



**Research in Transcultural Health
NURS 6350
Summer 2026**

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

Instructor's Name: Christy Gipson PhD, RN, CNE, ACUE (Section .P560)

Office: Virtual

Phone: (903) 566-7320

Email: cgipson@uttyler.edu*

Office Hours: (Required) Virtual Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00-1:00 PM 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.

*Best way to contact me.

Course Description: Research issues within a cultural milieu are explored. Emphasis on culturally relevant scholarship, knowledge, and technology to improve health status of diverse communities.

Prerequisites: Acceptance into the doctoral program

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Discuss historical events in transcultural research and the implications for current programs of research.
2. Assess and analyze culturally relevant issues related to conducting meaningful research within a particular culture.
3. Identify how research practices may be adapted for different cultures.
4. Identify the outcomes of nursing research including the dissemination of findings within the context of culture.

Required Textbooks and Readings:

Fadiman, A. (1998). The spirit catches you and you fall down. New York, N.Y.: Farrar Straus and Giroux.

Le Carré, J. (Writer, novel), Caine, J. (Writer, screenplay), & Meirelles, F. (Director). (2005). The constant gardener [Motion picture]. (Available from Amazon.com).

Skloot, R. (2011). The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks. New York, N. Y.: Crown Publishing.

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

Self-Awareness Reflection Activity	5%
Guest Speaker: Implicit Bias	5%
Definitions Discussion	5%
Human Subjects CITI Training	0%
The Great Ethical Debate	15%
Henrietta Lacks	10%
The Constant Gardener	10%
Applied Transcultural Research Methods	15%
The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down Critique	15%
Final Critique	20%

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.

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

Artificial Intelligence: 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.

For this course, AI is permitted only for specific assignments or situations, as indicated by your course faculty, and appropriate acknowledgment is required. During some class assignments, we may leverage AI tools to support your learning, allow you to explore how AI tools can be used, and/or better understand their benefits and limitations. Learning how to use AI is an emerging skill, and we will work through the limitations of these evolving systems together. To uphold academic integrity and the spirit of scholarly pursuit, if you choose to utilize any OpenAI software to help with completion of an assignment, please be certain you cite that appropriately and give credit where credit is due. Any such use must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, following the guidelines established by the APA/MLA/Chicago Style Guide, including the specific version of the tool used. The submitted work should include the exact prompt you used to generate the content and the AI's complete response as an appendix. You will not earn full credit if inaccurate, invalid, or inappropriate information is found in your work.

[APA Style Citation Information](#)

[MLA Style Citation Information](#)

[Chicago Style Citation Information](#)

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

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, and missed clinical time is at the instructor's discretion.

Graded Course Requirements Information:

- **Self-Awareness Reflection:** You will reflect on personal values, perceptions of other cultures, and interactions with people from different backgrounds. The exercise concludes with a reflection on insights, surprises, and experiences that have shaped your cultural awareness.
- **Discussion Board:** During this journey, you will participate in group discussions to help you become familiar with the concepts and principles of ethically and methodologically appropriate transcultural research. Topics vary and are introduced in the relevant modules. Please refer to the grading rubric associated with discussion assignments.
- **Guest Speaker:** Prepare for and participate in a live online discussion about the concept of implicit bias and explore ways in which biases may affect conducting research with people different from yourself.
- **Definitions Discussion:** Identify and present assigned definitions and their relevance to transcultural nursing research.
- **CITI Training:** You will complete CITI Human Subjects Training and submit your certificate showing completion.
- **The Great Ethical Debate:** Two groups will debate the ethics of a study that took place in India. The debate will take place over two weeks. The “pro” group will create and post an opening statement, the “con” group will post a rebuttal and both groups will post closing statements. Due dates are posted under the Assignments tab.
- **Mrs. Lacks:** Read and discuss ethical and sociocultural issues related to Ms. Lacks’ story. You will read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, and make notes regarding the

presence/absence of ethical concepts as applied to Ms. Skloot's ethnographic research. We will meet via Zoom and discuss.

- **The Constant Gardener:** View the movie and discuss ethical issues related to doing research in a developing country. You will write a two-page paper critiquing the research and applying ethical concepts that were lacking / present.
- **Applied Transcultural Research Methods:** Apply transcultural research methods to the analysis and design of research in diverse contexts. In this assignment, you will examine contextual factors influencing health and research practice and apply transcultural methodological principles to adapt research design and implementation across cultural settings. The assignment emphasizes ethical considerations, feasibility, and reflexive decision-making when conducting research with populations that differ from one's own.
- **Analysis Tables:** These assignments require the analysis, application, and evaluation of transcultural research. You will use Meleis' eight criteria for doing culturally appropriate and rigorous research and Lavery's eight principles for ethical transcultural research to analyze, (a) a case study example of Lia Lee from *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* and (b) compare and contrast two "transcultural nursing research" studies for the final critique assignment.

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

Important Course Dates:

Classes Begin: May 11, 2026

Census Date (withdraw without penalty): May 26, 2026

Last Date to Withdraw: July 15, 2026. Students please notify your course faculty and contact your advisor.

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates:

Course Schedule			
Week #	Week of/Date of the week	Module Information	Topic(s)/Assignments Due on Tuesdays at 11:59 PM
	May 7-10	Preview Week	Begin readings
1	May 11	Self-Awareness	Course Orientation, Graduate Affirmation Forms, Student profile, Introductions
2	May 18	Self-Awareness	Self-Awareness Reflection Activity
	May 25	Memorial Day Holiday, all offices closed, no classes held	
3	May 26	Implicit Bias and Other Concepts	Readings & Group Discussion; Guest Speaker date/time TBD during the first week of class

4	June 1	Transcultural Definitions	Definitions Discussion
5	June 8	History & Ethics of Transcultural Research	Human Subjects CITI Training; Turn in Certificate
6	June 15	Transcultural Research Ethics	The Great Ethical Debate
7	June 22	Transcultural Research Ethics	The Great Ethical Debate
	June 19	Juneteenth/Emancipation holiday; all offices closed, no classes held	
8	June 29	Transcultural Research Ethics in the US	Short Paper and Group Discussion; The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
9	July 6	Transcultural Research Ethics-International	The Constant Gardener
10	July 13	Transcultural Research Methods	Applied Transcultural Research Methods
	July 15	Last day to withdraw from one or more courses	
11	July 20	Application & Analysis of Transcultural Research	The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down Analysis Table
12	July 27	Application & Analysis of Transcultural Research	The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down Analysis Table
13	August 3	Application & Analysis of Transcultural Research	Critique and compare two transcultural research studies
14	August 10	Application & Analysis of Transcultural Research	Critique and compare two transcultural research studies

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.