Research for Advanced Practice Nursing  
NUR 806  
Sections 731 – 735; 738  
Spring 2016  
3 Credits - On-line class

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 be able to:
1. Examine and evaluate research designs relevant to nursing practice in various health care settings.
2. 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.
5. Conduct and write a brief review of the literature on a topic relevant to APN 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 Faculty:
Amy J. Hoffman, MSN, PhD, RN  
Associate Professor  
Office Hours: By appointment* and Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.  
E-mail: amy.hoffman@ht.msu.edu  
Note: Meeting times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.
**Course Communication:** Contact your lead faculty for general course concerns. All questions sent to faculty via email will be answered within about 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.

**Instruction:** Methodology: NUR 806 uses an online format which serves as a web-based classroom. The classroom includes many important areas including presentations, readings, study guides, exams and other learning activities.

**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:** Required articles will need to be retrieved from library using search tools. A library tutorial is assigned for week 1.

**D2L Help Line**
1.800.500.1554 (24 hrs, 7 days/week)
517.355.2345 (24 hrs, 7 days/week)
www.D2L.msu.edu (D2L Help link in upper right corner)
Always check with the D2L Help Line first for technical problems.

<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>
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<tr>
<td>66 – 65</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>64 – 60</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale:**

**Please Note:** application of major concepts associated with the weekly objectives of the course will be the focus of the learning activities, 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.

There is no opportunity for “extra credit” in this course.
Note: Each exam will be closed at 11:59PM EST or 2359. 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 learning opportunities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of total grade</th>
<th>Type of Learning Opportunities</th>
<th>% breakdown by assignment</th>
<th>Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exams</strong> 45%</td>
<td>Exam I Covers weeks 1-5</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Varies in format (e.g., multiple choice, true/false and/or matching).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exam II Covers weeks 7-10</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Exam III Covers weeks 12-15</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Papers</strong> 40%</td>
<td>Research Critique Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Please refer to the Folder in D2L entitled: Instructions for Course Assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literature Synthesis Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong> 15%</td>
<td>Intervention Assignment</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Please refer to the Folder in D2L entitled: Instructions for Course Assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epidemiology Assignment</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Measurement Assignment</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professional Responsibility</strong> (Required)</td>
<td>• Ungraded Discussion Forum—Class-Wide Introductions</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Self-Learning Library Tutorial</td>
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<td>Please refer to the Folder in D2L entitled: Instructions for Course Assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Percentage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Examinations.** Allow for up to 2 or more hours for each exam with details to be provided for each exam one week before the exam. The exam will open for 24 hours (12:01 am to 11:59 pm or 2359, Eastern Time). You may take it for a continuous time period during the allotted time during the exam day. **It is not an open-book exam.** All students are expected to take examinations at the designated date and time. A score of zero (0.0) point will be given for that exam if students do not take the exam at the designated date and time. If there is an unexpected personal or family emergency, such as medical emergency or death of immediate family member, all course faculty members must be contacted immediately via email. 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.

**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 D2L by the due date. Do not PDF your document since faculty may provide feedback to the student on the document. Only one submission is allowed. Therefore, please make sure you have the correct version when you submit the paper. Students must submit their assignments to the designated drop box labeled: LAST NAME.DESIGNATEDASSIGNMENT NAME e.g., SMITH.Critique1
While efforts will be made to return assignments earlier, please allow up to 14 working days (about 2 weeks) for faculty to return assignments. Students are expected to read and follow the “paper/assignment guidelines” and “grading criteria” in D2L 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.” Do not PDF your document.

**Late Assignment.** Due dates for each paper or assignment are listed on the course calendar. All assignments (papers, et cetera) are due at 11:55 PM EST or 2355 on the due date listed. **If any assignment is turned in late, 10% will be deducted from the total points available for each day late. Only one assignment can be submitted to a designated drop box.**

**When to Look for Course Materials:** Typically, Monday is considered the “beginning” day of each week of the course (please refer to the Course Calendar). During each subsequent week of the course, you will be able to review the material for all past weeks.

**Attendance Policy:** Class participation is critical to a successful graduate level course. Students are expected to log into and actively participate in any discussions if required by assignment on the unit message/discussion boards as required. Scholarly interchange is vital to everyone's understanding of the content.

**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
- Information for Current Students—including Rights, Responsibilities and Regulations for Students http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html
- Academic Programs 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.) 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, assignments, and examinations must remain the property of the College of Nursing and must not be copied from the internet for use with others. **Exams 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](http://www.msu.edu/international/index.html) 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.
### NUR 806 Course Calendar* (Page 1 of 3):

* The course calendar and assignments are subject to change. All changes will be posted in D2L.
* Additional readings and assignments may be assigned and posted each week in D2L.
* Detailed directions for learning opportunities are found in the D2L Assignment Folder.
* Guest Speakers: The course may include some content developed by faculty members other than those formally assigned to the course. Faculty contributors or guests will be acknowledged in the appropriate area of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Lead Instructor; Assigned Reading; &amp; Additional Instructions for the Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/11</td>
<td>Course Review with Faculty &amp; Student Introductions; Syllabus Review. Library Tutorial Content: Introduction to Nursing Research</td>
<td>Grove, Burns, &amp; Gray Text and Study Guide (GBG) Ch. 1-3. <strong>Instructions:</strong> 1) Please introduce yourself in the Discussion Forum. Due: Sunday, 1/17 by 11:55 pm or 2355 Eastern Standard Time. 2) Complete the Library Tutorial. Due: Sunday, 1/24 by 11:55 pm or 2355 Eastern Standard Time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>Content: The Research Process • Research Purpose and Problem. • Objectives, Questions, Hypotheses, &amp; Variables.</td>
<td>GBG Text and Study Guide: Ch. 5 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1/25</td>
<td>Content: The Research Process • Review of Relevant Literature • Frameworks</td>
<td>GBG Text and Study Guide Ch. 6 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>Content: The Research Process • Ethics in Research</td>
<td>GBG Text and Study Guide Ch. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/8</td>
<td>Content: The Research Process • Intervention Research • Outcomes Research</td>
<td>GBG Text and Study Guide Ch. 13 &amp; 14 <strong>Instructions:</strong> Complete the Intervention Assignment. Due: Sunday, 2/14 by 11:55 pm or 2355 Eastern Standard Time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2/15</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 on 2/15, opening 12:01 am to 11:59 pm or 2359, Eastern Standard Time.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Instructions:</strong> Covers content from classes 1 – 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2/22</td>
<td>Content: The Research Process • Understanding Quantitative Research Design</td>
<td>GBG Text and Study Guide Ch. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2/29</td>
<td>Content: The Research Process • Selecting Quantitative Research Design</td>
<td>GBG Text and Study Guide Ch. 11 <strong>Instructions:</strong> The Research Critique Paper. Due: Sunday, 3/6 before 11:55 pm or 2355 Eastern Standard Time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>Content: The Research Process • Sampling • Epidemiologic Concepts and Measures</td>
<td>GBG Text and Study Guide Ch. 15 <strong>Instructions:</strong> Complete the Epidemiologic Assignment. Due: Sunday, 3/20 by 11:55 pm or 2355 Eastern Standard Time.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Spring Break 3/7 – 3/11/2015**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Lead Instructor; Assigned Reading; &amp; Instructions for the Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong> on 3/21, opening 12:01 am to 11:59 pm or 2359, Eastern Standard Time.</td>
<td><strong>Instructions:</strong> Covers content from classes 7-9.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 11    | 3/28    | Content: The Research Process  
- Measurement Concepts  
- Measurement Methods | **GBG Text and Study Guide: Ch. 16 & 17**  
**Instructions:** Complete the Measurement Assignment. **Due:** Sunday, 4/3 by 11:55 pm or 2355 Eastern Standard Time. |
| 12    | 4/4     | Content: The Research Process  
- Understanding Qualitative Research Methodology | **GBG Text and Study Guide: Ch. 4 & 12**                      |
| 13    | 4/11    | Content: Putting It All Together  
- Critical Appraisal of Nursing Studies  
- Evidence Synthesis and Strategies for Evidence-Based Practice | **GBG Text and Study Guide: Ch. 18 & 19**                      |
| 14    | 4/18    | Content: Everything Data  
- Collecting and Managing Data  
- Interpreting Research Outcomes  
- Disseminating Research Findings  
Content: Achieving Research Support  
- Writing Research Proposal  
- Seeking Research Funding | **GBG Text and Study Guide Ch. 20 & 26-29**                     |
| 15    | 4/25    | **Exam 3** on 4/25, opening 12:01 am to 11:59 pm or 2359, Eastern Standard Time. | **Instructions:** Covers content from classes 11-15.  
**Instructions:** The Literature Synthesis Paper. **Due:** Sunday 4/24 before 11:55 pm or 2355 Eastern Standard Time. |