Curriculum Design in Nursing Education  
NUR 861 (3 credits)  
Spring 2008

**Course Description**
This online course provides learning opportunities for students to explore theories, standards, and techniques to design, deliver, and evaluate a curriculum and learner outcomes.

**Prerequisites**
Previous required courses in the MSN-Nursing Education program.

**Course Objectives**
*At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:*
1. Synthesize teaching-learning theories in a nursing curriculum design.
2. Integrate the components of performance-centered instruction in nursing curriculum.
3. Evaluate a program, course, and project in addition to peer evaluation.
4. Develop a personal philosophy of education.

**Required Textbooks**


**Course Faculty**
Jan Brady, PhD, MS, RN,  
Office: W-135 Owen Hall  
Phone: 517-884-1391  
E-mail: Janice.Brady@hc.msu.edu or bradyjan@msu.edu

**Communication with Course Faculty**
Course faculty will respond to questions from students via e-mail, phone, or in the “general” discussion forum in the ANGEL course site within 72 hours of the request, excluding holidays and weekends.
**Technology Requirements**
1. Current Internet browser (e.g., Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox)
2. Desk or laptop computer with at least 256 MB
3. High-speed Internet connection such as DSL or cable
4. Microsoft Office
5. Anti-Virus software

*Note: The MSU Computer Store offers special computer hardware and software pricing for students:* [http://cstore.msu.edu](http://cstore.msu.edu).

**Instructional Methodology**
The NUR 861 course is completely online and asynchronous. The course operates on the system, *A New Global Environment for Learning* (ANGEL), and is available at: [http://angel.msu.edu](http://angel.msu.edu). For direct access to the NUR 861 course, students are required to use their MSU Net ID and password.

NUR 861 consists of weekly lessons with specialized content, readings, and learning activities. Students are required to participate in assigned team discussion forum activities. NUR 861 is highly interactive and requires that students access the course in ANGEL several times during the week to check for announcements, updated information, and email messages. NUR 861 is not based on a self-paced learning model. All assignments must be completed and submitted by the designated due dates/times in order to receive a grade and credit for the assignment.

The NUR 861 course will open and become available to students on the first day of classes. A course calendar identifying topical areas for weekly lessons, assignment due dates, and exam dates/times will be posted in the course in ANGEL. Weekly lessons will open in the course at 10:00 pm on Wednesdays during the semester. Course assignments, including team discussion forum activities, will be due by 10:00 pm on the indicated due dates, unless alternative directions are provided by faculty. (For reference about important semester dates, the *MSU Academic Calendar* is available at: [http://www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Calendar/Academic.asp](http://www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Calendar/Academic.asp).)

In addition to individual and team activity assignments, two online exams are scheduled for NUR 861. Students will be required to take the online exams on the designated dates during the designated times. The midterm exam will cover course content to date, and the final exam will be comprehensive. Both exams will be online, closed-book, and approximately one to two hours in length. The exams may include multiple choice, true/false, and/or short-answer questions. Students are expected to maintain academic honesty and integrity when taking the online exams.

**Expectations for Discussion Forum Activities**
When participating in NUR 861 discussion forum activities, it is expected that students will:
- Provide substantive, meaningful, and professional postings.
- Respect one another’s ideas, feelings, and experiences.
- Explore disagreements in a professional manner.
- Demonstrate courtesy and consideration to all participants.
## Evaluation of Course Assignments and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Activity Type</th>
<th>Points/Percent of Overall Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy of Education Paper</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Comprehensive)</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course and Lesson Development</td>
<td>Team*</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum and Program Evaluation</td>
<td>Team*</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Discussion Forum Activities (3)</td>
<td>Team**</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship Plans and Objectives for NUR 866</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* At the beginning of the semester, students will be randomly assigned to teams for the purpose of discussing their educational philosophy and for working on specific team activity assignments. For the assignments designated as a “Team” activity on the table above, all student members of a team will receive the same grade.

** Substantive participation in three team discussion forum activities is required for all students in this course. One of the team discussion forum activities will be related to the “Philosophy of Education Paper” and two discussion forum activities will be related to the two “Team” activity assignments. Students will receive a separate grade for their degree of participation in the team discussion forum activities.

- **Participation by each member of the team is a course expectation.** Each student is expected to contribute to the team discussion forum activity by providing meaningful postings that are supported by professional literature (preferably literature that focuses on evidence-based practice in teaching and education).

