

PROBLEMS IN NURSING – NURS 8194

Required of All Students in the Plan B Option.

Below is a general syllabus for the course. Individual instructors may modify the syllabus to meet their specific course content.

Course #: Nurs 8194

Faculty: As arranged (each faculty member is assigned a section number for N8194)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor; N8100 and N8170 prerequisite or concurrent

Credits: Minimum of 3 credits total; can register for 1 to 6 credits; not all credits have to be taken in one semester

Description: Investigation of a nursing problem or question using a scholarly process to address a specific issue that is relevant to the science and practice of nursing

Objectives:

1. Create a problem statement supported by relevant literature.
2. Describe the significance of the investigation to the discipline and practice of nursing.
3. Describe a conceptualization that orients the scholarly process.
4. Complete a systematic process that addresses the identified problem.
5. Critique the limitations of the investigation.
6. Propose recommendations for further investigation and practice related to the identified problem.

Stylistic Format:

The Plan B paper must conform to the stylistic requirements outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA). Students in the School of Nursing are required to have a copy of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2001)* that describes correct stylistic formats. Refer to www.apa.org/journals/webref.htm for electronic reference formats.

Exceptions to this policy are possible if mutually agreed upon by the Plan B adviser, the faculty adviser (if different from the Plan B adviser), and the student. Exceptions to the use of APA format usually are made because the student and adviser(s) intend to submit a paper based on the Plan B for publication consideration in a journal that does not use APA format.

Useful Resources:

Research text used in School of Nursing research course (N8170)

American Psychological Association (APA). (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, D. C.: Author.

Garrard, J. (1999). *Health sciences literature review made easy: The matrix method*. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen.

Polit, D.F. (1996). *Data analysis & statistics for nursing research*. Stanford, CT: Appleton & Lange.

Polit, D.F., & Beck, C.T. (2004). *Nursing research* (7th Ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott.

Online *Journal of Nursing Synthesis*

www.stti.iupui.edu/VirginiaHendersonLibrary/OJKSNMenu.aspx

Possible Course Format Alternatives:

Plan 1: Structured Class

1. Class meets at regularly scheduled intervals as determined by the N8194 teacher/Plan B adviser.
2. On the first day of class, the teacher gives students a specific schedule with dates for completing each step in the research project.
3. Part of the scheduled class time is spent in discussing the work that all students should be doing that day and between class sessions (formal instruction time).
4. Part of the time is spent with students working in the computer lab, on laptop computers, or in the library completing steps of their research process (lab time).
5. There are opportunities for students to have individual time with the faculty member periodically during the scheduled “lab time.”

Plan 2: One-to-One Meetings with Adviser

1. Student registers for N8194 during the semester agreed upon by the Plan B adviser and student.
2. Faculty member and student review the N8194 syllabus and decide on a timetable for completing the steps in the research process.

Credits and Workload Expectations:

One conventional credit is defined as equivalent to three hours of learning effort per week, averaged over an appropriate time interval, necessary for an average student taking that course to achieve an average grade in the course. For example, a student taking a three credit course that meets for three hours a week should expect to spend an additional six hours a week on course work outside the classroom.

Course Completion:

Usually students will register for all 3 Plan B credits during one semester. However, it is possible to register for part of the 3 credits during one semester and the rest during another semester if agreed upon mutually by the Plan B adviser, the faculty adviser (if different from the Plan B adviser), and the student. Students who do not complete N8194 during the semester(s) of initial registration will be required to register for an additional credit or credits of N8194 in subsequent semesters until the project is completed. Usually incompletes will not be given for N8194 credits

not completed during the semester(s) of initial registration. However, there will occasionally be circumstances in which a grade of incomplete is deemed to be appropriate by the faculty member teaching N8194.

Plan B Options:

Three options for completing the Plan B are described at the end of this syllabus. These options include:

- Option 1: Critical Literature Review Project
- Option 2: Research Project Involving Analysis of Data
- Option 3: Research Utilization Project

Each of the three options described can be implemented in a variety of ways. In addition, with faculty input and approval, a student can develop an alternative project that meets the N8194 course objectives.

Evaluation and Grading:

1. The course grade is based upon achievement of objectives rather than comparison with other students' performance.
2. Grade options: S/N. Students taking the course on a S/N basis must obtain a minimum grade of C- to satisfactorily complete the course.
3. All assignments must be completed to satisfactorily pass the course.

University Grading Standards:

- S Achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better. Achievement required for an S is at the discretion of the instructor but may be no lower than equivalent to a C-
- F (or N) Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed at an unsatisfactory level or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (see also I)
- I (Incomplete) Assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g. hospitalization) a student is prevented from completing the work of the course on time. Requires a written agreement between instructor and student.

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to adhere to the University of Minnesota standards for student conduct. Please refer to the academic conduct policies published in the School of Nursing *Undergraduate Student Handbook*. Academic dishonesty in any portion of the academic work for a course shall be grounds for awarding a grade of F or N for the entire course.

One type of academic dishonesty is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of representing someone else's intellectual property as your own. Plagiarism is unethical and may also be a violation of copyright law. To learn more about plagiarism, and to find tips on how to properly paraphrase someone's work, visit the U of M Web page at the following URL address:

http://cisw.cla.umn.edu/plagiarism_students.html

Students in the School of Nursing are required to have a copy of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2001)*. The manual has detailed information about how to provide proper attribution for someone's intellectual work, whether you are quoting, paraphrasing, or using someone's ideas.

