Welcome

Welcome to Advanced Research Design! The purpose of this course is to refine and expand your research skills. You will build upon the concepts covered in your qualitative and quantitative research courses. Important components of this course include refinement of skill in critiquing research and increased knowledge related to study design and methods. The outcome of this semester will be a research proposal that addresses gaps in knowledge related to your topic of interest. I am delighted to accompany you on this exciting semester of discovery, challenging thinking, and creative progress toward reaching your goal of a PhD in Nursing!

The structure of this course has been arranged in four MODULES, each covering multiple weeks, to assist you in organizing your time and efforts. Module 1 provides an opportunity to refine your skills in critiquing research. Module 2 examines study conceptualization in greater depth. Module 3 expands on study methods previously studied and includes measurement theory, instrument reliability and validity. You will also develop detailed data collection plans. You started looking for instruments in the data management course and need to solidify your instrument plans this semester. Finally, Module 4 examines the larger research picture, considering research oversight agencies that shape research priorities and revisits developing a program of research. You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your research skills as you complete research proposals that will serve as a draft of your dissertation research and as you take the Doctoral Preliminary Exam.

There is one major paper required this semester along with four graded and ungraded assignments/discussion board postings. I will make every effort to be clear and concise about expectations. Your job is to ask questions and seek consultation whenever things are unclear. I want this semester to be inspiring and meaningful to both your educational endeavor as well as your future research.

Please refer to the information contained in this Syllabus anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information. You can access a printable version of course material by clicking the Printable Version link. You will need to download a free Adobe Reader to view PDFs.

Welcome to the class!

Introduction - Re-introducing Sally...

I love research. I also love statistics 😊. You probably already know that by now! My main area of research is in prenatal health care, improved maternal and infant outcomes. I worked with the March of Dimes and served on the Big Five State Coalition which involved health care professionals from the five highest delivery states: Illinois, New York, California, Florida, and Texas. My research and that of several of my dissertation students have focused on identifying
and implementing best practices. I collaborated with the March of Dimes in a 14 site CenteringPregnancy program in Texas that improved prenatal care and infant outcomes to over 1400 Texas residents. The March of Dimes implemented a ‘toolkit’ designed to reduce births before 40 weeks by reducing inductions and cesarean deliveries. I have also helped several doctoral students conduct dissertation research involving secondary data including birth certificates, PRAMS data, and Air Force military care of diabetics.

I **relish** the opportunity to help you learn, understand, and plan research!

Your Faculty

[Sally Northam, RN, Ph.D.](#) (with my husband Paul’s arm around me on an anniversary trip 😊; I have been happily married to my college sweetheart for 41 years and we have one son.)

The University of Texas at Tyler
College of Nursing and Health Sciences
3900 University Blvd.
Tyler, Texas 75799

**Office Hours:** online and by appointment

**Course Email:** [snortham@uttyler.edu](mailto:snortham@uttyler.edu)
**Phone:** 940.453.5957 (cell); 940.321-5352
**Fax:** 940.321.5352 (< 5 pages) email first so I can switch my home phone to a fax 😊

If you experience any problems that you are not able to resolve by accessing the UT Tyler [Blackboard Campus Computing Services](#), you can contact Christopher Taylor
Technical Services and Web Coordinator, CNHS
The University of Texas at Tyler
3900 University Blvd.
Tyler, Texas 75799
903.565.5994
c taylor@uttyler.edu

**Course Title:** NURS 6337 Advanced Research Design
Course Description

Theoretical, methodological, and procedural aspects of data generation and measurement are presented. Measurement theory, concept operationalization, and instrument development and testing for both qualitative and quantitative methods are explored.

Prerequisites

Successful completion of NURS 6322, NURS 6330, and NURS 6333 are prerequisites for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Critically analyze published research and research proposals / grant applications for research rigor.
2. Analyze research instruments for reliability and validity,
3. Develop a quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods research proposal to study a substantive transcultural health problem.

