



Fall 2020

NURS 6310.60

Philosophy of Science

Your Faculty

Jenifer Chilton (Section 0.60):

- Office: BRB 2215
- Telephone: 903.565.5874 or 903.721.2214 cell
- Email: jchilton@uttyler.edu
- Office Hours: Monday 7:30 – 8:30 PM, online or by appointment
- **preferred method of contact – email*

Course Description

The origins and development of philosophy and science are explored. Includes analysis of current state of the science, ways of knowing, models of knowledge generation, criteria for causation, and argumentation. Participants will read assigned materials, engage in online dialogue, and ponder the evolution of philosophical thought. Products of this course will be evidence of proficiency demonstrations through documentation of dialogue and scholarly papers.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Analyze the bases and applicability of prominent philosopher's and their thinking to modern-day nursing.
2. Compare and contrast world philosophies as advisory to scientific evolution of nursing.
3. Relate the contributions of philosophy to scientific advancements and to global scientific reasoning.
4. Analyze the nature and activity of science and demonstrate application to the generation of nursing science.

Prerequisites

Provisional or full acceptance into the doctoral program or permission of the instructor(s) is the only prerequisite for this course.

Required Textbooks/Materials

Abbot, E. Flatland, first published in 1914, reissued at intervals, best copy is one with forward by Isaac Asimov, (1984). The full text is available on the Internet. Also available in most public libraries and in used books stores. *copies are available free of charge also (depends on format) Audio versions are also

available.

American Psychological Association (APA) Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition. Washington D.C.: Author.

Grading Policy and Criteria

Specific guidelines and grading criteria for all assignments are in the Modules. Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments:

- A - 90-100
- B - 80-89
- C - 70-79
- D - 60-69
- F - Below 60

Grades will not be rounded when calculating the average (79.5 is not rounded to 80 and 89.5 is not rounded to 90). Students are expected to achieve an average of 80% (B) to successfully complete the course. Late policy: *Permission for late assignments must be obtained prior to due dates. If no permission is granted, late submissions will incur a 5 point per day deduction. Extenuating circumstance may apply.*

Criteria for Evaluation:	Percentage of Grade:
Module 1: Conversing with Socrates	30%
Module 2: Philosophical Argument Paper	25%
Module 3: State of the Science Paper	25%
Discussion Boards (Live and Written)	20%
Total	100%

Important Course Dates:

Note: The complete course schedule is available in the Course Canvas site.

Census Date: **September 11th** (deadline for all registrations and schedule changes)

Mid-Term Exam: NA

Last Date to Withdraw: **November 3rd**

<https://www.utt Tyler.edu/registrar/registration/withdrawals.php>

Final Exam Date: NA

Attendance and Make-up Policy

Attendance / participation is expected. Make-up for exams, quizzes, assignments, and required face to face time is at the discretion of the instructor.

Deliverables

Introduction. *World View Paper* (not graded, but required to complete). Thinking about your philosophical approach to your nursing practice and your envisioned future, you will write a 1-3 page statement of your world view of nursing. You will discuss the evolution of your worldview and how it advises your approach to nursing. You will predict the stability of this worldview in regard to your plans for the future.

Module 1. *Conversing with Socrates*. For five weeks we will engage in a discussion of different topics from the viewpoint of the philosophers over the centuries. Socrates will post a weekly question that you will answer from the viewpoint of one of the philosophers from the school of thought we are investigating that week. You may choose any philosopher as long as he (or she) is in the same time and school of thought for that week. You are to post comments on FOUR of the five weeks. Guidelines for postings and grading criteria are available in the grading packet.

Module 2. *Philosophical Argument Paper*. You will select and address an issue in nursing which has two or more viewpoints. You will use the Toulmin Argument Model to develop this paper. See Instructions/Grading Criteria for more information about format, preparation, and expectations.

Module 3. *State of the Science Paper* will be a written paper done in tandem with the Scholarship course. You will not be negatively affected if you are not taking Scholarship at this time.

Discussion Board - 20% of grade will come from your preparation and commitment to the philosophical maturation of your fellow students supported by relevant reading to support your logical, meaningful, and probing analysis on the discussions and responses to the discussion board. You will use integration of materials from a variety of sources, synthesis of materials, and documentation of your strong points to contribute to a scholarly learning environment in the cyber classroom. Promptness of comments and postings will contribute to this grade.

Participation Expectations and Discussion Assignments

Refer to the Grading Rubric posted in the Assignment section in Canvas. Each participant is responsible for participating in the asynchronous discussions of each MODULE. This participation will include posting answers to questions posed by the instructor and replying to other participants' postings.

- A five-week discussion board assignment will occur in Module 1. Discussion postings and response comments should be made in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the Course Schedule but posting earlier will give your student colleagues and Socrates a chance to engage in some dialogue of your thoughts. Please note that all discussion postings must be completed by midnight Central Standard Time on the due date.
- Participants should plan on entering the Discussion Board area at least three times a week in order to read and comment on any postings.
- Quality of comments and responses is as important as quantity. A participant's comments should add to the discussion. Comments should be supported as required with references cited appropriately. The instructor and/or participants may use synchronous chats as the need arises.

