Research in Nursing
Nursing 310  (3 credits)

Instructor:
Kathy Ware RN, MSN, MEd
E-mail: kathy.ware@doane.edu
Phone: 402-440-7786

Text:
Essentials of Nursing Research: Appraising Evidence for Nursing Practice, Eighth Edition
Denise F. Polit, PhD, FAAN, Cheryl Tatano Beck, DNSc, CNM, FAAN

Course Description:
This course provides a review of nursing theories upon which practice is built and prepares the RN to become a consumer of research as it applies to the practice of nursing. Students develop an understanding of both qualitative and quantitative research and how to determine appropriate methodology for a chosen study. Students develop skills for evaluating and critiquing existing research and learn how to apply ethical considerations to the practice of research. Upon completion of the course, students will understand the role of research in continuously improving health care. Prerequisite: NRS 2aa

Course Objectives:
The students will be able to:
1. Describe the process of research development
2. Differentiate between qualitative and quantitative research
3. Apply ethical considerations to the practice of research
4. Develop critical thinking skills to evaluate and critique existing research
5. Discuss how research impacts current nursing practice

Learning Strategies to Accomplish Course Objectives
Learning Objectives will be attained through:
1. Lecture of each of the sections of a research article
2. Weekly reading assignments for the students
3. Obtaining current research utilizing nursing databases
4. Critiquing in class current research articles
5. Class discussion of current research articles that apply to current local nursing practice
6. Class discussion regarding the ethics of nursing research

Class Attendance:
Attendance is required. Absences are subject to the discretion of the instructor. If you know you are going to be absent, please notify the instructor prior to class.
Grading:
Students will be expected to complete the assigned readings, attend and participate in class discussions, complete a final project, and present their final project to the class.

Grades for the course will be determined by the following:
1. Attendance: 10%
2. Class participation: 20%
3. Final Project: 70%
   a. Final Project is worth 100 points.
      i. 50% based on written summary of the research report and includes 10% for use of APA format
      ii. 30% based on evaluation of the research report
      iii. 20% based on class presentation of your research article with promotion of class discussion of your findings
4. Late assignments: Late assignments by one class period will result in the grade lowered by one letter grade. Late assignments by the second class meeting after due will result in a zero for the assignment.
5. Final letter grades will be calculated by aggregating the scores for the above criteria
   a. A equals 93-100%
   b. B equals 85-93%
   c. C equals 84-77%
   d. D equals 76-70%
   e. F equals less than 70%
6. Doane College Academic Integrity Policy
   a. The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Reading Assignments/Projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
<td>Read Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>Overview of Nursing Research</td>
<td>Assignment: Submit Research Article #1, related to a topic of interest. Briefly discuss the content in broad terms.</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Qualitative and Quantitative Research</td>
<td>Read Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Assignment: Submit Research Article #2. Briefly discuss the content related to the type of research: qualitative vs. quantitative.</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Reading and Critiquing Research</td>
<td>Read Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Articles</td>
<td>Assignment: Submit Research Article #3. Identify and discuss the major sections of the article.</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Ethics in Research</td>
<td>Read Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Assignment: Submit Research Article #4. Discuss ethical principles identified in the article.</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Special Types of Research</td>
<td>Read Chapter 18</td>
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<td>Assignment: Submit Research Article #5. Choose and discuss one type of research as listed in the Key Terms.</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Research Evidence in Literature</td>
<td>Read Chapter 7</td>
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<td>Review writing styles of literature reviews.</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Sampling and Data Collection</td>
<td>Read Chapters 10 &amp; 15</td>
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<td>Assignment: Submit Research Article #6. Discuss basic sampling concepts identified in the article.</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Reading Research Reports</td>
<td>Read Articles listed in the appendices in the text.</td>
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<td>Assignment: Submit Final Project—“Critically Reading a Research Report”. Be prepared to discuss your project in class.</td>
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Critically Reading a Research Report

Final Project

Assignment:

Find and read a research report to critique and report on. The assignment is worth 100 points. Fifty percent will be based on your written summary of the research report. (This will include 10 points for each of the main sections of Problem, Methods, Results, and Conclusions. The last 10% will be based on APA format use.) Thirty percent will be based on your evaluation of the research report. Twenty percent will be based on your class presentation of your research. Summarize the research report to include the items as described in this section. At the end of your summary, describe the strengths, limitations, or flaws of your research report. Report in class on your research findings.

Points to be discussed describing your research report.

Problem (10%)

1. What was the gap in knowledge the researchers were trying to address?
2. Why was the study needed?
3. Why was the study carried out as it was?
4. Summarize the literature review. Was it relevant and was the majority of the literature cited current?
5. What was the purpose of the research?
6. What was the specific research problem or hypothesis?

Methods (10%)

1. Who was included in the study?
2. How was the information collected?
3. What interventions, if any were tested?
4. What procedures were used to collect the information?
5. Is the study qualitative or quantitative?
6. What type of sample was used? Describe the sample. Was the sample appropriate for the research? Were there ethical considerations for the sample? Did the study address the use of an institutional review board?

Results (10%)

1. Summarize the specific findings of the study
2. How were the data analyzed and what methods were used?
3. Describe any statistics that were used and were they appropriate?
Conclusions (10%)

1. What did the research study find?
2. Did the research contribute to existing knowledge or provide new knowledge?
3. What are the implications for nursing practice?
4. What cautions or limitations were cited?
5. What were the recommendations for future research?
6. Can this research be generalized to other populations?

APA Format (10%)

Describe the strengths, limitations, and flaws to this research study. (30%)

Present a summary of this research to the class (20%)