SPSS/PASW.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

REQUIRED

Waltz, C.F., Strickland, O.L., & Lenz, E. R. Measurement in Nursing and Health Research (4th ed). New York: Springer, 2005. ISBN: 978-0-8261-0507-3

Nunnally, J. C. & Bernstein, I. H. Psychometric Theory (3rd ed), New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994.

ISBN: 0-07-047849-X

Recommended:

Furr, R.M. & Bacharach, V.R. Psychometrics, an Introduction.Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2008. ISBN: 978-1-4129-2760-4

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations: Major** assignments include a mid-term examination and a final paper. Students will also be responsible for weekly assignments.

**Attendance:**

* Regular class attendance and participation is expected of all students.
* Students are responsible for all missed course information.

**Grading**:

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

Participation\* 30%

Written assignments 30%

Final paper 40%

\*Participation refers to participation in online and in-class discussions.

**Late papers and assignments will not be accepted without prior arrangement.**

**Grade Grievances**: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current graduate catalog.

**Drop Policy:**

A PhD student who wishes to change a schedule by either dropping or adding a course must first consult with his or her PhD Advisor. The following regulations pertain to adds and drops:

1. A student may not add a course after the end of the late registration.
2. A PhD student dropping a course or resigning from the university after the Census Date but before the final designated drop date for the enrolled semester will receive a grade of W only if at the time of dropping the student is passing the course (has a grade of A, B, or C); if the student has a D or F at the time of dropping, an F will be recorded. Students dropping a course must: (1) Complete a Course Drop Form (available online <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/PhD/forms/> or PhD Office Room 512; (2) obtain faculty signature and current course grade; and (3) Submit the form to PhD Office Room 512.
3. A PhD student who desires to drop all courses for which he or she is enrolled is reminded that such action constitutes a withdrawal from the University. The student should indicate intention to withdraw from all courses by: (1) Completing a Resignation Form (available online <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/PhD/forms/> or PhD Office Room 512; (2) Obtaining faculty signature for each course enrolled and current course grade; (3) Filing the registration form in the College of Nursing Office Room 512; and (4) Filing the Registration Form in the Office of the Registrar in Davis Hall Room 333.
4. PhD students may drop a course up to 12 weeks in the fall or spring semester and up to 8 weeks in a 10-week summer session. Under extreme circumstances, the Dean or Associate Dean of the PhD in Nursing Program may consider a petition to withdraw after the designated drop date, but in no case may a PhD student selectively drop a course after the drop date and remain enrolled in any other course.

### Last Date Drop or Withdraw: - March 30, 2012

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. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. 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://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**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:** At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but 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” (UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**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**:UT 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. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Lab Safety Training:** There will be one laboratory experience in this course. All students should have documentation of universal precautions training, which may be e-mailed to the instructor prior to the lab.

**Electronic Communication:**  UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

**Final Review Week: The final paper constitutes the final examination for this course.** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Librarian to Contact:**

**Helen Hough**, Nursing Librarian

(817) 272-7429

hough@uta.edu

Research Information on Nursing:

<http://www.uta.edu/library>

**PhD COURSE SUPPORT STAFF:**

**Vivian Lail-Davis**, Admin. Assistant, Room 512; Phone: (817) 272-1038; Fax: (817) 272-2950;

Email: vivian@uta.edu

**STATUS OF RN LICENSURE:**

All graduate nursing students must have an unencumbered license as designated by the Board of Nursing (BON). It is imperative that any student whose license becomes encumbered by the BON must immediately notify the Associate Dean for the PhD Program, Dr. Jennifer Gray. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the PhD Program. The complete policy about encumbered RN license is available online at: <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/PhD/forms/>

Note from Library

This past spring, the Library migrated its website to the University's content management system.  As a result the Library’s website address changed from <http://library.uta.edu> to <http://www.uta.edu/library>.

This is a page where we have gathered many commonly used resources needed by students in online courses:

<http://www.uta.edu/library/services/distance.php>

Alternatively, we have also provided a list of commonly used resources below:

Library Home Page <http://www.uta.edu/library>

Subject Guides  <http://libguides.uta.edu>

Subject Librarians  <http://www-test.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php>

Database List <http://www-test.uta.edu/library/databases/index.php>

Course Reserves <http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do>

Library Catalog <http://discover.uta.edu/>

E-Journals <http://utalink.uta.edu:9003/UTAlink/az>

Library Tutorials <http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php>

Connecting from Off- Campus <http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus>

Ask A Librarian <http://ask.uta.edu>