Note: When posting to any discussion area, please type your comments directly into the discussion. Do not type your comments into a document and then attach it to the discussion-this method is difficult for some

students to access. You may type your comments into a Word document, then copy and paste it into the Discussion Board.

Written Assignments

- All written assignments are to be completed in APA format using Microsoft Word and are to be submitted in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the Course Calendar and on the Canvas Calendar.
- Please note that all written assignments must be submitted by midnight Central Standard Time on the due date.
- All written assignments should be submitted through the assignment links. If your web connection is down for some reason, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Internet loss does happen, but not frequently.
- Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work.

Assignments/Projects Turn-In Process

Submit all assignments and projects through the assignments link in Canvas. Please see the Canvas guides for instruction.

Course Outline

INTRODUCTION: Introduction to the art of pondering

- *Orientation. Introduction and Overview of the course*, its objectives, topics, and activities. Assessment of class and individual experience with philosophy, science, nursing and life. Assessment of textbook/article/reference availability. Analysis of the premise: "An Open Mind - A Difficult Thing to Find!" (Start reading *Flatland*.)
- *Flatland* - an analysis from a cultural, gender, and populist viewpoint. Relevance to current geopolitical and scientific issues. A discussion of the evolution of nursing knowledge - epistemology, metaphysics, and axiology.
- (Readings, Abbott's *Flatland*; Fundamental Patterns of Knowing in Nursing by Barbara Carper; Carper Critique by Silva; and Plato, Nightingale, and Contemporary Nursing by LaVasseur)
- Aesthetics (philosophy of art, beauty, & perception); epistemology (philosophy of truth, knowledge, and belief); ethics and morality (philosophy of behavior, choice, and character); metaphysics (philosophy of the nature of being, existence, and being).
- Produce a World View paper - Ponder your own worldview in relation to your professional career.

Module 1 Historical Underpinnings of Philosophy - who, what, & when?

- *Ancient Greek and Roman philosophers*: Pre-Socratic, Socrates and his Followers, Plato, Aristotle, Stoicism, Epicureanism, Skepticism, Neoplatonism
- *British philosophers*: Bacon, Bentham, Burke, Hume, Locke, Mill, Bertrand, Russell
- *The Vienna Circle*: Schlick, Carnap, Popper, logical positivism

- American philosophers: Dewey, Galbraith, Kuhn, Maslow, Margaret Meade, Thomas Paine, Pierce, Rawls, Sagan
- Asian continent philosophers: Marx, Mao Tse Tung, Buddha, Confucius, Dalia Lama, Lao-Tzu, Tao, Vishnu
- European philosophers: Buber, Freud, Soren Kierkegaard, Rene Descartes, Michel Foucault, Jean-Paul Sartre, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Immanuel Kant, Hemple, Hegel, Heidegger
- Feminist philosophers: who are they and what did they say? Did anyone listen? Is there still a need for this voice? Are all female philosophers considered feminist philosophers? Simone Weil, Simone de Beauvoir, Ayn Rand
- Weekly readings from multiple sources
- Engage in weekly Conversing with Socrates

Module 2 Application of Philosophical Methods and Tools - addressing Philosophies of Division, Exclusion, and Oppression

- Eastern and Western philosophies: are they incompatible? What relationship and value does each have to evolving nursing science?
- Philosophy and the methods of argument, logic, and reasoning. Why are these relevant to nursing practice and nursing education? How are these methods relevant to your doctoral education process?
- Deductive and Inductive reasoning, application to nursing questions.
- Schools of thought and their relevance to nursing: logical positivism - is everything scientifically proven or accepted really true?; Rationalism and empiricism - are they mutually exclusive?; Phenomenology and hermeneutics in relation to knowing; postmodernism and the multiplicity of realities; existentialism, humanism, idealism, nihilism, and pragmatism. (Readings, presentations, Whitemore article)
- Produce a philosophical argument paper using the Toulmin method.

Module 3 Philosophy of nursing as a science

- What is Science? (Mannoia); Philosophy of nursing or in nursing: congruence with scientific thought and the role of philosophy in science
- Measurement issues in the generation of science; philosophical considerations of classical measurement theory.
- Evolving status of nursing as a philosophical and scientific profession (Packard and Polifroni article; Chinn article; resources from Wieck)
- Produce a state of the science paper.

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information

https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/documents/son_student_guide.pdf

University Policies and Additional Information (updated 5/2019)

The following course policies may be found at the website listed below: absence for religious observance, absence for university-supported trips, services to students with disabilities, grade replacement, state-mandated course drop policy, and Social Security and privacy.

<https://www.utt Tyler.edu/academicaffairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf>