Catalog Course Description: Prepares advanced practice nurses who are proficient in the ethical utilization and clinical application of research including problem identification and evaluation to provide high quality care and improve practice.

Course Objectives: At the end of this course, students will:
1. Examine and evaluate research designs and their implementation relevant to nursing practice in various health care settings.
2. Design and evaluate interventions directed towards nurse sensitive outcomes and practice improvements.
3. Utilize evidence-based methodologies to evaluate clinical problems relevant to APN practice.
4. Analyze and interpret core epidemiological concepts and measures pertaining to nursing practice.

Prerequisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Restrictions: Open only to master’s degree students in the College of Nursing or approval of College.

Professional Standards & Guidelines: The curriculum is guided by the following documents:


Course Faculty and Contact Information:

Course coordinator Sandra Spoelstra, Ph.D., R.N., Assistant Professor
Office phone 517-353-8681
Office address 417A West Fee Hall
Office hours By appointment *
Email Sandra.Spoelstra@hc.msu.edu

Course faculty Kelly Brittain, Ph.D., R.N., Assistant Professor
Office phone 517-432-8356
Office address 415A West Fee Hall
Office hours By appointment *
Email Kelly.Brittain@hc.msu.edu

Course faculty Rebecca Lehto, Ph.D., R.N., Assistant Professor
Office phone 517-353-4757
Office address 422 West Fee Hall
Office hours By appointment *
Email Rebecca.Lehto@hc.msu.edu
*Note: Meeting times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules*

**Instruction:** Methodology: NUR 806 uses an online format which serves as a web-based classroom. The classroom includes many important areas including Power Point presentations, readings, exams and other activities. Discussion boards will be available in ANGEL for students to post questions. No points will be awarded for participation but students are encouraged to participate.

**Required Texts and Resources:**


**Optional Texts:** None

Text books may be purchased online at: http://www.spartanbook.com/ Enter the semester, year, course number and section number for a list of textbooks for your course.

**Required Resources, References, Supplies:**

- ANGEL Help Line
  - 1.800.500.1554 (24 hrs, 7 days/week)
  - 517.355.2345 (24 hrs, 7 days/week)
  - [www.angel.msu.edu](http://www.angel.msu.edu) (ANGEL Help link in upper right corner)
- Always check with the ANGEL Help Line first for technical problems.

**Grading Scale:** Evaluation/Grading Scale

*Please Note: application of major concepts associated with the weekly objectives of the course will be the focus of the assignments, papers, and exams.*

Grades will be determined by adding all of the course activities together and arriving at a specific number (point total). The MSU 4.0 grading system will be utilized to report final course grades. Points will be rounded to whole numbers using the 0.5 rules. Points at ≥ 0.5 will be rounded up while those < 0.5 will be rounded down to the nearest whole number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 - 94</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93 - 87</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86 - 80</td>
<td>3.0 (Minimum passing grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79 - 75</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74 - 70</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 - 65</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64 - 60</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note.** Each exam will be closed at 11:55PM EST. Therefore, if a student starts the exam after 9:00 PM EST, the student may not have enough time to complete the exam, particularly if a computer or technical problem arises.
Grades will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of total grade</th>
<th>Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exams</strong> 30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams 150 minutes each (2.5 hours)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covers weeks 2-5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Multiple choices, true/false and/or matching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covers weeks 7-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Please refer to the “GUIDELINES” and “GRADING CRITERIA” in ANGEL where</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam III</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Grading Rubrics are provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covers weeks 12-15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Papers</strong> 50%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Synthesis Paper</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Critique-paper provided by faculty</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Critique-paper of your choice</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong> 15%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey or Tool Selection</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention Project</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology Assignment</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class Participation</strong> 5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Posting in discussion forums. Reflections on key concepts from lessons, exam preparation and grades, and a self assessment at end of course.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Faculty will monitor postings in ANGEL.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Points | 1,000 | 100% | |

**Examination.** All students are expected to take examinations on the designated date and time. If there is an unexpected personal or family emergency, such as a medical emergency or death of immediate family member, all course faculty members must be contacted immediately via email or phone. A medical excuse is needed. A family vacation, need to work, etc., do not constitute an unexpected emergency. Please plan far in advance to be free from work or family responsibilities at that time. Alternative exams may be used for make-up. Alternative exams may include essay and/or short answer questions. Make-up examinations must be completed within one week of the scheduled exam week.

**Course Communication:** Contact Dr. Sandra Spoelstra, the course coordinator, for general course concerns. All questions sent to faculty members via email will be answered within approximately 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.

If you have questions about ANGEL or experience any ANGEL-related problems including technology problems during a quiz call the ANGEL Help Line immediately: 1.800.500.1544 or 517.355.2345 (24/7!). You can also access ANGEL Help online from www.angel.msu.edu (ANGEL Help link in upper right corner). If you have technical problems during an exam, please contact the ANGEL Help Line immediately. They will notify faculty of unusual circumstances.

