University of West Georgia
School of Nursing
Carrollton

Course Number:  NURS 3222 – 01 and 02
Course Title:  Research & Evidence-Based Nursing Practice
Credit:  2 – 0 – 2
Prerequisites:  Admission to BSN program and NURS 3122

Faculty:  Susan Ashford, PhD, APRN
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         University of West Georgia
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         Office Hours:  By Appointment

Meeting Place & Times:
Place: Carrollton, Education Bldg. Room #4
Class Times: Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50

Official Communication:  The University requires that all electronic communications be done through your myUWG e-mail accounts or CourseDen. Please do not use your personal e-mail services.

Course Description:  A study of the relationship of nursing research, theory, and practice and the process of using research in evidence-based practice.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Explore the role of nurses in utilizing nursing research in an evidence-based nursing practice. (6)*
2. Recognize the value of evidence-based practice as a systematic approach to improving the quality of patient care. (1, 3)*
3. Demonstrate increasing confidence regarding the research process, critical analysis of the research literature, and applying the findings to evidence-based nursing practice. (2, 6)*
4. Demonstrate increasing competence regarding accessing databases and locating systematic reviews and evidence summaries on clinical topics. (1)*
5. Develop skills in collaboration and written, oral, and electronic communication regarding research in nursing. (6, 8, 9)*

6. Reflect on the value of evidence-based practice and its relationship to professional competence and commitment. (7)*

7. Examine the ethical aspects of nursing research and evidence-based nursing practice. (4)*

8. Participate in activities related to maintaining a caring, supportive environment in the classroom. (3, 8)*

9. Explore the concept of holism through the reading and critiquing of qualitative studies. (5)*

* = BSN program objectives

**Course Content:**

1. The research process
   a. The elements of the research process
   b. Role of Nursing
   c. Ethics and Nursing Research
   d. From Problem Identification to Hypotheses
   e. Research Design

2. Evidence-based nursing practice
   a. Professional autonomy and EBP
   b. Ways to increase professional competence and confidence
   c. Professional commitment and EBP

3. Improving patient care through nursing research
   a. Identifying clinical problems
   b. Finding resources
   c. Critiquing sources of information/evidence
   d. Identifying changes needed in nursing practice
   e. Implementing changes in nursing practice
   f. Identifying and evaluating practice outcomes

**Required Textbooks:**


Recommended Textbooks:
-or-

Learning Activities:
Assigned Readings
Learning activities
Library work
Group project
Formal and informal writing activities (as specified in the Writing across the Curriculum Requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences).

Methods of Evaluation:
Calculation of final grades:

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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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The grading scale:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 75-79%
- D = 60-74%
- F = Less than 60%

Quizzes:
- Worth 35% of the grade
- There are 3 online quizzes and the learning assignments
- All Quizzes are open-book but not collaborative – no help from your friends
- Quizzes will be made available for a specific period of time during which students can access the quiz from home or another computer
- Students will be given 2 +/- hours to complete each quiz
- Once the student opens the quiz, it must be completed within the time frame specified
- Learning Assignments – there will be 10 - 12 learning assignments throughout the semester – each is worth 10 points; together the learning assignments count as a quiz score. Students can drop the lowest grade.
Evidence-Based Nursing Practice Project:
- Worth 35% of the grade
- A group project that simulates an evidence-based process
- Intended for the group to address a clinical nursing problem using best evidence through applying, integrating, and evaluating the research literature
- Results include a written report and a presentation/poster

Bare Bones Assessment:
- Worth 30% of the grade
- Intended to assist students in becoming comfortable with the process of reading and understanding a research article
- Students will read 1 assigned research article and assess the research components using a template

Attendance:
- Class Participation is not a graded component but can affect the student’s grade
- Attendance
  - Students are expected to attend every scheduled face-to-face class and to arrive to class in a timely manner.
  - 3 or more absences can result in up to 10 points deducted from the final grade; excessive tardiness (3 or more) can result in up to 3 points deducted from the final grade

Participation:
- In-class activities/discussion
  - Students are expected to complete and submit in-class activities which are related to the day’s class content
  - Students are expected to ask questions, share information, and take part in class discussions

Incomplete:
The grade of ‘incomplete’ is reserved by the University for failure to complete the course due to circumstances beyond the student’s control. In most cases it is reserved for a major illness or family crisis. An ‘incomplete’ cannot be given for forgetting a deadline or simply failing to do the required work.

CourseDen
This course is an enhanced Web course (CourseDen) and all course content, handouts, and learning activities are on the course website. We are migrating from WebCT Vista to CourseDen this semester. Tutorials are available.

You should check the course calendar, mailbox, and bulletin board DAILY for vital course information and submit some
assignments and responses to discussion board questions by the posted due date. You may post to the bulletin board any class-related information, websites or words/tips of the day that you think would be helpful for other students.

The course may be accessed using your student number and password for banner on the CourseDen login page. If you are unfamiliar with using CourseDen, please complete the tutorial offered online at the course homepage. This course may be accessed from any campus computer lab or from any computer with the technology specifications that support CourseDen (see CourseDen login page for specifications or tech support).

**Academic Honesty:** The academic dishonesty policy of this course is the same as that of the University of West Georgia and is found in *the Uncatalog*, Appendix A. The School of Nursing is committed to promoting a learning environment that recognizes the importance of honesty, integrity, and high ethical standards in education and the professional practice of nursing. Evidence of student cheating, fabrication, or plagiarism will result in failure in this course.

**Attendance:** Students are responsible for their own learning and must accept individual accountability for behavior. Students are expected to attend every scheduled face-to-face class, to arrive to class in a timely manner and to post online by the designated time as appropriate. Three (3) points will be deducted from the final grade for any absence from class; 1 point will be deducted for each day a student is late to class.

**Disabled Students:** The Student Development Center coordinates special services for disabled students including physical disabilities or learning disorders. Students must register with Disabled Student Services to receive certain accommodations including extended test time or individual testing. For further information, call 678.839.6428.

**Response to E-mail Messages** For any e-mail sent Monday through Thursday, I will make every attempt to respond within 24 hours; for e-mails sent Friday afternoon through Sunday, I will respond by Monday afternoon. Should you need a response sooner, please call me – numbers are listed on the first page. If you do not receive a response from me within the time frame above – please call me.

Updated 12/12/2008