Welcome to Professional Scholarship! Your instructor for this course is Dr. Linda Rath. I look forward to meeting with you in our virtual classroom. In this course, you will synthesize the knowledge gained in your previous courses to develop an evidence-based practice project.

This is an active hands-on course in which you will be working throughout the semester on your project that will be developed in stages. The course has been divided into sections or Modules to assist you in organizing your time and efforts. Each module will cover specific activities and will specify required and/or suggested readings and assignments. Examples and supplemental materials have been provided to assist you with your own work.

Read through each section or Module carefully. If you have any questions, make a note of them and we will address them in our Discussion Board. Please refer back to the information contained in this Syllabus anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information.

One final note, if you have questions regarding technical requirements, please review the services available through The University of Texas at Tyler Blackboard website. A list of basic technical requirements is also outlined later in this Syllabus for your convenience. In addition, you can access the UT Tyler website for general information about UT Tyler and its student services and policies, some of which will be reviewed briefly later in this Syllabus.

Introduction

Just as you have experienced in your previous on-line MSN courses, there is no face-to-face contact with your instructor and fellow participants. You may feel you are working alone. Relax! You are not alone, and any anxiety you feel will go away as you become familiar with the other students in the course and your faculty. It allows flexibility in managing your time and utilizing the learning materials. One thing that is very important with this type of course is
communication. Please feel free to contact your instructor whenever you are experiencing difficulties, or when you have a question. I am available by email or phone, and prefer to intervene early, before major problems emerge.

I want to stress to all course participants that the key to successful completion of this online course, or any online course, is organization. The syllabus and calendar outline in detail my expectations as your instructor, including required textbooks, grading policies, assignments, and projects, and a schedule of readings and assignment/project due dates. This is not a self-paced course. Deadlines exist because the course is offered within the UT Tyler semester schedule and to help you successfully complete the course in a timely manner.

**Instructor:** Dr. Linda L. Rath  
**Office:** BRB 120  
**Office hours:** on-line and by appointment  
**Course E-mail:** lrath@uttler.edu  
**Phone:** 903-565-5525  
**Fax:** 903-566-1981

**Faculty Bio:** Dr. Rath is a full-time Associate Professor in the College of Nursing. A native of Virginia, Dr. Rath received her Diploma in Nursing from Virginia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing, and a B.S. degree from Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. After working as a Pediatric general and critical nurse, and nursing faculty in her “home” hospitals in Lynchburg, she received her M.S.N. from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN and became a neonatal nurse practitioner. She received her Ph.D. from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and remained there as a faculty member at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. In 2012 she moved to Tyler to join the UT-Tyler College of Nursing & Health Sciences. She currently teaches MSN and PhD courses. Her research interests are neonatal critical issues, stress in neonates and adults, and alternative/complementary therapies. She likes to read, cook and play with her two Mini-Schnauzers.

If you experience any problems that you are not able to resolve by accessing the Technical Information section found later in this Syllabus or contacting ITSupport@patriots.uttler.edu, you may contact me by email or telephone using the contact information listed above.

**Course Description**

Facilitates synthesis of previous knowledge of theory, research and professional role into a framework for advanced evidence-based practice (EBP). The contracted project may include but is not limited to the following: Development/implementation/publication of a scholarly paper, special project, or grant proposal in collaboration with a role mentor. All project reports will be disseminated into the public domain. This is a required course in the non-thesis track.
Course Objectives

1. Synthesize previous theoretical, research and role knowledge into a proposal for an evidence based practice project/paper for publication/grant

2. Collaborate with the appropriate role mentor(s) to complete evidence based practice project/paper for publication/grant

3. Submit the completed assignment for dissemination through the appropriate arenas

Classes officially begin on January 13, 2014. All coursework will be conducted on-line and via individual webcam or telephone conferences.

Overview of Course

NURS 5334 Professional Scholarship is the capstone course taken if the non-thesis degree plan option is selected. The work you do in this course must reflect graduate level critical thinking skills and application of the knowledge gained throughout the MSN curriculum with special emphasis on evidence-based practice, the research process/methodologies, nursing theory, and ethics within the context of your individual clinical area/population.

Students are required to complete a scholarly project. Most students conduct a comprehensive evidence-based practice project. However, other options such as conducting a small pilot research project, writing a publishable manuscript, or writing a grant proposal are available upon consultation and consent of the course instructor.

Required Course Materials

In order to be successful in this course, students must have a current working knowledge of:

a) The evidence-based practice process
b) Hierarchy of evidence (the hierarchy to be used in this course will be included in the documents posted in Blackboard)
c) Research process
d) Research designs
e) Appraising/Critiquing research articles

Suggested texts:

1) Most students use the following research/evidence based practice reference:

2) All assignments must be in APA, 6th edition format.
   
   
   c) Many students also use the Owl Purdue website (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/) or other online sites as additional resources for APA writing and formatting style.
   