**Content Discussion Boards:** For students to discuss difficult concepts. Students are strongly encouraged to post questions at least 48 hours prior to a designated day of exam so you can better prepare for your exam. The content discussion boards will be closed two hours prior to a designated exam. Students are strongly
encouraged to log on content discussion boards on regular basis and actively participate in the discussion. Faculty will check accuracy of the responses on a regular basis and correct misunderstanding as needed.

**Synthesis Paper Discussion Board:** This discussion board is created for students to exchange or discuss ideas for synthesis paper. Therefore, we strongly encourage each of you post your questions. Better planning is one of the keys to do well on the synthesis paper. Therefore, please post your questions as early as possible.

**When to Look for Course Materials:** Monday is considered the “beginning” day of each week of the course (please refer to the Course Calendar). The materials for Week #1 will be accessible to you starting on Monday, January 9 (the first day of Week #1). During each subsequent week of the course, you will be able to review the material for all past weeks. For example, on Monday, January 16 (Week #2), you will be able to see materials for the prior Week #1.

**Attendance Policy** Students are expected to log into and actively participate in any discussions on the unit message boards as required. Scholarly interchange is vital to everyone’s understanding of the material.

**CLASS RULES** MUTUAL RESPECT should be demonstrated by all faculty and students.

**University & College Policies:** The College of Nursing expects that students will demonstrate professional behavior in all situations. Specific expectations for clinical and other professional venues can be found in the appropriate handbook. You are responsible for reviewing and acting in accordance with the policies and procedures found in the following sources, including the following topics: Professionalism, Academic Integrity, Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, Disruptive Behavior, Attendance, Compliance, and Progression.

- CON Student handbook  [http://nursing.msu.edu/handbooks.asp](http://nursing.msu.edu/handbooks.asp)
- Information for Current Students—including Rights, Responsibilities and Regulations for Students  [http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html](http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html)
- Academic Programs  [http://www.reg.msu.edu/UCC/AcademicPrograms.asp](http://www.reg.msu.edu/UCC/AcademicPrograms.asp)

**Academic Integrity:** Academic Honesty: Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states: “The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards.” In addition, the College of Nursing adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu).) Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.

Please read each part of the following site to fully understand your responsibilities and the position of the University regarding:

- cheating,
- plagiarism,
- MSU regulations, ordinances and policies regarding academic honesty and integrity
- Academic integrity links  [http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html)

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in the College of Nursing. Any student involved in academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Student Affairs in the College of Nursing and a grade of 0.0 may be issued for the course.
Lectures, quizzes and examinations must remain the property of the College of Nursing and must not be copied from the internet for use with others. Any quiz or exam should not be printed. Printing an exam will be considered academic dishonesty. According to university policy, consequences for academic dishonesty may include failure of the course, expulsion from the major, or expulsion from the university. You are advised to complete and submit your own work. The exams are NOT group projects.

Online discussions and other course activities are confidential and should not be shared or discussed with others who are not enrolled in the class. The course provides an opportunity for each course participant to express his/her ideas and all are expected to do so. All ideas need to be respected in discussions and exercises. Any “group projects” (that are required) still require individual work as a minimal expectation. For further information you can access any of the following sites: International Studies and Programs http://www.msu.edu/international/index.html

Disruptive Behavior: Article 2.3.5 of the Academic Freedom Report (AFR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.3.10 of the AFR states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility." General Student Regulation 5.02 states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Faculty Judiciary process.

Attendance: Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course. See the Ombudsman’s web site for a discussion of student observance of major religious holidays, student-athlete participation in athletic competition, student participation in university-approved field trips, medical excuses and a dean's drop for students who fail to attend class sessions at the beginning of the semester.

College of Nursing Policies: Professional Development Guidelines are found in the CON MSN Student Handbooks at the CON website. Students are responsible for the information found in the CON MSN Student Handbook.

Late Assignment. Due dates for each paper or assignment are listed on the course calendar. Each paper or assignment is due on 11:55 PM EST on the due date listed. If any paper or assignment is turned in late, 1 points will be deducted from the total points EACH DAY LATE. Only one paper/assignment can be submitted to a designed drop box.

