

The University of Texas at Tyler  
School of Nursing

**NURS 6339: Mixed Methods Research Designs**

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## Welcome!

Welcome to Mixed Methods Research Design! The purpose of this course is to refine and expand your research skills through exploration of the emerging field of mixed methods research. 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 mini-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. During **Module 1**, we will explore the history of mixed methods research and examine the basic tenets of mixed methods designs. In **Module 2**, we will study the various types of mixed methods design and discuss the nomenclature associated with mixed methods research. Research questions specific to your research interests and reflecting a mixed methods approach will be developed during this module. During **Module 3**, we will expand on research methods previously studied in your qualitative and quantitative research courses. We will discuss sampling, data collection, analysis, and inferences from the perspective of mixed methods studies. Finally, in **Module 4**, we will examine the larger research picture and consider the challenges associated with mixed methods research. You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of mixed methods as you submit a presentation of your mixed methods research proposal.

In addition to the mixed method research proposal presentation, seven assignments/discussion board postings are required this semester. I will make every effort to be clear and concise about expectations. Your job is to ask questions and seek consultation from me whenever things are unclear. I want this semester to be inspiring and meaningful to 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!

## Your Faculty



Barbara Haas, PhD, RN

The University of Texas at Tyler  
College of Nursing and Health Sciences  
School of Nursing  
3900 University Blvd. Tyler, TX 75799  
**Office Hours:** On-line and by appointment  
**Course email:** [bhaas@uttyler.edu](mailto:bhaas@uttyler.edu)  
**Phone:** 903-566-7021  
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### ***A Bit of Background....***

I love research! (That's probably a good thing since I teach in a research degree program 😊)  
My own program of research has evolved over the years but one thing has not changed. I am *still* passionate about improving the quality of life for persons with cancer through health promotion.

I currently work with the not-for-profit Cancer Foundation for Life organization (<http://www.cancerfoundationforlife.org>), and have headed their research efforts for the past 14 years. Last year we introduced over 4,000 patients with cancer to exercise as a means to improve their quality of life. Our current study is a randomized controlled trial of women with breast cancer receiving chemotherapy, in conjunction with colleagues at Baylor Sammons Cancer Center and the Tyler Cancer Center.

Fifteen years ago, I had no idea that I would be doing what I am doing today but that is the nature of research! There is always something around the next corner and another question to be addressed. Sometimes those questions are qualitative in nature; others are quantitative. And some questions are best answered with a mixed methods approach! I am honored to be sharing in the beginnings of *your* research journey!

If you experience any problems that you are not able to resolve by accessing the UT Tyler [Blackboard Campus Computing Services](#), you can contact me at the numbers listed above.

## Course Title: NURS 6339 Mixed Methods Research Design

### Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the emerging field of mixed methods research including research designs, strategies for sampling, data collection, analysis, and integration.

#### ***Prerequisites***

Successful completion of NURS 6322: Advanced Statistics, NURS 6330: Quantitative Research Design, and NURS 6333: Qualitative Research Design (or comparable courses) are prerequisites for this course.

### Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Critically analyze published mixed methods research and research proposals / grant applications for research rigor.
2. Develop a mixed methods research proposal to study a substantive health problem.
3. Discuss the important issues and future directions of mixed methods research and its application across disciplines.

### Course Outline

#### **Module 1** Paradigms

- 1-a. Introduction of course / What is 'mixed methods'?
- 1-b. Historical perspective on mixed methods research
- 1-c. Evaluating mixed methods research

#### **Module 2** Mixed Methods Designs

- 2-a. Mixed methods research questions and problem statements
- 2-b. Mixed methods designs and nomenclature
- 2-c. Sequential and convergent designs
- 2-d. Embedded, transformative, and multiphase designs

#### **Module 3** Mixed methods research design methodology

- 3-a. Sampling
- 3-b. Data collection
- 3-c. Analysis
- 3-d. Inference

#### **Module 4** The Big Picture

- 4-a. Challenges with mixed methods research

- 4-b. Doctoral Proficiency Exams
- 4-c. Doctoral Proficiency Exams
- 4-d. Final 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:

Creswell, J.W., & Plano Clark, V. (2011). *Designing and conducting mixed methods research*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. ISBN 978-1-4129-7517-9. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Teddlie, C., & Tashakkori, A. (2009). *Foundations of mixed methods research*. ISBN 978-0-7619-3012-9. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Recommended (not required) texts and resources:

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author. ISBN: 1-4338-0561-8.