3) Syllabus: NURS 5334 Professional Scholarship, Fall 2013 (posted in BlackBoard)

You may purchase your textbooks from http://uttyler.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=65060&catalogId=10001. Online purchase and shipping is available.

Accessing Library Resources

Students enrolled in this course have access to library resources within the Robert R. Muntz Library at the University of Texas at Tyler. Follow this link, and then complete the instructions for accessing information from a distant site. The library can also be accessed through Blackboard or from the UT Tyler homepage.

Course Communication:

1. The UT Tyler student *patriot* email address will be used for ALL electronic communications between faculty and students. Instructions for using email within the Blackboard course are provided later in this syllabus. Faculty members do not use patriot email accounts. Please make note of the faculty email addresses listed above in this syllabus and posted in the Faculty Information tab in Blackboard.

2. The BlackBoard *Announcements* page will be used frequently to communicate course information and should be checked frequently.

3. The BlackBoard Discussion Board *Course Questions Forum* is to be used to ask course related questions so that the entire class can benefit from faculty responses. Please use this forum for questions about assignments or any other issue about the course.

4. Personal questions or concerns should be communicated directly to your course faculty utilizing the email address or telephone number posted in the syllabus and on the Faculty Information page in Blackboard.
Course Evaluation:

Grades and Grading

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
A course grade of B or better is required to pass the course.
The work you will perform for this course is weighted as follows:

(10%) Quiz
(5%) PICO question
(15%) Assignment 1: Partial Literature table: Minimum of 8 articles on literature table
(P/F) Assignment 2: Partial Paper
(50%) Assignment 3: Final written project (includes completed literature table with 15 research articles)
(20%) Assignment 4: Dissemination option

Assignments are to be submitted through the Assignment tab in Blackboard.

Specific Assignments and Due Dates

Due dates are found in the Course Calendar document under the Syllabus tab.

Timeliness is essential!

Five points are deducted for each day an assignment is late. To avoid penalty, prior approval from course faculty must be obtained for any work submitted late. Approval for late submission is reserved for unusual, unexpected, and/or extraordinary circumstances.

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 Blackboard Student User Manual available under the Tools tab.
General Course Requirements and Guidelines

Written Assignments

- Timely completion and submission to instructor of class homework assignments is a course expectation. Assignments are to be submitted electronically though the Assignments tab.
- All written assignments are to be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted by the due dates and times listed in the Course Calendar.
- **Plagiarism is a serious academic offense.** Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work. Academic dishonesty, such as unauthorized collusion, plagiarism and cheating, as outlined in the Handbook of Operating Procedures, University of Texas at Tyler, will not be tolerated. University regulations require the instructor to report all suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. In the event disciplinary measures are imposed on the student, it becomes part of the students' official school records. Also, please note that the handbook obligates you, the student, to report all observed cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor.
- College of Nursing **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:** Students are expected to assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted as homework, examinations, papers, etc. The **graduate program at U.T. Tyler seeks to create a climate that encourages its members to act as responsible adults in an academic community.** Generally, institutional disciplinary measures are invoked only in response to conduct that adversely affects the University’s pursuit of its educational mission and objectives. Penalties may range from a warning to probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Behaviors that could subject a student to disciplinary action include all forms of academic dishonesty. Refer to the CON Graduate Student Guide for specific statements related to plagiarism, etc.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made with course faculty, point deductions will be made for late assignments (see Course Evaluation section within this Syllabus).

Required Papers

- Papers are a major part of the course work and should receive attention accordingly.
- Papers must meet the standards of graduate level work (spelling, punctuation, syntax, grammar, and content).
- Papers are to follow the guidelines of the current *Publication Manual of the American Psychology Association* (APA) format.
- Students are **strongly** encouraged to utilize the U.T. Tyler Writing Center for assistance with style, grammar and format prior to submitting to course instructor for grading. The Writing Center is NOT responsible for advising re: substance and leveling of content.
- All assignments become the property of the College of Nursing. The student should have a hard copy or the paper available on disk prior to submitting the paper electronically for grading.
Unless prior arrangements have been made with course faculty, point deductions will be made for all assignments turned in after the assigned due date.

**Completion Time**

You should expect to spend as much time on an online course as you do in a traditional face-to-face course. As a rough estimate, you should plan to spend four to six 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.

**Assignments/Projects Turn-In Process**

All assignments and projects will be submitted through the Assignments tab in Blackboard. Use the following process to prepare and submit assignments:

- Prepare your assignment using Microsoft Word and save to your computer.
- Click on the Assignment tab in Blackboard. Find the name of your Assignment link.
- Click on "View/Complete Assignment".
  - Number 1-shows the assignment instructions.
  - Number 2-is where you add your comments and attach your completed assignment.
  - Number 3-when all attached files (your completed assignment files) are uploaded, click submit.
- You have successfully submitted your assignment when an exclamation point (!) is displayed in the Grade Center for that assignment.

When assignments are received, your instructors will open them in Microsoft Word for grading. This will enable the instructors to make comments, ask questions, etc. The instructors will then return your graded assignment through the Tools Area, Check Grades link. An announcement will be posted when papers are returned to remind you to check the Student Grade Center. To see comments about your assignment, click on your grade.

If you need more instructions on how to submit files through the Assignment tab, please read the Blackboard User Manual located in the Tools tab.

**Email and Course Discussion Processes**

**Email**

All electronic mail communication related to this course will utilize your student e-mail (patriots) account. To communicate by email within the course with other participants or all participants, click the Communications tab on the left. Click Send E-mail to send a message. You are able to send messages to All Users or Select Users in the course, including the instructors. If you need more instructions on how to send email messages within Blackboard please read the Blackboard User Manual located in the Tools tab in Blackboard. Contact Campus Computing Services (903.566.7357) or Technical Support (ITsupport@patriots.uttler.edu) if you
experience problems with the student email system. Notify your instructor if you are unable to receive student email.

Questions or problems other than technical problems (see Technical Information posted later in this Syllabus) may be submitted to the instructors’ email addresses.

You will receive quick responses to any emails you send during my office hours. Generally speaking, I check my email inbox at least once a day during the workweek, rarely on the weekend, and rarely after 6 p.m. any day. If my schedule will make me unavailable to answer emails for a day or two, I will send an announcement so that you can plan accordingly. One caveat: technical problems in email systems may slow down responses!!

**Discussion Board**

The Discussion Board feature in Blackboard is an online discussion forum in which students and faculty can communicate asynchronously (anytime) via message postings. When you click the Discussion Board tab, a listing of categories will appear. One general forum will be utilized to address course questions that may apply to all students.

Check the Discussion Board section often. Since the discussion is asynchronous, other responses will be submitted after your post. Be sure to check each time you log into the course to view any added material.

**University Policies**

http://www.uttler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf

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

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted as homework, examinations, papers, etc. The graduate program at U.T. Tyler seeks to create a climate that encourages its members to act as responsible adults in an academic community. Generally, institutional disciplinary measures are invoked only in response to conduct that adversely affects the University’s pursuit of its educational mission and objectives. Penalties may range from a warning to probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Behaviors that could subject a student to disciplinary action include all forms of academic dishonesty.

Refer to the *Graduate Student Guide* for specific statements related to academic integrity.

**Withdrawal Date:**

Oct 28, 2013 is the last day to drop or withdraw from this course.

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness**

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive
grade forgiveness with the Registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to do so will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three course repeats; graduates, for two course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.

**Disability Services**

In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services office in UC 3150, or call (903) 566-7079.

Students with Disabilities [http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf](http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf)

**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.

**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 Statement:**

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.

**Technical Support**

If you experience technical problems or have a technical question about this course, you can obtain assistance by emailing itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu

When you email IT Support, be sure to include a complete description of your question or problem 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 may also visit the Help Tab in Blackboard for helpful information.

Plug-ins and Helper Applications

UT Tyler online courses use Java, JavaScript, browser plug-ins, helper application and cookies. It is essential that you have these elements installed and enabled in your web browser for optimal viewing of the content and functions of your online course.

• Adobe Reader allows you to view, save, and print Portable Document Format (PDF) files. http://get.adobe.com/reader/


• Adobe Flash Player allows you to view content created with Flash such as interactive web applications and animations. http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/

• QuickTime allows users to play back audio and video files. http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/


• RealPlayer allows you to view and listen to streaming video and audio. http://www.real.com/

Netiquette Guide

"Netiquette" is network etiquette, the do's and don'ts of online communication. Netiquette covers both common courtesy online and informal "rules of the road" of cyberspace. Review and familiarize yourself with the guidelines provided. http://www.learnthenet.com/learn-about/netiquette/index.php

Course Evaluation

End of the semester evaluations specifically for this course and faculty teaching in the 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. We also welcome your input throughout the semester as it contributes to our commitment to continually improve the quality and relevance of this course.
Getting Started

Please print out a copy of this syllabus and refer back to the information contained herein anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information. Please begin this course by exploring Blackboard, printing the Syllabus and Calendar, and starting with Module 1.

I look forward to working with you this semester. Welcome!