**NURS 6308:** Research Seminar

Fall 2013

**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Gray

**Office Number:** Pickard Hall,

**Office Telephone Number:** 817-272-2022

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**Office Hours:** By appointment, Christina Garcia can assist- [garciac@uta.edu](mailto:garciac@uta.edu)

**Section Information:** NURS 6308-001

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** Pickard Hall, Room 209, Selected Fridays, 9 to 11:50 a.m.

**August 23, September 6, September 27, October 11, October 25, November 8, November 15, December 6**

**Description of Course Content:** Evaluation of selected components of research process for proposed dissertation research. Learning activities based on student and faculty interest. May be repeated to meet student learning needs.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to

1. Critique the scientific rigor associated with selected components of the research process.
2. Evaluate strategies for identifying and obtaining a study population/sample for a selected research question.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2008). *The craft of research* (3rd ed.). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Grove, S. K., Burns, N., & Gray, J. (2013). *The practice of nursing research: Appraisal, synthesis and generation of evidence* (7th ed.). St. Louis: Elsevier. [or other graduate research textbook of your choosing]

Locke, L.F., Spirduso, W.W., & Silverman, S.J. (2007). *Proposals that work: A guide for planning dissertations and grant proposals* (5th ed). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 2007. ISBN-13:978-1-4129-2423-8

Strunk, W. Jr., & White, E.B. (2009) *Elements of style* (50th anniversary ed.). New York, NY: Pearson Longman. [edition does not matter]

**Course Topics:**

Comprehensive Review of the Literature

Research Process, with emphasis on rigor

Research Frameworks

Sampling- pragmatic considerations

Other topics identified by students

**Requirements:**

1. Post a 2-page handout on the Discussion Board for peers to discuss on assigned topic.
2. Lead a 30-minute seminar (presentation and discussion) to critically appraise a study.
3. Participate in weekly discussion board and scheduled class meetings.
4. In addition to other course requirements, implement individualized learning plan to develop or deepen research competencies in selected area of interest.\*
5. Completion of course products as identified in learning plan.

\*Dr. Gray cannot provide feedback on papers being prepared for comprehensive examination purposes. The evaluation of these papers is the purview of the examination committee.

**Teaching Methods/Strategies:**

In class seminars and discussion, and presentations; Online resources and discussion boards within Blackboard; Preparation of course products

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date Due** | **Assignment** | **Points** |
| As Assigned | Handout on selected topic (no more than 2 pages) | 20 |
| As assigned | Lead a 30-minute seminar to critically appraise a selected study based on published report. | 30 |
| Weekly | Participation in discussion board | 30 |
| Sept. 7, 11:59 pm | Learning plan with specific measurable outcomes | 10 |
| Dec.8, 11:59 pm | Report on outcomes identified on learning plan. | 10 |
|  | Total | 100 |

**Grading Policy**: Grades will be assigned as Pass/Fail, based on completion and evaluation of course products.

Composite grade of 83 or higher is passing.

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

**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. 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. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

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.](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 from PhD Program Office, Room 512; (2) obtain faculty signature and current course grade; and (3) submit the form to Graduate Nursing office rooms 512.
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 from the PhD Program Office 512; (2) obtaining faculty signature for each course enrolled and current course grade; (3) Submitting the resignation form in the College of Nursing office room 512; and (4) The department office will send resignation form to the office of the Registrar.
4. 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 Graduate Studies representative 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). Petition forms are available on the Graduate School website (<https://grad.pci.uta.edu/students/petition/> )

**Last Day to Drop or Withdraw is October 30, 2013**

**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/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 <http://grad.pci.uta.edu/students/services/teaching/> 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/cs/email/index.php> . 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 <http://www.uta.edu/oit/> If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at helpdesk@uta.edu.

**Librarian to Contact:**

Antoinette Nelson, *Nursing Librarian*

Phone: (817) 272-7443

E-mail: [nelsona@uta.edu](mailto:nelsona@uta.edu)

[**http://libguides.uta.edu/nursing**](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 Department of MSN Administration, Education, and PhD Programs. 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 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/phd/>

**No Gift Policy:** In accordance with Regent Rules and Regulations and the UTA Standards of Conduct, the College of Nursing has a “no gift” policy. A donation to one of the UTA College of Nursing Scholarship Funds, found at the following link: <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/student-resources/scholarship> 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 UTACON 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.*

**Writing Center**

The English Writing Center, Room 411 in the Central Library, provides support to UT-Arlington undergraduate and graduate students and instructors. Undergraduate and graduate student consultants in the Writing Center are trained to help student writers at any stage in their writing processes. Consultants are trained to attend to rhetorical and organizational issues that instructors value in student writing. Although consultants will assist students in identifying and correcting patterns of grammatical or syntactical errors, they are taught to resist student entreaties to become editors or proofreaders of student papers.

The Writing Center offers tutoring for any assigned writing during enrollment at UT-Arlington. During Fall 2013, Writing Center hours are 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday; and Noon to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Individuals may schedule appointments online by following directions available at [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl), or by visiting the Writing Center.