Creswell, J.W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. ISBN 978-1-4522-2610-1. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Field, A. (2009). *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Sage Publications.

Booklists and bookstore links may be accessed from the [UT Tyler](#) homepage. You may purchase your textbook from any source you wish or you can purchase it through the [UT Tyler Bookstore](#).

# Grading Information

## Course Requirements

Assignment	Percentage
Discussion Board Postings/ Responses	40%
Critique of Published Research	20%
Research Question and Critique	15%
Research Proposal Presentation	25%

1. **DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS AND RESPONSES** (Modules 1-4): These graded Discussion Board postings are intended to solidify your stance on the various research approaches and approaches and the challenges that may be posed in a mixed methods design. Please refer to the “Guidelines and Grading Criteria for Discussion Board Postings and Responses” for a thorough discussion of how to successfully complete these assignments.
2. **CRITIQUE OF PUBLISHED RESEARCH** (Module 1): This graded critique will help in understanding mixed methods research and prepare you for your future role as a 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.
3. **DEVELOPMENT AND CRITIQUE OF MIXED METHODS RESEARCH QUESTIONS** (Module 2): This assignment is to help foster your skill in developing and evaluating mixed methods research questions and designs as they relate to a specific problem. Please refer to the “Guidelines and Grading Criteria for Critique of Mixed Methods Research Questions” for a thorough discussion of how to successfully complete this assignment.
4. **RESEARCH PROPOSAL ABSTRACT AND PRESENTATION** (Module 4): This graded abstract and presentation may serve as a draft of your dissertation research proposal or pilot study and is intended to demonstrate your ability to synthesize the components of a mixed methods research study. It also serves to hone your skill in presenting at professional conferences. Please refer to the “Guidelines and Grading Criteria for Research Proposal Abstract and Presentation” for a thorough discussion of how to successfully complete this assignment.

Specific guidelines and grading criteria are located in the respective modules and the Graded Assignments folder. Links to upload assignments to the Grade Center are located in the weekly assignment page the week the assignment is due. 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 midnight *Central Time* on the due date.
- All 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.
- Late assignments will receive point reductions.

### ***Safe Assign***

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.

### ***Assignment 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:

- prepare your assignment using Microsoft Word. Name your assignment with the following convention: last name first initial, assignment title (ex. Last F\_Assignmenttitle)

- follow link to the Grade Center found on the weekly assignment page the week the assignment is due
- within the Grade Center, 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

I will return your assignment through the Student Grade Center area and will make an announcement when papers are returned to remind you to check the Grade Center. 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 Grade Center 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

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 [bhaas@uttyler.edu](mailto:bhaas@uttyler.edu)

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

I will make every effort to respond quickly to your emails. Generally speaking, I check email twice a day during the workweek. Do not expect responses on the weekend. Occasionally, I will be traveling, and it might take up to 48 hours to respond. If my schedule makes me unavailable to answer emails for an extended period, I will post an announcement so that you can plan accordingly. One caveat: technical problems in email systems may slow down responses! I am committed to communicate with you in a timely manner, so if there are any problems, we will work to solve them.

## 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 / Student Resources:

The following link provides access to important university policies and student resources:

<http://lms-media.uttyler.edu/fileman/OID/Resource/skills.html>

## Course Evaluation

UT Tyler may ask you to complete a voluntary evaluation to help make improvements and adjustments in their overall online learning forums. The university evaluation will include questions specific for this course and 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 my commitment to improve continually the quality and relevance of this course.

## 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 (critiques, assignments, poster, and presentation) 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 11:59pm **Central 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. Please begin this course by clicking on the Modules button in the left-hand navigation bar, and then choose Module 1.

## Epilogue from Barbara

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. In fact, you may be more familiar with recent developments in the research arena than those who have been immersed in a particular research methodology for decades! We are going to have such fun developing mixed methods 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,  
*Barbara*