Faculty at the University of Minnesota use a variety of safeguards against plagiarism, including Electronic software designed to detect copying (e.g., www.Turnitin.com). Any student found to be plagiarizing will receive an F in this course.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Application of knowledge and theory from current and previous nursing and supportive course work is expected.
2. Students must demonstrate accountability for professional conduct and behaviors consistent with the standards identified in the *School of Nursing Student Conduct Code* and *ANA Code of Ethics*. In addition, it is expected that the student meet the behavioral standards of practice in particular patient settings.
3. Attendance, punctuality, and active participation are expected for all course activities. Students should refer to the *SON Graduate Handbook* for guidelines regarding excused absences. Instructors must be notified at the beginning of the term about such planned absences. Non-excused absences or repeated tardiness will lower the course grade. Repeated non-excused absence will result in a failing grade for the course. Notification of absence in event of illness or family emergency is required.
4. Students will be expected to prepare for each learning experience Assigned readings and activities for identified class topics should be completed prior to class.
5. Assignments must be handed in on time, unless a different date has been negotiated with faculty.
6. Students are encouraged to contact a faculty person to discuss questions or concerns about their course performance at the earliest possible date.
7. Students will be asked to participate in self, course and faculty evaluations.
8. Students are asked to maintain a neat classroom environment including disposing of everything he/she came in with, such as beverage cans/bottles, food containers/wrappers, newspapers, etc. and straightening up the classroom at the end of the period.

Faculty Responsibilities:

1. Faculty will be available to assist students in course work by appointment.
2. Faculty will evaluate student achievement of course objectives and provide ongoing constructive feedback.
3. Faculty will facilitate student learning by providing support, encouragement, nursing expertise and assistance in applying course concepts.

Statement of Inclusivity:

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, public assistance status or veteran status.

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disability conditions (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, or systemic) that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Nursing students who suspect they may have a disability condition are encouraged to contact Barbara Blacklock or Tim Kamenar at Disability Services for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for accommodations. Disability Services is located in Suite 180 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street. Barbara or Tim can be reached by calling 612-626-1333 voice or TTY. Student feedback about the inclusivity of the course content and teaching methods will be appreciated and taken into consideration.

Option 1: Critical Literature Review Project

Description

The student will perform a scholarly and integrative review of published research literature to address a specific issue that is relevant to the science and practice of nursing.

Sub-Objectives

1. Create a problem statement supported by relevant literature related to a selected issue in nursing.
2. Complete a comprehensive review of the literature in order to synthesize findings related to the problem statement.
3. Recognize gaps in existing knowledge.
4. Evaluate the strength of the evidence in the literature related to the problem statement.
5. Determine the implications of the evidence for nursing practice, education, research and/or administration.

Examples of Critical Literature Review

1. Evidence-based review of a causal or correlational link (e.g., Is there a relationship between nurse staffing and quality of care in nursing homes?)
2. Evidence-based review of a critical issue (e.g., end-of-life care for children)
3. Methodological concerns in studies of different populations of patients (e.g. cognitively impaired elders; socio-economic status of pregnant teens; descriptive studies)

Option 2: Research Project Involving Analysis of Data

DESCRIPTION

Students who select this option will have an opportunity to complete a research project of limited scope under the guidance of the Plan B adviser. It is expected that students will seek out options that allow them to pursue an area of professional interest. This option includes four types of projects students typically complete. This option includes four types of projects students typically complete. However, types 1 - 3 are recommended for most students who select Option 2.

Types of Projects

1. Using a data set provided by the Plan B adviser, determine a research problem of limited scope and conduct a secondary analysis of the existing data set in order to address the research problem.
2. Working in the Plan B adviser's research area, assist with developing (or critiquing) and testing a new research instrument in a way that assists in the process of creating evidence related to the new instrument's reliability and/or validity.
3. Working in the Plan B adviser's research area, determine a research problem of limited scope and collect and analyze data for a pilot study that may help leverage future research funding for a larger project.
4. If mutually agreeable to Plan B adviser and student, conduct an original research project of limited scope in the adviser's general research area.

The Plan B adviser's "general research area" may be defined in terms of the clinical issue(s) to be investigated, the population to be studied, the conceptual framework to be used, or a research methodology with which the adviser has special expertise.

Sub-Objectives

1. Create a research problem statement to address a gap in existing research.
2. Conduct a focused literature review pertinent to the research problem.
3. Use an appropriate methodology for addressing the research question.
4. Analyze data.
5. Interpret results in light of existing literature.
6. Determine limitations of the project.
7. Present study results in a written research report.

PROTECTION OF HUMAN RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Students who gather research data from human research participants or work with data collected previously by the Plan B adviser must follow University of Minnesota policies and procedures for protecting participants from research risk and protecting participants' confidentiality. This includes application to the University of Minnesota Institutional Review Board for primary data collection or secondary use of data. See the School of Nursing (SoN) Web site, research section, for information about SoN policies and procedures related to preparing an IRB application and obtaining necessary SoN signatures. The SoN Web site information includes a link to the University IRB Web site (www.research.umn.edu/irb/).

Option 3: Research Utilization Project

Description

Emphasis in the research utilization option is on the critique, synthesis, and application of research to an identified clinical nursing problem. The option focuses on identification of nursing practice problems and analysis of scholarly literature related to research on evidence based practice. Following this, the student will be expected to develop and refine an implementation plan for utilization of the research, and an evaluation protocol for determining the impact of the innovation on clinical practice.

Sub-Objectives

- Identify problems or phenomena encountered in nursing practice by analyzing the current clinical nursing environment.
- Conduct a critical comparative review and analysis of evidence based research studies related to the problem or phenomena in question.
- Develop a research-based innovation and an evaluation protocol to determine its efficacy.