- **Self and peer evaluation of participation in team forum discussion activities will be the basis for grading this course component.** Team members are required to complete a self-evaluation and an evaluation of their team members’ participation in the discussion forum activities. The required evaluation form will be posted in the NUR 861 course. This form must be submitted to course faculty by the specified due date following the conclusion of the team forum discussion activity.

### Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 – 100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 – 93</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 – 86</td>
<td><strong>3.0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum passing grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 – 79</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 74</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 – 69</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 64</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Library Resources**
Students are expected to utilize the MSU Library for obtaining journal articles identified as required/recommended readings in the weekly lessons for this course. Relevant resources are listed below.
- Library Services: [http://www.lib.msu.edu/services/](http://www.lib.msu.edu/services/)
- MSU Library: [http://www.lib.msu.edu/](http://www.lib.msu.edu/)

**Writing Expectations and Resources**
Students in this course are expected to demonstrate graduate level writing ability in their written assignments and discussion forum postings. APA format is required for written assignments in the College of Nursing courses. Students should refer to the 5th edition of the APA Publication Manual for guidelines and examples. Several helpful writing resources are listed below.
- Information about the MSU Writing Center is located at: [http://writing.msu.edu/](http://writing.msu.edu/).
- An excellent online resource for writing assistance is the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL), sponsored by Purdue University and available at: [http://owlenglish.purdue.edu/](http://owlenglish.purdue.edu/).

**Academic Progress**
Any student who has a concern about his/her grade is responsible for contacting the NUR 861 faculty to discuss the concern. Students who are experiencing academic difficulty should request NUR 861 faculty guidance early in the course. Students who have less than a 3.0 grade performance at mid-semester will be identified, and both the student and the Office of Student Support Services will be notified.

For specific policies regarding monitoring of student progress and resources for academic assistance, students should refer to the MSU CON Master of Science in Nursing Student Handbook ([http://www.nursing.msu.edu/downloads/2007MSNHandbookRevised2_000.pdf](http://www.nursing.msu.edu/downloads/2007MSNHandbookRevised2_000.pdf)).

**Academic Integrity**
Academic honesty and integrity are considered foundational values at MSU. Students should read and be aware of the MSU regulations and policies regarding plagiarism and academic honesty and integrity that are available at the following website: [http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html).

Article 2.3.3 in the document, *Academic Freedom for Students at Michigan State University* ([http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/acfree.htm](http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/acfree.htm)), 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 as specified in General Student Regulations, 1.00, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the All-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and MSU Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. Therefore, unless authorized by the course faculty, students are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source.
Students are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, work that was completed for another course may not be used to satisfy the requirements for NUR 861. Also, students are not authorized to use the **www.allmsu.com** website to complete any course work for Nursing 861. 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. Students should contact course faculty if they are unsure about the appropriateness of their course work.

*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 Support Services 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. According to university policy, consequences for academic dishonesty may include failure of the course, expulsion from the major, or expulsion from the university.

Online discussions and exercises are confidential and should not be discussed with others who are not enrolled in the NUR 861 course. It is important for each course participant to express her/his ideas. All ideas need to be respected in course discussions and activities. Any team activities (group work assignments) that are required in the course still require individual work. Peer evaluations of team members’ participation in team activities are an expectation in this course.

**Additional Information Resources for Students**

- Information for Current Students – including Rights, Responsibilities and Regulations for Graduate Students: [http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html](http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html)
- International Studies and Programs: [http://www.msu.edu/international/index.html](http://www.msu.edu/international/index.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, students should call 353-9642 (voice), 355-1293 (TTY), or access the following websites: [http://www.rcpd.msu.edu/currentstudents/home](http://www.rcpd.msu.edu/currentstudents/home) or [https://ntweb11.ais.msu.edu/rcpdprofile/](https://ntweb11.ais.msu.edu/rcpdprofile/).

Information about the full range of disability resources and services for MSU students is listed at: [http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html](http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html).

**Attendance**

Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for NUR 861 may not take this course. 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. Regular and consistent attendance with meaningful participation in the online NUR 861 course is an expectation and is considered the responsibility of the student in order to successfully complete and pass the course. For additional information about MSU attendance policies, students should refer to the MSU Office of the Ombudsman: [http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/attendance.html](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/attendance.html).
Additional Note
MSU College of Nursing policies regarding “Professional Development Guidelines” are provided in the *Master of Science in Nursing Student Handbook*. Students are responsible for information included in the *Master of Science in Nursing Student Handbook* that is accessible at: [http://www.nursing.msu.edu/downloads/2007MSNHandbookRevised2_000.pdf](http://www.nursing.msu.edu/downloads/2007MSNHandbookRevised2_000.pdf).