



Philosophy of Science (NURS 6310.060)

Term: Fall 2026 | **Faculty:** Dr. Barbara McAlister | **Email:** bmcalister@uttyler.edu*

*Best way to contact me

Phone: (214) 240-3035 | **Office:** Online | **Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1-4 PM CST, by Zoom appointment
Additional days and times may be arranged upon request. Please email me to schedule appt. & obtain Zoom link.

Course Dates: August 27, 2026 – December 12, 2026 | **Course Orientation:** Please see calendar below.

Course Times: Online Asynchronous (Optional live Zoom sessions TBD) | **Classroom:** Canvas (Online)

There will be one synchronous online meeting. Time and date to be arranged collaboratively by students and faculty.

OPTIONAL Group Office hours: Every other Tuesday 12-1 PM. Dates TBD. Attendance is NOT mandatory. These meetings are informal, and you can jump in or out as needed. I will be available to discuss course material and answer questions about assignments. This is an informal time to connect. We may discuss PhD program questions that you have. I hope this optional time together is a wonderful scholarly exchange of ideas.

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.

Prerequisite: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Analyze the bases and applicability of prominent philosophers 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.

Required Textbooks and Readings:

Abbot, E. Flatland, was first published in 1884 and reissued at intervals. The book is in the public domain and is available on the Internet. It is also available in most public libraries and in used books stores. You may find it free of charge on the internet (depends on format) Audio versions are available on YouTube; print versions are available on Amazon.com.

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington D.C.. **

**This resource is used throughout the PhD program.

Assignments and Weights/Point Values:

Criteria for Evaluation:	Percentage of Grade:
Getting Started Module:	
Worldview Paper	10%
Parts 1 and 2 Flatland Paper	10%
Module 1: Conversing with Socrates (Students choose 4 out of 5 Discussion Boards)	25%
Module 2: Philosophical Argument Paper	25%
Argument, Logic Persuasion Discussion	5%
Module 3: Philosophical Traditions, Epistemology, and Ontology Synthesis Project/Paper	20%
Final Reflections	5%
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 expected to achieve an average of 80% (B) to successfully complete the course.

Although the university policy allows 60 days for grade appeals, the School of Nursing follows a stricter timeline of 10 days to facilitate students' timely progression through the curriculum. In the case of extenuating circumstances, please consult the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for guidance.

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 them 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

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.

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, clinical time missed is at the discretion of the instructor.

Graded Major Course Requirements Information:

Introduction. *World View Paper.* Thinking about your philosophical approach to your nursing practice and your envisioned future, you will complete a template with statements of your worldview 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 about your future.

Introduction. *Flatland.* This assignment requires students to read or listen to *Flatlands: A Romance of Many Dimensions* by Edwin Abbott. Students submit written work and then participate in a live Zoom session to discuss their thoughts on the book. The live portion of the assignment can be considered a synchronous discussion board.

Module 1. *Conversing with Socrates.* For five weeks we will engage in a discussion of different topics from the viewpoint of 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 if he (or she) is at 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 Assignments on Canvas.

Module 2. *Philosophical Argument Paper.* You will select and address a faculty approved 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. *Philosophical Traditions, Epistemology, and Ontology Synthesis Paper.* You will select and have approved, an integrative review article that reflects your nursing problem of interest, critique it according to established guidelines, and relate how the review reflects patterns of knowing, ontological perspectives and philosophical traditions that influenced the discipline of nursing.

Discussion Boards - Part of your 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 a chance to engage in some dialogue of your thoughts.
- Participants should plan on entering the Discussion Board area at least twice each week 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.

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 them into the Discussion Board.

Written Assignments

- All written assignments are to be completed in APA 7th 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

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>

Assignments/Projects Turn-In Process

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

Important Course Dates:

Census Date: **September 10** (deadline for all registrations and schedule changes)

Mid-Term Exam: NA

Last Date to Withdraw: **November 2**

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

Final Exam Date: NA

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:

https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas.

Nursing 6310 Philosophy of Nursing Science Fall 2026		
	Module Content	Action/Assignments are Due on Sundays* at 11:59 pm CST *DBs with peer response have two due dates: Initial post by Wednesday with peer responses by Sunday. DB Due Dates listed here & in Canvas reflect the Sunday dates.
Getting Started & Beginning to Ponder Nursing Science		
8/27	Preview	Peruse the course
8/31 Week 1	Let's Get Started!	Course Orientation: Thurs. Sept. 3 rd . 6-6:45 PM https://utt Tyler.zoom.us/j/84877333128?pwd=OLL8XcE5uJFB04568bBP0zNzqG2m16.1 Read Syllabus, Course Calendar, & Start Flatlands *Complete Class Introduction on DB Due 9.6 *Complete Student info template Due 9.6 *Complete Graduate Affirmation Quiz Due 9.6
9/7	Labor Day Holiday	Take time for yourself!
9/8 Week 2	Introduction to Philosophy	Submit World View Paper Due 9.13
9/14 Week 3	Pondering	Submit Part 1 Flatland Assignment Due 9.20 Part 2 Flatland Live Zoom Session TBD
Module 1: Historical Philosophy: Select 4 of the 5 DBs		
9/21 Week 4	Greek Philosophers	Discussion Board 1 Due 9.27
9/28 Week 5	Rationalists	Discussion Board 2 Due 10.4
10/5 Week 6	Empiricists	Discussion Board 3 Due 10.11
10/12 Week 7	Logical Positivists	Discussion Board 4 Due 10.18 Submit: Upload topic for your argument paper in Canvas for approval no later than 10.20

10/19 Week 8	Post- Modernists	Discussion Board 5	Due 10.25
Module 2: Application of Philosophy			
10/26 Week 9	Argument, Logic, & Persuasion (ALP)	Discussion Board	Due 11.1
		Submit: Upload an integrative review article for approval regarding your nursing problem area in preparation for Module 3!	
		Due 11.1	
11/2 Week 10	ALP continues	Logical Argument Paper	Due 11.8
11/2	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW		
Module 3: Science as a Process and Product			
11/9 Week 11	Epistemology, Ontology, & Philosophical Traditions	Begin Synthesis Project	
11/16 Week 12		Synthesis Project Continues	
11/23-11/27 Thanksgiving Holidays			
11/30 Week 13		Complete Synthesis Project	Due 12.6
	Final Reflections	Discussion Board	Due 12.6
12/7 Week 14	Relax while I read!		

This syllabus and calendar are for informational purposes only and may be updated before the semester begins to facilitate student learning needs.