Conceptual and Theoretical Frameworks
NUR 803 (3 credits)
Spring 2008

Course Description

This course presents core conceptual and theoretical frameworks for all masters' nursing students. Basic philosophical tenets are used to examine the applicability of the frameworks for advanced nursing in multiple roles, such as education, practice, and administration. Selected frameworks, models and theories congruent with masters prepared nursing and drawn from nursing and other disciplines are used as exemplars. These theories will enable the student to examine personal practice assumptions currently used, and identify others consistent with practice, education, and research as a masters' prepared nurse.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Articulate the language, use and function of conceptual and theoretical frameworks.
2. Evaluate selected conceptual frameworks, models and theories using appropriate criteria.
3. Compare and contrast the major concepts, assumptions, utility and relevance to nursing at the graduate level.
4. Formulate an initial conceptual/theoretical framework for personal practice, teaching, and research at a graduate level of nursing.

Prerequisites

This course is open to graduate students in the MSN nursing major. Graduate level writing ability is expected.

Course Faculty:
Section 731

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**Instructional:**

a. **Methodology:**

A variety of methods will be used, e.g., lecture, group discussion, readings, and exams.

b. **Required Text:**

All required materials can be obtained from Spartan Bookstore located in the basement of Fee hall on campus. ([http://www.msu.edu/dig/msumap/fee.html](http://www.msu.edu/dig/msumap/fee.html)). On the web at [http://www.spartanbook.com](http://www.spartanbook.com). By phone at 517.353.9560; By fax at 517.353.9827; By Email at casecarol@hotmail.com


Course Required Reading Packet

On-line materials that are hot linked
c. **Recommended Text:**


d. Class Availability:

Each week's class opens as of 12:01 AM Thursday. You will be unable to access course content before this time. However once a class is open, it will remain open for the semester. This will allow you to know that you are on target each week and also to review any material that you would like to, prior to exams.

e. Faculty Availability:

Once the course is up and rolling, you will received a response to your questions in 72 hours between 8 am & 5 pm, as a general rule. Please feel free to post your questions to your team also, since they may have just figured out what you are still wondering about. **Please avoid sending your questions to the entire class.** Email selectively to the person or persons you wish to talk with. Faculty are not available for questions on weekends or holidays and please be aware that during travel to conferences faculty may not have email accessibility.

**Evaluation:**

Student grades for the course will be based on the following:

POSSIBLE COURSE POINTS = 600

The grading scale is:

- 600-564 = 100%-94% = 4.0
- 563-522 = 93%-87% = 3.5
- 521-480 = 80%-86% = 3.0
- 479-450 = 75%-80% = 2.5
- 449-420 = 70%-74% = 2.0
- 419-390 = 65%-69% = 1.5
- 389-360 = 60%-64% = 1.0
Assignments:

a. CLASS PARTICIPATION:

- Because group work is an integral part of graduate study, you will be working in an assigned team during this course. For each assigned activity, an individual response is due Tuesdays by 10pm. Based on individual responses and the effort of the assigned team leader for that week, a synthesis of individual responses will be submitted by 10pm on Wednesdays. A grade of zero may be assigned for failure to submit a response by the due date and time.
- Group work via the discussion forum or the chat room is strongly encouraged to provide ample discussion for the group activities. All readings should be completed prior to this on-line chat.
- In the "Activities" section of each Class, each class will have two activities worth 10 points each. These points are earned only if assignments are submitted on time. (Final Team answer due by 10 pm on Wednesday of the week assigned). Points will be allocated so long as it is clear that each team member has submitted a comprehensive answer for each assignment, and the team response is submitted on time.
- Point allocation is based on a combination of both individual responses and the team response. Therefore, it is possible that not all team members will receive the same grade. The Team Leader will synthesize the individual answers with input from individual members. Therefore, the Team Leader is most likely to receive the highest weekly score. However, individual responses may also earn maximum points with a comprehensive response. Grading will be based on the integration of reading and slideshow content, comprehensive responses, and rationale supporting responses.
- Each team must designate a member (team leader) to submit your team response by the due date and time each week.
- Each team member must have submitted their individual answer 24 hours before the final team answer is submitted. This means that individual answers need to be submitted in a complete and accurate manner and on time, so as to be included by the team leader in the Final Answer.
- Faculty responses will open by the end of each week, so you can check your team answers against the suggested response.
- The new class will open each week at 12am Thursday. This will give you the weekend to get a start on the next assignment.

b. Midterm Examination:

- Will be a two-hour exam covering material to-date.

Exams may include short essay, short answer, true/false, and/or multiple choice.

The exam will be open for 24 hours (12:01am to 11:59pm). You may take it for any continuous 3 hour time period during that day. This is not an open-book exam. You are not allowed to download or print the exam. It is very clear in angel if anyone has done
either. This activity falls under the heading of "academic dishonesty."

**FINAL EXAMINATION:**

- Will be a two-hour comprehensive exam.

     Exams may include short essay, short answer, true/false, and/or multiple choice. The exam will be open for 24 hours. You may take it for any continuous 3 hour time period during that day.

     This is not an open-book exam. You are not allowed to download or print the exam. It is very clear in angel if anyone has done either. This activity falls under the heading of "academic dishonesty."

**University Policies:**

**Academic integrity:** Article 2.3.3 of the [Academic Freedom Report](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the College adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 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](http://www.msu.edu) 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](http://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in NUR 803. 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 [http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html)).

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Persons 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](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html).

**Disruptive behavior:** Article 2.3.5 of the [Academic Freedom Report](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html) (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/unit/ombud/honestylinks.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 CON MSN Student Handbooks at CON website. Students are responsible for the information found in the CON MSN Student Handbook

**Course Calendar:** The calendar is available with in the course. It includes dates of examinations, and due dates for assignments.