

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
SCHOOL OF NURSING

COURSE SYLLABUS

NURS 6310: Philosophy of Science Fall 2018

Faculty

Dr. Jenifer Chilton, PhD, RN

Course Title: NURS 6310 Philosophy of Science**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.

Prerequisites

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

Instructional Goals and 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.

Instructor Contact Information

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Required Textbook Information

Rodgers, BL. (2005). *Developing Nursing Knowledge: Philosophical Traditions and Influences*. ISBN 07817-4708-2. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins.

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.

American Psychological Association (APA) *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition. Washington D.C.: Author.

Recommended (not required) texts and resources:

[Perspectives on Philosophy of Science in Nursing: An Historical and Contemporary Anthology](#). Authors: Carol Polifroni and Mary Louise Welch. 1999. J.B. Lippincott. (This book has a lot of the original writings and articles that are difficult to find today. It also has some insightful information about

philosophy and nursing. It has not been updated in 8 years, so you may be able to find an old copy if you wish to purchase. *It is truly an optional resource*, but it has some excellent resources that you may use in this and future courses.

Grading Information

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

****80% or greater is considered passing for the PhD program**

The work you will perform for this course is weighted as follows:

- 30% -Module 1 – Conversing with Socrates
- 25% -Module 2 - Philosophical Argument paper
- 25% -Module 3 - State of the Science paper
- 20% -Discussion Boards (Flatlands and Logic)

Late assignments: It is essential that you keep up in courses. We cannot accept any papers after the due date unless prior arrangements have been made. Please do not assume that notifying us implies permission to turn in a late assignment; we will weigh the reason, previous requests for extensions, and timing when making the decision to allow an extension of the due date

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 - 10% 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. Your worldview paper and 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 Rodgers Textbook
- 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, Whittmore 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.

Course Calendar/Schedule Posted in Modules/Getting Started

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

The Census Date

Sept. 10th is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)

- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid
- Access the 2018 [Academic Calendar](#)

Last Day to Drop Any or All Classes

Fall 2017—Courses may be dropped online through *myUTTyler* until 4 p.m. on the last day of online (early) registration. After that time, all drops and/or withdrawals must be completed through the Registrar's Office, either in person, by fax or by mail. Faxed or mailed drop/withdrawal requests must include the student's name, ID number, course(s) to be dropped, date, student's signature, contact phone number and copy of a photo ID (driver's license, student ID, etc.). Requests should be mailed to UT Tyler Registrar's Office, 3900 University Blvd, Tyler, TX 75799 or faxed to (903)565-5705. Students are advised to meet with their instructor(s) and/or academic advisor prior to dropping any classes. Dropping or withdrawing from classes may affect financial aid eligibility, veteran's benefits, athletic eligibility, or international student status. Students should consult with those departments prior to dropping or withdrawing. **The last withdrawal date with a "W" is November 5, 2017.**

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester. Revised 05/17 Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a

violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software. UT Tyler

Resources for Students

- [UT Tyler Writing Center](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu) (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- [UT Tyler Tutoring Center](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu) (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](mailto:903.566.7254) (903.566.7254)

Course Evaluation

UT Tyler may ask you to complete a voluntary evaluation to help them make improvements and adjustments in their overall online learning forums.

Also, an end-of-semester evaluation specifically for this course will be made available for you to complete in the last week of instruction. Your comments and recommendations will be considered seriously as the course is updated. Your input throughout the semester contributes to our commitment to continually improve the quality and relevance of this course.

Netiquette Guide

“[Netiquette](#)” is network etiquette, the do’s and don’ts of online communication. Netiquette covers both common online courtesy and informal “rules of the road” of cyberspace. Review and familiarize yourself with the guidelines provided.



Navigation

In order to effectively participate in online learning, it is imperative that you understand how your course is arranged and how to access and contribute information. If you have a question regarding the navigation within this course, please refer to the Canvas Guides which is located at the bottom of the Canvas Global Menu on the left side of the window.

Completion Time

You should expect to spend as much time on an online course as you do in a face-to-face course. As a rough guide, you should plan to spend six to ten hours per week on this course. The actual amount of time will vary from individual to individual. This estimate includes the time you spend in reading, discussions, and assignments.

You will have access to most of the course materials from the start of the course to the end. You may look and study ahead, or go back and review, at any time during the course. All assignments have set due dates. Due dates are as of midnight Central Standard Time on that date.

Digital Library Resources

Students enrolled in this course have an excellent resource for library access through the Robert R. Muntz Library at the University of Texas at Tyler. Follow this link, and then complete the instructions at those sites for accessing information from a distant site. Many of the database subscriptions funded by student fees give you access to full text journals that you will need for your review of the literature in each course. Please take the time to set up your account and get familiar with the resources available. They are awesome.

Technical Support:

If you experience technical problems with this course or Canvas, contact the 24/7 Canvas Support by phone or chat by clicking the Help button in Canvas which is located at the bottom of the Canvas Global Menu on the left side of the window.

When you contact Canvas Support, be sure to include a complete description of your problem or question including:

- The title and number of the course
- The page in question
- If you get an error message, a description and message number
- What you were doing at the time you got the error message

You can also search the Canvas Student Guide for useful information on using Canvas at <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>

If you are experiencing login/password problems or need support for other technical issues, contact Campus Computing Services located in the Business Building (BUS 101), by phone 903-565-5555, or by email at itsupport@uttyler.edu