Course Outline

Module 1 Critiquing Research
1-a. Introduction of course
1-b. Critiquing published research

Module 2 Conceptualization
2-a. Background and significance: Filling the gaps
2-b. Theory and research congruence

Module 3 Methodology
3-a. Measurement theory
3-b. Instrument development, validity and reliability
3-c. Sampling and effect size
3-d. Spring Break
3-e. Data collection plans

Module 4 The Big Picture
4-a. Research oversight
4-b. Program of research
4-c. Doctoral Preliminary Exams
4-d. Doctoral Preliminary Exams
Course Calendar/Schedule

The course calendar and schedule may be viewed by accessing the documents located in the Syllabus/Orientation folder titled Course Calendar and Weekly Content.

Textbook Information, Other Readings and Materials

The required textbooks for this course are:

This course uses the same texts required in the Quantitative Research Design course, so you do not need to purchase any required texts. 😊


Recommended (not required) texts and resources:


Booklists and bookstore links may be accessed at the UT Tyler College of Nursing Graduate Studies page. You may purchase your textbook from any source you wish or you can purchase it through the UT Tyler Bookstore.
Grading Information

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critique of Published Research</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theoretical Congruence</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critique of Instrument</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critique of Peer Research Proposal</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>30%</td>
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1. **CRITIQUE OF PUBLISHED RESEARCH:** This graded critique will help prepare you for the Doctoral Preliminary Exam as well as a peer reviewer for professional conferences and journals. Please refer to the “Guidelines and Grading Criteria for Critique of Published Research” for a thorough discussion of how to successfully complete this assignment.

2. **THEORETICAL CONGRUENCE:** This assignment is to help develop your skill in identifying the theoretical basis of studies, even when not stated, and determining whether the research methods are congruent with the theory. Please refer to the “Guidelines for Theory Match” for a thorough discussion of how to successfully complete this assignment.

3. **INSTRUMENT CRITIQUE:** This graded critique is intended to enhance your understanding of instrument development and measurement theory. Please refer to the “Guidelines and Grading Criteria for Critique of a Research Instrument” for a thorough discussion of how to successfully complete this assignment.

4. **CRITIQUE OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL:** This graded critique is linked to a Discussion Board posting. A student must post a proposal to the Discussion Board before a review is assigned. This assignment is intended to prepare you to serve as a peer reviewer for grant applications. Please refer to the “Guidelines and Grading Criteria for Critique of Peer Research Proposal” for a thorough discussion of how to successfully complete this assignment.

5. **RESEARCH PROPOSAL PAPER:** This graded paper may serve as a draft of your dissertation research proposal or pilot study. Please refer to the “Guidelines and Grading Criteria for Research Proposal Paper” for a thorough discussion of how to successfully complete this paper.

Specific guidelines and grading criteria are located in the respective 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
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 Schedule.
- Discussion and written assignments are made with the assumption that required reading assignments are completed prior to completion of discussion and written assignments.

Written Assignments

- All written assignments are to be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the Course Schedule.
- Please note that all written assignments must be submitted by NOON Central 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 contact me by phone to make arrangements to get the assignment submitted within the posted time constraints.
- Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work.
- SafeAssign is a feature provided by Blackboard that is designed to detect plagiarism or non-original student work. Your instructor may set up this feature so that when you submit papers, they are automatically sent through SafeAssign. The program checks your work against a comprehensive database of source material including previous students’ work and other papers and materials found on the web. An originality report will be generated that indicates the percentage of non-original material (text that matches existing sources) found in your paper. The purpose of using SafeAssign in your course is to ensure you are writing original papers and to encourage you and all students to properly attribute all sources used.
- Late assignments will receive 5 point reductions per day or any part of a day. In the event of serious circumstances, please contact me ahead of time if you are requesting an extension, explain the circumstances, and suggest a concrete new date and time for the submission. Running behind is not considered a circumstance that allows for an extension this semester because it is essential to stay on track in order to get the assignments finished in time to do the DPEs. Based upon prior student input, I have removed 1 assignment so there are now fewer to reduce your stress ☺️. I value your input and welcome it anytime.

