



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
NURSING

Nursing 309: L01 Introduction to Nursing Research

Fall Term 2009

Course Professor: Dr. Andrew Estefan
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Office Hours: Thursday 1pm to 3pm

Teaching Assistant: Gudrun Reay
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Office Hours: Gudrun will be available in the classroom from 9-9:30 a.m.

Text: Nursing research in Canada: Methods and critical appraisal
For evidence-based practice, 2nd edition. (C. Cameron &
M.D. Singh, Eds). Mosby Elsevier: Toronto, Ontario.

Author: Lobiondo, G.L. & Haber, J.

Course Times: Thursday mornings 9:00-11:50, October 8 – December 8th
From week 2, 9:00-9:30 is group work time for proposal
development.

Room: EDC 388

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of nursing research within the Canadian context. This course provides an overview of both qualitative and quantitative research methods available to nurses to answer research questions. The format is a weekly 3-hour theory session with discussion.

COURSE INTENT

There will be many opportunities in the future to become involved in research in the areas you chose to work, either as an investigator, facilitator or a participant. The incorporation of research findings from rigorous studies into nursing practice leads to evidence based practice. Evidence based practice ensures the best care for patients based upon the most current knowledge. To be an effective researcher or participant, and to use research effectively in practice, one must have an appreciation for the research process and the ability to read research with a critical and appraising eye. It is important to be able to identify the components of a research article and their validity as they relate to the research question and findings. This requires a familiarity with the research vocabulary, an understanding of clinical and statistical significance and the relevance of the interpretation. Existing barriers to using research in practice include a lack of knowledge of what to use, user-unfriendly research, and the relevancy of research for the user and the static nature of research results. The intent of this course is to introduce you to the research process, the components of research design, and the overview of scholarly work within the Canadian nursing forum.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Consistent with the AARN Entry-to-Practice Competencies (2006) and Guidelines for Undergraduate Nursing curriculum content threads for BNAT/BNRT Program; this course is designed to enable students to achieve the following objectives:

1. To understand the research process as integral to evidence based nursing practice,
2. To value nursing research,
3. To consider ethical issues in the context of the research process,
4. To further develop scholarship with regard to critical inquiry, reading, writing, and presenting nursing research.
5. To use knowledge and critical inquiry for making sound judgements in the advancement of nursing practice through research utilization,
6. To gain beginning knowledge and skill required to critique nursing research with the acknowledgement that further growth is part of continuing nursing competence to develop an understanding of fundamental terms and concepts involved in the research process.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to class in order to fully participate in classroom activities and discussions. Both didactic (e.g., lecture, audiovisual) and interactive (e.g., discussion, group work) learning activities will occur in the classroom.

Student Evaluation:

Students are expected to comply with APA 5th Edition style in all written work. Assignments are due on the date specific to be submitted to Ms Reay.

Assignment 1 – Research Practicum OR Research Proposal

You will form a group and select ONE of the above assignments. Group sizes will vary depending on the assignments chosen. Deadlines and due dates can be found on the course schedule in this document.

Research Practicum	(Due December 3 rd)
Poster	(15%)
Class presentation	(15%)
PI evaluation	(5%)

Research Proposal	(Due November 26 th)
Proposal	(20%)
Class presentation or Peer review	(15%)

Assignment 2 – Research Article Critiques

You will review and critique two journal articles that report on original research. One article will be quantitative research, the other will be qualitative research. Due dates for each critique can be found on the course schedule.

Qualitative Research Article critique	(15%) (Due October 8 th , 2009)
Quantitative Research Article critique	(15%) (Due November 5 th , 2009)

Assignment 3 – Research Ethics Video and Multiple-Choice Quiz

You will attend the ethics week class to watch the video which showcases practices, problems and dilemmas that are relevant to ethical research. You will then log in to blackboard and have 20 minutes to complete 10 multiple choice questions. The quiz will be live on blackboard for 48 hours.

Ethics video and MCQ	(10%) (Due October 7-9 th , 2009)
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Assignment 4 – Mid-Term Quiz

You will complete a short, in-class quiz based on your learning so far. This test will assess your grasp of the course lecture material. The date for this test can be found in the course schedule.

In-class quiz	(10%) (Due October 14th 2009)
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Assignment 5 – End of Semester Examination

The end of semester examination covers the range of course material, including quantitative research, qualitative research, methods of working with data and research ethics. The date of the examination is located in the course schedule.

