Doctor of Nursing Practice Synthesis  
NUR 989 - Section 001  
Online Asynchronous Course (D2L)  
6 Credit Hours (variable credit course)  
Spring 2015

**Catalog Course Description:** Demonstrate synthesis of didactic coursework and application to the practice by leading a practice change innovation to address a health care problem and improve health outcomes.

**Course Objectives:** At the end of this course the students will:

1. Appraise population health data to identify a significant nursing practice problem that has the potential to impact health outcomes.
2. Examine the ethical, economic, and cultural aspects related to the problem.
3. Conduct a review of the research literature and translate best available evidence to address the problem and improve health outcomes.
4. Apply health care models to develop and implement evidence-based strategies that increase access, are cost effective and promote health care quality and/or safety.
5. Evaluate project outcomes and significance to improving health outcomes.
6. Disseminate findings from scholarly project to advance the profession of nursing practice

**Additional Course Objectives:** none

**Prerequisites:** NUR 962

**Co-requisites:** NUR920

**Professional Standards Documents:**


**Course Faculty:**

Kathleen Poindexter, PhD, RN, CNE

**Contact Information:**
Office: A-109 Life Sciences  
Office Phone: 517-884-1263  
Email: Kathleen.Poindexter@hc.msu.edu or poindex9@msu.edu

**Office Hours:** Fridays 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (call or virtual). Additional times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.
Instruction:

a. Methodology:

NUR989 is an online course designed to provide the DNP student with an organizing framework to complete the requirements for the Synthesis Project. Benchmarks for the completion of the project components will be determined by the student in collaboration with their major advisor. The course faculty will work closely with the student and the major advisor to monitor progress and provide resource support.

The course materials will reside in Desire to Learn (D2L) course management system. Students are expected to access the course to access resources, upload required forms, papers, and evidence to support project progression.

b. Writing Requirements:

It is expected that students will engage in a scholarly dialogue when conversing on the discussion board using appropriate citations and referencing. The minimum expectation for writing is at a graduate level in accordance with the MSU graduate student handbook. APA format is essential for citations of work and a reference list is required.

c. Required Texts:


Optional Texts:


Resources to support individualized student projects

a. Required Resources, References, Supplies

Distance Learning Services Help Line
1.800.500.1554 (24 hrs, 7 days/week)
517.355.2345 (24 hrs, 7 days/week)
Always check with the Help Line first!
Evaluation:

a. Learning Assessments and Grading:
   Learning assessment will be determined by successful completion of student Synthesis Project benchmarks in collaboration with their major advisor.

b. Course Grading Requirements: Pass – No Grade (P – N)
   Successful completion of the Synthesis Project is a requirement of the DNP program. Failure to successfully pass the project requirements will result in a failure to graduate from the DNP program.

d. Writing Requirements:

   The College of Nursing requires that students refer to a style manual when writing required papers and bibliographies. The reference format adopted by the College of Nursing is the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (most recent edition).

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 MSN Student Handbook: [http://nursing.msu.edu/MSN%20Programs/Handbooks/default.htm](http://nursing.msu.edu/MSN%20Programs/Handbooks/default.htm)
- MSU Spartan Life Online: [http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife](http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife)
- Information for MSU Students: [http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html](http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html)
- Academic Programs: [http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms](http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms)

Professionalism:

All graduate students at Michigan State University should be fully familiar with the Graduate Student Rights and [http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/graduate-student-rights-and-responsibilities](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/graduate-student-rights-and-responsibilities) Responsibilities Articles (published by the Graduate School; available at University guidelines for ethical research (published by the University committee on Research Involving Human Subjects [UCRIHS]; available at [http://www.msu.edu/user/ucrihs/](http://www.msu.edu/user/ucrihs/)); The MSU Guidelines for Integrity in Research and Creative Activities, [http://grad.msu.edu/all/ris04activities.pdf](http://grad.msu.edu/all/ris04activities.pdf) and specific principles for informal conflict management, in the Graduate Student Resource Guide (published by the Graduate School; available at [http://grad.msu.edu/conflict.htm](http://grad.msu.edu/conflict.htm)).

The Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities (GSRR) Articles address professional standards for graduate students as follows: “Each department/school and college shall communicate to graduate students, at the time of their enrollment in a degree program or course in the unit, any specific codes of professional and academic standards covering the conduct expected of them.” (Article 2.4.7). “The graduate student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards” (Article 2.3.8).
In addition to meeting academic standards included in the Academic Progression Guidelines, students and faculty in the Doctoral Program in Nursing have shared responsibility for adherence to the professional standards referred to the Doctoral Student Handbook of the CON.

Professional expectations are rooted in the maintenance of high quality working relationships with faculty, peers, research participants, staff, and all others with whom the graduate student interacts. Aspects of high quality working relationships that are addressed in the GSSR as shared faculty-student responsibilities include: *mutual respect, understanding, and dedication to the education process* (2.1.2); *maintenance of a collegial atmosphere* (2.3.7); and *mutual trust and civility* (2.3.1.2).

**University Policies:**

**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 [http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/general-student-regulations](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/general-student-regulations) 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 NUR 901. 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. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also [https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/RegsOrdsPolicies.html](https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/RegsOrdsPolicies.html)).

Students engaged in scholarly activities (e.g. dissertation, scholarly projects) should follow the guidelines of scholarly writings as outlined in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (most recent edition). Ethical principles ensure the accuracy of scientific and scholarly knowledge and protect intellectual rights. Principles include reporting of results, plagiarism, publication credit, sharing data, and copyright.

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 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 Services in the College of Nursing and a grade of 0.0 may be issued for the course.

Research Misconduct and Questionable Research Practices within the college are defined consistently with the Interim University Document on Intellectual Integrity approved by the President of Michigan State University on August 5, 1994 and revised June 29, 1995. Refer to the CON Doctoral Student Handbook.
Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Person with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a disability specialist, call 353-9642 (voice), 355-1293 (TTY), or visit MyProfile.rcpd.msu.edu

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 website 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 [found in the CON Student Handbook at the CON website]. Students are responsible for the information found in the CON Doctoral Student Handbook. Effective conflict management/negotiation skills are essential for navigating the graduate school experience and maintaining high quality working relationships. Specific principles for conflict are responsible for making concerted good faith efforts to resolve conflicts with others in a constructive and informal fashion, prior to proceeding to formal conflict resolution options as consistent with the GSRR statement on informal conflict resolution (Article 5.3.2.). Doctoral students who have specific questions or concerns about professional standards or conflict resolution issues should consult with their Major Professor, the Director of the Doctoral Program, and/or the University Ombudsman for guidance, as appropriate.

Course Calendar:
Additional information will be available in the D2L course management system and during Spring 2015 intensive meeting.

Student Benchmarks Checklist Spring 2015 (Due Dates will be individualized)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synthesis Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis project committee formed and document signed/filed by end of fall intensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Proposal Defense form submitted and signed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project successfully defended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRB submitted by end of spring semester (MSU and Agency as needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility agreement document completed and submitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis Project Committee meeting report forms completed/signed and filed. (minimum of 1 per semester)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual review form signed by Director of Graduate Clinical Programs, major professor and student prior to filing.</td>
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</tbody>
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DNP Scholarly Project Trajectory

Description: Application of nursing and related theories for the development, implementation and evaluation of an evidence-based intervention to improve health outcomes for a selected population or health system for a selected organization.

### Recommended Synthesis Project Development Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Outcomes</th>
<th>Synthesis Project Spring 2015 Goal</th>
<th>Synthesis Project Spring 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Appraise population health data to identify a significant nursing practice</td>
<td>4. Apply health care models to develop and implement evidence-based strategies that increase access,</td>
<td>problem that has the potential to impact health</td>
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<td>2. Examine the ethical, economic, and cultural aspects related to the problem.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>Synthesis project committee formed and document signed/filed by end of fall intensive (wk 1)</td>
<td>Results and Implications (wk 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Recommended Timeframes)</td>
<td>Refine problem Statement (wk 2)</td>
<td>Draft Paper/manuscript (wk 6)</td>
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<td>Refine problem, background and significance for nursing (draft by wk 3)</td>
<td>Agency - Executive Summary Submission (wk 8)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Facility agreement document completed and submitted (3)</td>
<td>Final Paper/manuscript (wk 10)</td>
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<td>Literature table and ROL synthesis (wk 4)</td>
<td>Schedule Defense (wk 10)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Project implementation Draft (wk 6)</td>
<td>Defense (wk 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Product</td>
<td>Proposal Paper</td>
<td>Analysis of Evaluation Data</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Project Proposal and Committee Approval</td>
<td>Final Synthesis Project Paper (manuscript format)</td>
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<td>IRB modules completion (may require MSU updates &amp; additional agency IRB requirements)</td>
<td>Committee Defense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>IRB Submission (MSU &amp; Agency as required)</td>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Approval (Committee)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Synthesis Project Paper Successful Defense Executive Summary</td>
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