Theory Construction and Evaluation
NURS 6312
Spring 2026

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

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Office Hours: Virtual. Wednesdays from 1-4PM CST by appointment for phone call or video conference. Additional days and times may be arranged upon request. Please email faculty to make arrangements/obtain Zoom link.

Course Description: In-depth analyses of theories and models applicable to nursing science. Concept analysis to support development and critique of conceptual models will lay the foundation to guide programs of nursing research and development of nursing projects.

Prerequisites: NURS 6310 Philosophy of Science

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Examine concepts in relation to their potential contribution to nursing theory.
2. Synthesize input from multiple interdisciplinary sources to derive conceptual and operational definitions of concepts.
3. Analyze the structure and contribution of grand theories to the evolution of nursing practice.
4. Use concepts, assumptions, and principles from prior theory development to apply a middle-range theory to answer a research question or apply a model to produce outcomes for a project.
5. Practice inter-professional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes.

Required Textbooks and Readings:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Author**.**

Walker, L. O., & Avant, K. C. (2019). *Strategies for theory construction in nursing* (6th ed.). Pearson/Prentiss-Hall. 0134754077

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

Criteria for Evaluation:	**Percentage of Grade:**
Participation	5%
Concept Analysis Part 1 (Steps 1-4)	20%
Concept Analysis Part 2 (Revised part 1 & Steps 5-8)	20%
Theory/Framework/Model Paper	20%
Discussion Boards	15%
Analysis and Synthesis Assignment	20%
Total	**100%**

Grading Scale:

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 required to achieve an average of 80% (B) to complete the course successfully. **Assignments cannot be resubmitted to be regraded.**

Late Policy: 5% will be deducted each day an assignment is past due unless prior arrangements have been made with your course faculty. Extenuating circumstances may apply.

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind, as defined in Section 8 of the UT Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) for Student Affairs (https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/), will not be tolerated. Consequences may include:

- reprimand
- exam failure
- course failure
- expulsion from the Nursing program

- expulsion from the University
- other consequences as assigned

Exam and homework materials, questions, and problems are the intellectual property of faculty, UT Tyler, or publishers.

- These materials may not be distributed without permission.
- Distributing or uploading them to online resources destroys the integrity of the assignment and the course, allowing others an unfair advantage by letting them view the materials.
- Uploading these materials to online resources is a violation of UT Tyler's academic misconduct policies and may result in formal conduct charges.
- Sanctions for uploading or otherwise divulging the contents of these materials can include:
  - a reduced or failing grade on an assignment
  - a reduced or failing grade for the course
  - removal from the Nursing program
  - removal from UT Tyler

Artificial Intelligence Statement

- UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI is permitted during the course, and appropriate acknowledgment is expected.

- You can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool.
- Any such AI use must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, following the guidelines established by the APA 7th Style Guide, including the specific version of the tool used. The submitted work should include the exact prompt you used to generate the content. Because AI-generated content is not necessarily accurate or appropriate, you must assess the validity and applicability of any submitted AI output. You will not earn full credit if inaccurate, invalid, or inappropriate information is found in

your work.

- APA Style Citation Information
  https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt

Repeating a Course: Students repeating this course may not use previously submitted assignments nor utilize the same patients for an assignment. Submitting the same or slightly modified assignments from previous semesters is considered self-plagiarism and is subject to academic discipline, including failing the assignment or the course.

Attendance and Make-up Policy: Attendance/participation is expected. Make-up for exams, quizzes, assignments, and missed clinical time is at the instructor's discretion.

Graded Course Requirements Information:

Please Note: Detailed information along with grading rubrics will be provided in Canvas.

Participation (5%):
Your attendance/viewing of orientation and/or webinar sessions, completion and submission of surveys, and reflections on the course will be used to calculate the participation portion of the course grade.

Concept Analysis (40%):
You will choose a concept pertinent to your dissertation and analyze it using Walker and Avant's (2019) methodology. The first paper will include Steps 1-4 of the concept analysis. The second paper will include your revisions to Steps 1-4 based on faculty feedback and Steps 5-8 of the concept analysis.

Theory/Framework/Model Paper (20%):
PhD students will explain their chosen theory/framework/model, why it is appropriate to support their research, and how it will be used to support their research.

Discussions (15%):
Discussion boards are an opportunity for you to communicate asynchronously with your classmates and faculty as you apply the content in the course modules. You will respond to a forum topic by creating a thread. Responses to peers using the RISE Model format to frame actionable feedback are required for discussion boards.

Analysis and Synthesis Assignment (20%):
In this short paper, you will discuss the relationship between science, theory, and practice and how they relate to the concept of interest you analyzed this semester, and the role of theory in your dissertation.

Important Course Dates:

Classes Begin: Preview-January 2, 2026; Faculty Engagement-January 8, 2026
Census Date (withdraw without penalty): January 21, 2026
Last Date to Withdraw: March 24, 2026. Please notify course faculty and your advisor.

Course Calendar: Details about readings and assignments will be provided in Canvas.

Week/Dates	Topics
Module 1 Introduction to Concepts, Theories, Conceptual Models, & Frameworks	
"Week 1" 1/8 -1/11/26	Begin Building your Foundational Understanding of Theory
Week 2 1/12 - 1/18/26	Concepts & Concept Analyses
Week 3 1/19* – 1/25/26	Relating Concepts
Week 4 1/26 – 2/1/26	Theoretical Thinking
Week 5 2/2 - 2/8/26	Focus on Concept Analysis Part 1
Week 6 2/9 - 2/15/26	Concept Derivation
Module 2 Grand, Mid-Range, Situation Specific, and Borrowed Theories	
Week 7 2/16 - 2/22/26	Moving Toward Theory, Theoretical Frameworks vs Conceptual Frameworks
Week 8 2/23 - 3/1/26	Grand Theories, the Nursing Metaparadigm, & Historical Perspectives
Weeks 9 3/2 – 3/8/26	Situation-Specific & Mid-range Theories
3/9 – 3/13/26	SPRING BREAK
Week 10 3/16 - 3/22/26	Relational Statements
Module 3 Theory Application & Interprofessional Collaboration	
Week 11 3/23 – 3/29/26	Mechanics of Theory Development: Derivation and Synthesis
Week 12 3/30 – 4/5/26	Bringing it All Together: Analysis and Synthesis
Week 13 4/6 - 4/12/26	Consider Interprofessional Collaboration
Weeks 14 & 15 4/13 – 4/26/26	Semester Wrap Up

*1/19 is MLK holiday.

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:
https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas. This syllabus is for informational purposes only and may be amended at faculty discretion prior to the beginning of SP 26.