

Doane University

Course Syllabus

Course Information

NURS-310 Research In Nursing
17SUMM (May 22 – July 16)
3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

Jeri Brandt BSN, MSN, PhD

Mikayla Albin, RN, MSN, MBA

Contact Information

Email: mikayla.albin@doane.edu (Week 1 only)
jeri.brandt@doane.edu (Weeks 2-8)

Communicating With the Instructor

This course uses a “three before me” policy for student to faculty communications. When questions arise during the course of this class, please remember to check these sources for an answer before asking me to reply to your individual questions:

1. Course Syllabus/Course Schedule
2. Announcements in Blackboard
3. The Q & A discussion board

This policy will help you in potentially identifying answers before I can get back to you and it also helps your instructor avoid answering similar questions or concerns multiple times.

If you cannot find an answer to your question, please first post your question to the Q & A discussion board. Here your question can be answered for the benefit of all students by either your fellow students who know the answer to your question or the instructor. You are encouraged to answer questions from other students in the discussion forum when you know the answer to a question in order to help provide timely assistance.

If you have questions of a personal nature such as relating a personal emergency, questioning a grade on an assignment, or something else that needs to be communicated privately, you are welcome to contact me via email. My preference is that you will try to email me first. I will usually respond to email messages from 8am to 8pm on weekdays, please allow 24 hours for me to respond.

If you have a question about the technology being used in the course, please contact the Doane University Help Desk for assistance (contact information is listed below).

Course Catalog 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.

Course Overview

Research is a major focus in nursing and the evidence generated from research is constantly changing nursing practice, education, and health policy. The role of research related to the Baccalaureate nurse consists of being able to read, critically appraise, and synthesize the research so the best evidence can be used to make changes in practice. The course consists of eight modules. Each module consists of assignments and discussions related to the research process. Students will work in various groups to gain a more in-depth understanding of the importance of research in nursing practice. The final project for the course consists of an effort by students to affect nursing practice based upon research findings.

Course Prerequisites

NRS 215

Course Textbook and Materials

Required

Understanding Nursing Research Building an Evidence-Based Practice. 6th Edition Susan K Grove, Jennifer R. Gray, and Nancy Burns Elsevier 2015 ISBN 978-1-4557-7060-1

Learning Objectives

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course 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. Evaluate and critique existing research
5. Evaluate the impact of research on current nursing practices

Course Objectives Achieved by Module

Module 1: Overview of the Research Process

Course Objective (CO): Describe the process of research development

Module Objectives (MOs):

- Determine the ways knowledge is acquired in nursing
- Explain the purpose of research
- Utilize scholarly databases to retrieve nursing research

Module 2: Introduction to Quantitative research

CO: Differentiate between qualitative and quantitative research

MOs:

- Define quantitative research
- Identify the steps of quantitative research
- Compare and contrast non-experimental and experimental designs in nursing studies

Module 3: Introduction to Qualitative research

CO: Differentiate between qualitative and quantitative research

MOs:

- Define qualitative research
- Summarize qualitative research approaches

- Describe data collection methods for qualitative research

Module 4: The Ethics of Research

CO: Apply ethical considerations to the practice of research

MOs:

- Examine historical events influencing the development of ethical codes and regulations for nursing and biomedical research
- Analyze ethical principles that are important in conducting research on human subjects
- Discuss the human rights that require protection in human research
- Outline the essential elements of the informed consent process in research

- Investigate the role of an institutional review board (IRB) with the research process

Module 5: Evaluating the Critiquing Existing Research

CO: Evaluate and critique existing research

MOs:

- Identify research topics, problems, purposes, or hypothesis in published research studies
- Critically appraise the research problem, purpose, or hypothesis of a research study
- Critically appraise the definitions of variables in published research studies
- Differentiate between a dependent and independent variable of a research study
- Discuss the purpose of the literature review in published research studies
- Critically appraise the literature review section of a published study
- Describe the purpose of a research study framework
- Critically appraise the design of published research studies
- Describe the concepts of probability, bias, control, and manipulation when

- examining causality in a research study
- Differentiate between internal validity and external validity

Module 6: Evaluating the Critiquing Existing Research

CO: Evaluate and critique existing research

MOs:

- Differentiate between population and sample of a research study
- Identify sampling methods used in published research studies
- Critically appraise the inclusion and exclusion sampling criteria in published studies
- Evaluate the sample size of quantitative and qualitative research studies
- Critically appraise the trustworthiness of measurement methods used in published studies
- Explain the importance of reliability and validity in the research process
- Critically appraise the data collection process of published studies
- Differentiate between descriptive and inferential statistics
- Critically appraise the results from research studies

Module 7: Evaluating the Critiquing Existing Research

CO: Evaluate and critique existing research

MOs:

- Read and critically appraise the research study for its application to nursing
- Collaborate with peers to present a summary of the research findings

Module 8: Nursing Research and Nursing Practice

CO: Evaluate the impact of research on current nursing practices

MOs:

- Outline the benefits and barriers to evidence-based practice
- Relate your role in research as a professional nurse
- Summarize the influence of other organizations in the development, and promotion of nursing research

Course Requirements

Online Course

This is an online course and therefore there will not be any face-to-face class sessions. All assignments and course interactions will utilize internet-based technologies.

Attendance Policy

You should plan to work on this course everyday. This means that you must have a reliable and consistent internet connection throughout the duration of the course. It is strongly recommended that you not take any vacations during this course. This is a condensed,

fast-paced course and it would be extremely difficult to catch up after a prolonged absence.

Course Preparation and Participation

Preparation for class means reading the assigned readings & reviewing all information required for that week. *Attendance* in an online course means logging into the Blackboard and on a regular basis and *participating* in the all of activities that are posted in the course.

Studying and Preparation Time

The course requires you to spend time preparing and completing assignments. A three-credit course requires 144 hours of student work. Therefore expect to spend approximately 18 hours a week preparing for and actively participating in this 8-week course.

Computer Requirements

This course requires that you have access to a computer that can access the internet. You will need to have access to, and be able to use, the following software packages:

- A web browser (Chrome or Mozilla Firefox)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)
- Adobe Flash Player (free)
- Word processing software—Microsoft Word or Google Docs

You are responsible for having a reliable computer and internet connection throughout the course.

Email and Internet

You must have an active Doane University e-mail account and access to the Internet. *All instructor correspondence will be sent to your Doane University e-mail account.* Please plan on checking your Doane Gmail account regularly for course related messages.

This course uses Blackboard for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades. The Blackboard Course Site can be accessed at <http://bb2.doane.edu>

Campus Network or Blackboard Outage

When access to Blackboard is not available for an extended period of time (greater than one entire evening - 6pm till 11pm) you can reasonably expect that the due date for assignments will be changed to the next day (assignment still due by midnight).

Course Grading

Grades and Grading Scale

Assignment of letter grades is based on a percentage of points earned. The letter grade will

correspond with the following percentages achieved. All course requirements must be completed before a grade is assigned.

A	100 – 90
B	89 – 80
C	79 – 70
D	69 – 60
E	59 and below

See the requirements for the specific Assignments on Blackboard.

Late or Missed Assignments

All assignments must be finished and turned in to complete the course. Students must submit discussion board postings during the time frame indicated in the course material. Discussion board submissions will not be accepted for credit after the deadline.

Students needing extra time may submit assignments, excluding discussion board posts, up to one week after the assignment due date. Students who submit assignments more than one week late will receive a grade of zero on the assignment unless they have made prior arrangements with the instructor.

Students who suffer extenuating circumstances must notify the instructor as soon as possible regarding the extenuating circumstance that will prevent them from submitting work on time. A deadline will be determined by the student and instructor for timely submission of the assignment. Students who do not meet this deadline will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. It is important to stay on time with assignments for the greatest success in the course.

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced by the instructor, must be submitted via Blackboard. Each assignment will have a designated place for submission.

Drop and Add dates

If you feel it is necessary to withdraw from the course, please contact your advisor for full details on the types of withdrawals that are available and their procedures.

Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

Academic Integrity

Doane University expects and requires all its students to act with honesty and integrity, and respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. Academic dishonesty, the act of knowingly and willingly attempting or assisting others to gain academic success by dishonest means, is manifested in various measures. Gehring, et al, (1986) suggests that four categories of academic dishonesty exist¹:

- a. Cheating
- b. Fabrication
- c. Facilitating academic dishonesty
- d. Plagiarism

For more information on academic integrity, please visit the website:
<http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=191>

How to Succeed in this Course

- Check your Doane email regularly
- Log in to the course web site daily
- Communicate with your instructor
- Create a study schedule so that you don't fall behind on assignments

Technical Support Contact Information

For technical assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, please contact the Doane University Technology Office Help Desk:

Phone: 402-826-8411
Email: helpdesk@doane.edu
Web: <http://www.doane.edu>

Accessibility Statement

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, professional disability specialists and support staff at Doane University facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Doane University staff coordinate transition from high schools and community colleges, in-service training for faculty and staff, resolution of accessibility issues, community outreach, and collaboration between all Doane University regarding disability policies, procedures, and accommodations.

Accessibility Services

Doane University Access/Services for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.doane.edu/disability-services>

Contact: Angie Klasek Phone: 402.466.4774 Email: angie.klasek@doane.edu

Academic Support

Contact: Tere Francis Phone: 402.466.4774 Email: terese.francis@doane.edu

Student Services

<http://www.doane.edu/gps/student-services>

Student Conduct Statement

Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in *Doane University Policy Manual*

Appropriate classroom behavior is defined by the instructor. This includes the number and length of individual messages online. Course discussion messages should remain focused on the assigned discussion topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion board messages may be deleted if an instructor feels it is necessary. Students will be notified privately that their posting was inappropriate.

Student access to the course Send Email feature may be limited or removed if an instructor feels that students are sending inappropriate electronic messages to other students in the course.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The instructor views the course syllabus as an educational contract between the instructor and students. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes face-to-face, via email or in the course site Announcements. Please remember to check your Doane University email and the course site Announcements often.