<http://www.uta.edu/owl/Fact%20Sheet.html>

**Departmental Office/Support Staff**

**Department of MSN Administration, Education, and PhD Programs**

**Jennifer Gray,** RN, PhD

Office 669-Pickard Hall, (817)-272-2022

Associate Dean and Chair, Graduate Advisor

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**Caitlin Schwartz**, Administrative Assistant I

Office # 518- Pickard Hall (817)-272-9397

Email: [chamberl@uta.edu](mailto:chamberl@uta.edu)

**Handout Assignment**- Due date varies according to topic selected

20% of grade

* Prepare 2-page handout on assigned topic
* Provide the title and your name at the top of first page
* Use bullet points, not sentences
* May use single space, font no smaller than 10
* Synthesize information that you find
* Provide references on second page
* Post handout to discussion board. Post by 11:59 pm on the Saturday prior to the week beginning

Evaluation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Possible Points | Your Points |
| Key points presented that represent synthesis of information from variety of sources; Information is correct | 10 |  |
| Handout posted on time | 2 |  |
| Correct format- no more than 2 pages, single spaced, bullet points | 3 |  |
| References are peer-reviewed articles or appropriate textbooks | 3 |  |
| Correct APA format on references | 2 |  |
| Total | 20 |  |

Topics for Handouts

Middle Range Theories Appropriate for Clinical Studies

Measurement Reliability

Validity of Psychosocial Instruments

Threats to the Validity of a Study

Sensitivity and Specificity of Biometric Measures

Recruitment Strategies for Culturally-Diverse Samples

Statistics for Testing Differences

Statistics for Testing Relationships and Prediction

Principles of Developing Questionnaires or Surveys

Steps in Developing an Instrument

Methods for Increasing the Response Rate for Mailed and Internet Surveys

Criteria of Rigor in Qualitative Research

**Seminar Assignment-** Post citation for article by Sunday evening of the week for which the student signs up; Present seminar on Friday during class

30% of grade

Identify a report of study related to your research interest. Prepare and present a seminar with discussion on the article.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria for Evaluation** | **Possible Points** | **Your Points** |
| Select a research article and post citation by Sunday night of week when seminar will be presented | 3 |  |
| Use an established method for appraising the study | 3 |  |
| Identify the study design | 3 |  |
| Identify threats to validity and other areas of weakness in the study. How could the study have been improved? | 7 |  |
| Describe the strengths of the study. | 7 |  |
| What did you learn from the study that is applicable to your area of research interest? | 3 |  |
| Engage peers in discussion about the study | 4 |  |
| Total | 30 |  |

**Discussion Board and Class Participation**

30% of grade

A post or message that demonstrates substance contributes to the learning by doing one or more of the following:

* Reflection about meaning
  + Describe thoughtfully what something means or new insights it provides
  + Raise a question as a seed for clarification or further discussion
* Analysis
  + Discuss relevant themes, concepts, main ideas, or relationships among ideas
  + Identify hidden fallacies or assumptions in the reasoning.
* Elaboration
  + Build on ideas of others or ideas found in the readings by adding details, examples, a different viewpoint, or other relevant literature
* Application
  + Provide examples of how principles or concepts can be applied to actual situations, or discuss the implications of theory for practice
* Synthesis
  + Integrate multiple views to provide a summary, a new perspectives, or creative refashioning of ideas
* Evaluation
  + Assess the accuracy, reasonableness, or quality of ideas.

Substantive posts do not have to be long. Not all long posts are substantive nor are all short posts non-substantive. Cite sources as appropriate.

You will be evaluated on your participation each week (Sunday through Saturday). To get full participation points for the week, make your initial substantive post on Sunday through Tuesday. Respond to at least two other students’ posts as the week progresses. The average weekly score will be weighted to equal 30% of the course grade.

Weekly scoring of participation

100 points

Made initial substantive post on Sunday through Tuesday

Made at least two additional posts, including at least one Wednesday or later

70 points

Made initial post but only responded once later in the week

Lower points may be given if posts are not substantive

50 points

Made initial post on Sunday through Tuesday, but did not post later in the week OR

Made initial post after Tuesday

Lower points may be given if posts are not substantive

**Learning Plan-** due by 9/7, 11:59 pm

10% of grade

Receive all points if outcomes are specific and plan is submitted on time.

* Use this table format to develop your learning plan.
* Word document available in Blackboard with table set up.
* Please put your last name in the file name and in the header of the file.
* Submit to Drop Box in Blackboard

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Goal to be Accomplished | Specific, Measurable Outcome Indicating Goals Was Met | Due Date | Steps to Achieving this Goal |
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**Report on Outcomes of Learning Plan**- 10%

Due date 12/7, by 11:59 pm

Earn 10 points if report is clear and submitted on time.

* Submit a written document indicating the outcomes that were achieve. No references needed. Please double-space lines.
* Format is up to your discretion.
* Please put your last name in the file name and in the header of the file.
* Submit to Drop Box in Blackboard