End of semester examination	(15%) (Due November 19 th , 2009)
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The minimum passing grade for this course is a D

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Assignment 1 – Research Proposal

This is a group assignment. In order to successfully get started on the venture of designing a research proposal, you will need to do a few things:

- Name a principal investigator. The Principal investigator is the project leader and the person who will coordinate the rest of the group;
- Select a research problem area from the topics below;

- Conduct a literature review. Two people should undertake the literature review and provide articles for the rest of the group. Each group member must critique one article which will be used in the proposal;
- Develop a problem statement and research question;
- Develop a conceptual framework or select a research methodology (as appropriate, depending on whether you do a quantitative or qualitative study);
- Outline your research methods including data collection and analysis. Two people are required to write the methods/analysis with group input and approval;
- Indicate how you will maintain rigor in the study;
- Show that you have given thought to ethical considerations and what you might need to do to address them;
- Prepare a written abstract of 150 words. The person who writes the abstract will be responsible for ensuring that the application is complete, that all people fulfill their tasks in completing their part of the proposal;
- One person and the PI should complete a detailed budget;
- The whole group (*except one member*) is expected to present their proposal, using Powerpoint, to the class at the end of semester. Presentation dates are on the course schedule.

The proposal, which will total 15 pages, presented in APA 5th Edition format will be submitted and then sent to a peer review group. The peer review group will comprise the number of students who are not presenting their proposal with the rest of their group. This member must be selected by the whole group. The peer review group will decide (based on criteria) which proposal out of the whole class should be funded.

The peer review group will be made up of those students with a keen interest and those who were unable to attend group meetings or who could not contribute to the proposal development.

Peer review participation will be graded out of 15%. Those who do not participate in the group presentation of the research proposal are graded for their participation in peer reviewing instead.

Assignment 1 – Research Practicum

This assignment involves working with a researcher studying a health care problem. Here's what you will need to do:

- On the first day of class, students wishing to do a research practicum will have a chance to choose a practicum from those that have been offered by researchers in the Faculty of Nursing and other faculties;
- **Please note** that due to university-wide competition for undergraduate research practicum placements, it is possible that not all research practicum requests can be accommodated;
- You will provide 25 hours each (either as an individual or part of a group) to the researcher as a research assistant in any phase of a research project;
- In exchange, the researcher will provide the opportunity for you to enhance your understanding of the research process;
- You will receive an evaluation from the researcher;
- You will construct a poster that showcases your research;
- You will present your research in a PowerPoint presentation scheduled in class;
- If several students are working with the same researcher, the poster presentation may be a group effort (limited to 4 per group)

NOTE: A lack of participation in the research practicum or research proposal will result in a grading penalty of between 5% and 20%.

Assignment 2 – Article Critiques

- On the course website on blackboard, you will find a guideline for the critique of research reports. This guideline will be discussed in class. The guideline lists 13 items to address in the critique of research reports. You will apply the items to 2 research papers that will be supplied;
- Each completed critique will be graded;
- You are welcome to discuss this assignment with each other but **individual critiques must be submitted**;
- There is class time devoted to critique discussion.

Assignment 3 – Research Ethics Assignment

This assignment is outlined above. Remember:

- You will need to attend class on the day the video is shown;
- You have the next 48 hours to log into Blackboard and take the test. Once you have logged in you will have 20 minutes to complete 10 multiple choice questions.

Assignment 4 – Mid-Term Quiz

This assignment is outlined above. This quiz will be:

- Held during class times, make sure you are present on the scheduled day;
- Covering a range of topics from the lectures

Assignment 5 – End of Semester Examination

This assignment is outlined above. The examination will:

- Address the course material across the whole semester;
- Will contain questions from the lectures, activities and readings.

Course Schedule and Reading List *

September/Thu	Topic	Readings	Instructor
Sept. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction. • Nursing research and scientific inquiry: Introduction to research and evidence-based practice • Research critique guidelines 	Chapters 1, 2, 3	Dr. Estefan Ms. Gudrun Reay
Sept. 17	Qualitative approaches 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to qualitative research • Ethnography • Narrative inquiry 	Chapter 7	Dr. Estefan Dr. Jennifer Rowe
Sept. 24	Qualitative approaches 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hermeneutics and interpretation • Discourse analysis Conducting a literature review	Chapter 8	Dr. Estefan
Oct. 1	Qualitative approaches 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical research • Appreciative inquiry Qualitative data analysis, interpretation & rigour	Chapter 18 Article 1 distributed	Dr. Estefan

Oct. 8	Research ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethics video (attendance required) Ethics discussion Completion of online quiz 	Chapter 6 Article 1 due for submission Online ethics quiz due within 48 hours of class	Ms Reay
Oct. 15	Quantitative approaches 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to quantitative designs Experimental, quasi-experimental and non-experimental designs 	Chapters 9,10, 11 Mid-term quiz happening in class today.	Dr. Estefan
Oct. 22	Quantitative approaches 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampling Data collection 	Chapters 12, 13	Dr. Estefan
Oct. 29	Quantitative approaches 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurement Questionnaires 	Chapter 19 Article 2 distributed	
Nov. 5	Quantitative approaches 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data analysis Data interpretation 	Chapter 16 Article 2 due for submission	
Nov. 11-15	Remembrance Day No Class		
Nov. 19	Summary and Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research showcase 	Chapter 20 End of Semester exam happens in class today	Dr. Estefan Ms. Reay
Nov. 26	Proposal presentations and results of peer review panel	Article critique 2 is due in class today	
Dec. 3	Research Practicum Poster & Presentations		

*Lecture schedule is subject to change given varying circumstances.

1. MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be written in the scheduled classroom during regular class time. The midterm exam will consist of multiple-choice questions based on classroom content and discussion.

Final Examination: The final examination for Nursing 309 will take place on the final day of taught classes. The final exam will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions based on classroom content, readings, guest presentations and discussion covered since the midterm examination.

Final Exam Policy : For detailed information regarding Examinations and Tests, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar 2009-2010, Academic Regulations, G. Examinations and Tests: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/

Deferred examinations

A student who becomes ill prior to the examination and is unable to write the examination at the scheduled time will notify the course instructor. Please call the course instructor (voice mail) and leave a message stating the date and time you called, reason for missing the scheduled examination and a phone number where you can be reached so that arrangements can be made for you to write a deferred examination. You may be expected to submit a

doctor's certification prior to writing the deferred examination. For further information regarding Deferral of Final Examinations Policies, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar 2009-2010, Academic Regulations, G. Examinations and Tests, G.6 Deferral of Final Examinations: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/

2. REAPPRAISALS AND APPEALS

For information on reappraisals and appeals, refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar 2009-2010, Academic Regulations, I. Reappraisal of Grades and Academic Appeals: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/

Please note the 15 day timeline from the receipt of a mark and a request for reappraisal and/or appeal to the Associate/Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Programs.

3. ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation, you must officially register with the Disability Resource Centre. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor within the first week of the start of this course.

Further information can be obtained at: www.ucalgary.ca/drc/ or by calling 403-220-8237.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP)

Information (such as a phone number, addresses, tracking sites of practica, etc.) that you may be asked to provide is collected under the authority of the Universities/Colleges Act and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 32(c). Your personal information is protected by Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection and Privacy Act and can be reviewed on request. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information, contact the U of C Faculty of Senior Student Advisor Laura Hampson at 403 220 2728. FOIPP legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place. Some assignments may be retrieved through the general office. If a student is unable to pick up an assignment from the professor or general office, a stamped, self-addressed envelope must be provided for the return of the assignment.

4. STUDENT MISCONDUCT

Plagiarism is a serious offence. The penalty is academic probation or requirement to withdraw in addition to an F on the assignment and possibly an F in the course as a whole.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged.

For further information on Student Misconduct Policies, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar 2009-2010, Academic Regulations, K. Student Misconduct: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/

Intellectual honesty is viewed most seriously at the University of Calgary and compliance with standards of intellectual honesty is an expectation.

5. ACADEMIC WRITING

The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well; therefore, written assignments in this course will be evaluated based on the required elements as well as quality academic writing.

For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar 2009-2010, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/

Grading Scale

If the percentage on your assignment is:	The grade on your assignment is:	The weighted grade points will be taken from:	If the total for all assignments is:	Your final grade will be:	And the GPA for the course will be:
98.0 – 100	A+	4.0	3.95-4.00	A+	4.0 Outstanding -- exceptional analysis and synthesis of subject matter.
93.0 – 97.9	A	3.9	3.85-3.94	A	4.0 Excellent -- superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
88.0 – 92.9	A-	3.7	3.50-3.84	A-	3.7
83.5 – 87.9	B+	3.3	3.15-3.49	B+	3.3
78.0 – 83.4	B	3.0	2.85-3.14	B	3.0 Good -- clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
73.5 – 77.9	B-	2.7	2.50-2.84	B-	2.7
69.0 – 73.4	C+	2.3	2.15-2.49	C+	2.3
63.5 – 68.9	C*	2.0	1.85-2.14	C	2.0 Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter. [Minimum passing grade for NURS 203/211.]
59.0 – 63.4	C-	1.7	1.50-1.84	C-	1.7
54.5 – 58.9	D+	1.3	1.15-1.49	D+	1.3
50.0 – 54.4	D	1.0	0.50-1.14	D	1.0 [Minimum passing grade for theory courses.]
49.9 or less	F	0	0.00-0.49	F	0.0

Approved by Faculty of Nursing, Executive Committee of Council, June 9, 2005 [Editorial Revisions: August 7, 2009]

NB the last day for withdrawal from this course is December 8, 2009.