Paper/Assignment Submission. Please upload one clean, clear, readable copy in black ink (always keep a copy for yourself) to the designated drop box in ANGEL by the due date. Only one submission is allowed. Therefore, please make sure you have the correct version when you submit the paper. Students must submit their paper to the designated drop box. Please allow 7 working days (about 1 week) for faculty to return papers. Students are expected to read and follow the “paper/assignment guidelines” and “grading criteria” in ANGEL carefully. For the users of Microsoft Windows “VISTA” or MS Word 2007 operating system, please make sure your paper/assignment is saved as “1997-2003 MS Word document.”
## Course Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1/9  | A review of the course syllabi. Introduction to Nursing Research. Library tutorial | Dr. Spoelstra | Burns & Grove (B & G) Ch. 1-3  
Please introduce yourself in the 'Discussion Forum' DUE 1/11/2012 11:55 PM EST.  
Post your understanding of key course concepts and exams, papers, assignments, class participation in the 'Discussion Forum' DUE 1/16 11:55 PM EST |
| 2    | 1/16 | How to conduct literature review | Dr. Spoelstra | B & G Ch. 6  
Post your understanding of key concepts on 'Literature Reviews' in the 'Discussion Forum' DUE 1/23 11:55 PM EST |
| 3    | 1/23 | Research problem, purpose, hypotheses, and questions | Dr. Brittain | B & G Ch. 5 & 8  
Research Critique #1-(paper provided by faculty) DUE 1/23 11:55 PM EST  
Post your understanding of key concepts on 'Nursing Research' and reflect on writing your research critique paper in the 'Discussion Forum' DUE 1/30 11:55 PM EST |
| 4    | 1/30 | Nursing Interventions | Dr. Lehto | B & G Ch. 13  
Post your understanding of key concepts on 'Interventions' and your intervention assignment in the 'Discussion Forum' DUE 2/6 11:55 PM EST |
| 5    | 2/6  | Ethics | Dr. Lehto | B & G Ch. 9  
Intervention Assignment AND Research Critique #2-(paper selected by student) DUE 2/6 11:55 PM EST  
Post your understanding of key concepts on 'Ethics' and reflect on writing your research critique paper in 'Discussion Forum' DUE 2/13 11:55 PM EST |
| 6    | 2/13 | **Exam I Monday 2/13/2012 12:05AM to 11:55PM Suggested latest time to start exam is 9:00PM EST.** | | Covers contents from Weeks 2 to 5 (100 points).  
Post your reflection on 'exam items you had difficulty with and how you studied for this exam' in the 'Discussion Forum' DUE 2/13 11:55 PM EST |
| 7    | 2/20 | Quantitative Design | Dr. Spoelstra | B & G Ch. 10 & 11  
Synthesis Paper Topic DUE 2/20 11:55 PM EST  
Post your understanding of key concepts on 'Quantitative Designs' and reflect on how you selected the topic for your synthesis paper in the 'Discussion Forum' DUE 2/27 11:55 PM EST |
| 8    | 2/27 | Quantitative Design | Dr. Spoelstra | B & G Ch. 10 & 11  
Post your understanding of key concepts on 'Quantitative Designs' in the 'Discussion Forum' DUE 3/2 11:55 PM EST |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Additional Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Sampling Qualitative Research</td>
<td>Dr. Lehto</td>
<td>B &amp; G Ch. 14  B &amp; G Ch. 4 &amp; 23  Post your understanding of key concepts on ‘Sampling &amp; Qualitative Designs’ in the ‘Discussion Forum’ DUE 3/19 11:55 PM EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>Core epidemiological concepts and measures</td>
<td>Dr. Brittain</td>
<td>Draft of Synthesis Paper DUE 3/20 11:55 PM EST  Post your understanding of key concepts on ‘Epidemiology’ and your draft synthesis paper in the ‘Discussion Forum’ DUE 3/26 11:55 PM EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3/26</td>
<td>Exam II Monday 3/26/2012 12:05AM to 11:55PM  Suggested latest time to start exam is 9:00PM EST.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Covers contents from Weeks 7 to 10 (100 points)  Post your reflection on ‘exam items you had difficulty with and how you studied for this exam’ in the ‘Discussion Forum’ DUE 3/26 11:55 PM EST  Epidemiology Project assignment due 4/2 11:55 PM EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>Measurements: Psychometric properties (validity and reliability)</td>
<td>Dr. Brittain</td>
<td>B &amp; G Ch. 15  Synthesis Paper DUE 4/2 11:55 PM EST  Post your understanding of key concepts on ‘Measurement’ and reflect on your synthesis paper in the ‘Discussion Forum’ DUE 4/10 11:55 PM EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/9</td>
<td>Measurement methods; Data collection</td>
<td>Dr. Brittain</td>
<td>B &amp; G Ch. 16 &amp; 17  Post your understanding of key concepts on ‘Measurement Methods/Data collection’ and reflect on tools/survey assignment in the ‘Discussion Forum’ DUE 4/16 11:55 PM EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/16</td>
<td>Quality Improvement</td>
<td>Dr. Lehto</td>
<td>M &amp; F Ch. 20  Assignment on Tools/Surveys DUE 4/16 11:55 PM EST  Post your understanding of key concepts on ‘Quality Improvement’ in the ‘Discussion Forum’ DUE 4/23 11:55 PM EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4/23</td>
<td>Evidence-based practice and dissemination</td>
<td>Dr. Spoelstra</td>
<td>B &amp; G Ch. 25, 27, 28, &amp; 29; M &amp; F. Ch 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7  Post your understanding of key concepts on ‘Evidence based practice and dissemination’ in the ‘Discussion Forum’ DUE 4/30 11:55 PM EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>4/30</td>
<td>Exam III Monday 4/30/2012 12:05AM to 11:55PM  Suggested latest time to start exam is 9:00PM EST.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Covers contents from Weeks 12 to 15 (100 points)  Post your reflection on ‘exam items you had difficulty with and how you studied for this exam’; AND what you believe should be your FINAL GRADE for this course in the ‘Discussion Forum’ DUE 4/30 11:55 PM EST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*Additional readings may be assigned or posted each week in ANGEL.