THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
COLLEGE OF NURSING

COURSE SYLLABUS

NURS
NURS 6312: Theory Construction and Evaluation

Spring 2019

Faculty

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*Office Hours: Online or by Appointment

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.

PREREQUISITE
Successful completion of NURS 6310 Philosophy for PhD students

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon successful completion of the course, the students should 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 (Essential VI).

CREDIT HOURS: 3 SCH

REQUIRED TEXTS:

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author**.** *ISBN* 1433805618

Walker, L.O., & Avant, K. C. (2005). *Strategies for Theory Construction in Nursing*, 6th edition. Upper Saddle Ridge, NJ: Pearson/Prentiss-Hall. *ISBN* 0-13-119126-8.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND RESOURCES (NOT REQUIRED)

Melnyk, B. M., & Fineout-overholt, E. (2015). *Evidence-based Practice in Nursing & Healthcare*, 3rd edition. Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer Health. ISBN-13: 978-1451190946

Smith, M.J. and Liehr, P.R. (2008). Middle Range Theory for Nursing, 2nd edition. New York: Springer Publishing Company.
ISBN 978-0-8261-1916-2

Nursing Theorist source – any source that describes the major theorists is acceptable. These are often available at used bookstores. You can also find a lot of information about theorists on the internet.

Mid-range Theory (MRT) source – any source relating to mid-range theories is acceptable. Again, you can find information on the internet.

COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1 Concept Evolution and Analysis

- Connecting Theory to Philosophy of Science
- Thinking in Concepts
- Relating Concepts

Module 2 Concept Derivation and Analysis

- Concept Derivation
- Concept Analysis

Module 3 Grand, Mid-range, Situation Specific, and Borrowed Theories

- Grand Theories
- Middle-range Theories
- Relational Statements

Module 4 Theory Application and Validation

- Validation – mechanics of theory development
- Application of Theory to Research

GENERAL GRADING INFORMATION ABOUT COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Modules 1 and 2 emphasizes concept analysis. You will identify two concepts that will be tested in your research study or used in your project. Choose one of the two for the first concept analysis which will be conducted using the Walker and Avant approach. This concept will be applied in future work. The second concept will then be analyzed using the Walker and Avant format plus feedback from the first effort to help students master this technique. Both assignments will contribute to the relational statements created for the theoretical schematic. **Both concepts must be approved by your instructor prior to submission.**

2. Module 3 is focused on helping students identify a mid-range theory (MRT) which uses at least one of the concepts analyzed. This is a great opportunity to refine your ideas as well as to help others through an online discussion. The product for Module 3 is a one-page slide of the selected MRT which addresses the schematic of the MRT, the relationships between concepts, and the relationships of the variables as well as a team project.

3. Module 4 requires students to write a paper regarding how the identified theory will guide their dissertation study or project. Theories may come from one found in the literature (nursing or other discipline). The goal of this paper is to provide the section of the dissertation or project that is labeled "Conceptual Framework". Selecting a theory for this assignment does not lock a student down!

4. The final exam will be given near the end of the semester (see calendar for exact dates). This is an essay type test around 10 questions. You may use your materials to during the test, but you must complete the test independently. To get prepared for this test it is best to read the material as assigned. You will not have enough time to complete the questions if you are trying to complete the readings during the test.

COURSE CALENDAR/SHEDULE

The course calendar can be accessed in the Syllabus tab on the menu bar to the left.
This is on the left side of the page.

Grading Policy for the College of Nursing:

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	Below 60

Students are required to achieve an average of 80% (B) to successfully complete the course.

Evaluation Methods:

Concept Analysis 1	20%
Concept Analysis 2	20%
MRT/Model Schematic	5%
MRT/Model Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%
Synchronous Project	15%
	Total 100%

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments must be turned by due date. No assignments will be accepted after the due dates unless prior arrangements for an exception have been made with faculty **BEFORE** the day the assignment is due. Please do not assume that this exception will automatically be granted. The reason for seeking an exception to the due date must be a true emergency which was unforeseen in your time management planning for this course. Late submission of work will have 5 points deducted per day. Once submission of each assignment will be accepted. *Each assignment can only be submitted one time*.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

•   Assigned readings in doctoral education are the beginning, not the endpoint. These readings will point you in the direction of continued reading and pondering of your scholarly thoughts. Each participant is responsible for completing the reading assignments in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the Course Calendar.

•   Discussion and written assignments are made with the assumption that required reading assignments are completed prior to participating in discussion boards and submitting written assignments.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- All written work for a grade should use APA 6th edition formatting.
- All written work should be completed using Microsoft word and submitted on time. All work should be submitted by 11:59 PM of due date.
- Deadlines are all Central Time Zone, USA. If you are in a different time zone it is your responsibility to keep the Central Time Zone hours.
- Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work. Please see the statement about self-plagiarism at located in the Getting Started Tab on the menu bar.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be submitted using provided assignment links.

- Prepare assignment using Microsoft word. Name your assignment with the following convention: last name, first initial, assignment title (LastF_AssignmentTitle). For example – ChiltonJ_Concept1

Assignments are not graded until after the due date. I try to return assignments one week after the due date. Sometimes it is not possible and I will keep you informed of my progress. Assignments are not returned until all the grading has been completed.

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 may 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 material from the start of the course to the end. You may look and study ahead, or back in review, at any time during the course. The exception is the final exam will only be available for a stipulated amount of time. Plan your time so that you complete this assignment BEFORE the ending time. All assignments have set due dates.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENTS

- Discussion boards will be assigned intermittently during the semester. There are no weekly DB assignments. An announcement will be posted if an unanticipated discussion occurs. Please feel free to start your own if you have a question or thoughts you would like to share. **Participation is not mandatory, but posting is highly recommended**. This is an opportunity to learn from each other by giving and receiving feedback.

- Discussion board will be used to discuss the following topics:

    - *Week 2-4*: post concepts from SOS paper from philosophy (if you don't have one, don't panic! Check with your instructor). Provide feedback for each other.
    - *Week 6-8*: post your second concept of the DB for feedback.

- - *Week 9:* post MRTs you are exploring. Address what you like and what is missing that you need. Help each other find the best fit.
  - *Week 10:* post several relational statements between the two concepts. Address how they fit your MRT. Critique each other's relational statements – do they make sense, do they relate to each other, and is the relationship a value to nursing?

- We will use the DB for questions about assignments or any other questions. You may also use this forum to help each other. Check the discussion board at least every 2-3 days, and I will do my best to do the same. If there is a question that needs immediate attention, please email me to check the board. You may always email me directly. Note that some questions and answers may be copied anonymously to the discussion board if it is deemed helpful information for the class. However, if the observation or insight is really brilliant and you want credit for it I will happily use your name! Think of this action as raising your hand in a face to face course. If you have a question it is likely so does someone else. We never discuss grades in the open forum. If you have a concern or question about an individual grade, please contact me privately.

ACCESSING LIBRARY RESOURCES

Students enrolled in this course have excellent access to your home campus library, 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 are funded by student fees; this gives you access to full text journals that you will need as your develop your review of literature in each course. Please take time to set up your account and get familiar with the resources available. There are SEVERAL tutorial videos that will help you search the literature. If you take the time to learn now it will save valuable time later! See this link: http://libguides.uttyler.edu/phdnursing
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

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date
Policies Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Spring the Census Date is January 30) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at

http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (January 30) 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

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.

Student Accessibility and Resources

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

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.

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 Turn-it-In on Canvas.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (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 (903.566.7254)

Technical Information/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.

Link to Important Student Resources
http://lms-media.uttyler.edu/fileman/OID/Resource/skills.html

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/

- **Java Runtime Environment** (JRE) allows you to use interactive tools on the web.
  http://www.java.com/en/download/

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

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

- **Windows Media Player** allows you to view, listen and download streaming video and audio.
http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/products/windows-media-player

- **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

Note: The content of this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the faculty leaders according to current learning needs.