Assignments/Projects Turn-In Process

All assignments and projects will be submitted through the assignments link of Blackboard. Use the following process to prepare and submit assignments:

- Please be sure to include your name on assignments
• prepare your assignment using Microsoft Word. Name your assignment with the following convention: last name first initial, assignment title (ex. Last F_Assignmenttitle)
• click on "View/Complete Assignment" in the assignments overview area or project area
• 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

When written assignments are received, faculty will open them in Microsoft Word for grading using the “track changes feature”. This will enable faculty to make comments, ask questions, etc. Assignments will be returned through the Student Gradebook area and an announcement will be posted to remind you to check the Student Gradebook. To see comments about your assignment, click on your grade. If you use an alternative to written assignments, the work will be viewed and graded using the Criteria sheet which will be returned through the Student Gradebook area of Blackboard.

If you need more instructions on how to submit files through the assignment link, please read the Blackboard Student Manual located in the Tools area.

Email and Course Discussions

Email

To communicate by email within the course with other participants or all participants, click the Communications link on the left side of the Blackboard frame. 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 instructor. If you need more instructions on how to send email messages with Blackboard please read the student manual located in the Resources area of the course.

The course email is snortham@uttyler.edu

Questions or problems other than technical problems (see Technical Requirements in this Syllabus) may be submitted to the email address above.

Faculty will make every effort to respond quickly to your emails. Generally speaking, emails are checked daily during the workweek and less frequently on the weekend. Occasionally, I will be traveling, and it might take up to 48 hours to respond. If schedules makes me unavailable to answer emails for an extended period, I will try to post an announcement so that you can plan accordingly. One caveat: technical problems in email systems may slow down responses! My priority is communicating with you, so if there are any problems, I will work to solve them.

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

Digital Library Resources
Students enrolled in this course have online access to the UT Tyler Robert R. Muntz Library. 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. If a particular journal is not available, the library staff will procure the article for you using the Iliad feature. Please take the time to update your account and get familiar with the resources available. They are awesome.

University Policies

**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/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html

**Academic Dishonesty Policy**
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 to report all observed cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor. Please understand that the online technology that has so greatly enhanced our ability to find and use other people’s words has also made it much easier to track and discover those who do.

**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.

**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 12th day of class (See Schedule of Classes for the specific date).
Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Registrar's Office and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Registrar’s Office if you have any questions.

**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.

**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 Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office in UC 282, or call (903) 566-7079.

**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.

**Course Evaluation**

UT Tyler may ask you to complete a voluntary evaluation to help us make improvements and adjustments in their overall online learning forums. The university evaluation will include questions specific 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 improve continually 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 courtesy online and informal "rules of the road" of cyberspace. Review and familiarize yourself with the guidelines provided.
Roles and Responsibilities

Students will read assigned materials, engage in online dialogue, and ponder the implications of the choices made by researchers as studies are designed. Products of this course will be evidence of proficiency demonstrations (publishable papers, critiques, assignments) and documentation of dialogue.

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 user manual available under the Tools area.

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.

Getting Started

Please refer to the information contained in this Syllabus anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information. You can access a printable version of this Syllabus by clicking a link below.

Please begin this course by clicking on the Modules button in the left-hand navigation bar, and then choose Module 1.

Epilogue from Sally

This course is at the heart of why you decided to pursue a PhD in nursing. Every discipline recognizes the PhD prepared individual as an expert in research, discovery, and creativity. Perhaps you don’t feel like experts quite yet, but this semester will take you one step closer to that recognition. Just think…you have analyzed concepts, developed theory, synthesized literature, and now you are proposing research that eventually will change health care delivery and people’s lives. Your program of research has a beginning and this is it! We are going to have such fun developing research studies that you might not realize you are continuing to build
expertise in your field. Welcome to the next step in your program of research! It is going to be a wonderful and productive semester.

Sally