THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

NURS 6333: Qualitative Research Designs and Methods

Syllabus – Summer 2016

I embrace honor and integrity. Therefore, I choose not to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.
(The UT Tyler Honor Code)

Welcome!

We are so excited that you will be exploring the wonders of qualitative research with us this semester! This course has been designed to provide you as a Ph.D. nursing candidate with the information and skills that are most often required for understanding and subsequently engaging in qualitative research. We have some exciting learning activities for you and hope that you enjoy this course!

This is a very interactive course with multiple and various types of activities to facilitate learning within a supportive and engaging environment. Our intent is for you to learn and have as much fun as possible!

As you will see, the course is organized into modules that comprise a small number of weeks. The **first module** provides an overview and foundational philosophies of qualitative research. We also review some broad concepts of sampling, data collection, ethics and data analysis during the four weeks of this first module. The **second module** gets into the "meat" of the matter with specific designs. We will cover six major designs this semester: phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, case studies, action research, and metasynthesis. The **third module** "wraps up" the semester with your mini-proposal that we will work on throughout the semester.

Some modules will have a video lecture with power point and discussion questions. Others may have reading assignments with thought provoking questions to discuss with classmates and faculty. Others will have a learning activity that entails a "hands-on" learning experience regarding the qualitative research process, and another involves a very interactive debate about grounded theory. These activities have been created to help diversify and make more enjoyable your learning experience this semester.

Though this is an online course, we will have some live Zoom sessions instead of written discussion questions. This is to provide you with some diverse ways to engage and learn! I hope all of you are able to participate, but if not, you always have the option of doing the discussion questions or an alternate learning activity. Group work will comprise a small part of this course, and in recognizing the challenges this type of work sometimes creates, I have some strategies that may help!

I know how busy all of you are, and I recognize how difficult it can be to balance this course with an already busy home and work life. Though a lot of time is required in this course, I hope you will find it fun and interesting! Because there is so much involved in this course, please never hesitate to contact me for any questions!

COURSE FACULTY

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COURSE TITLE   **NURS 6333: Qualitative Research Designs and Methods**

Advanced qualitative research that integrates classical and developing philosophical traditions, methodology, design, analysis, and interpretation is studied.

COURSE PREREQUISITES   **NURS 6310 Philosophy of Science**

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Distinguish the central philosophical and methodological tenets of qualitative research.

- Compare and contrast common methods of qualitative research and related key issues.
- Critically analyze qualitative research.
- Develop a qualitative proposal to study a substantive transcultural health problem.

COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1: Overview and Philosophical Issues of Qualitative Research

     1-a: Overview, philosophical and historical issues of qualitative research
     1-b: Proposal development; sampling, ethics
     1-c: Data collection
     2-d: Data analysis

Module 2: Qualitative Designs

     2-a: Ethnography; action research
     2-b: Phenomenology
     2-c: Grounded theory
     2-d: Case studies; metasynthesis

Module 3: Dissemination: The Mini-Proposal

Course Calendar/Schedule

The course calendar and schedule may be viewed by accessing the documents located in the Getting Started tab under the Course Calendar folder.

You most likely know by now that the key to successful completion of this online course, or any online course, is organization.

This is not a self-paced course. Deadlines exist because the course is offered within the UT Tyler course schedule and to help you complete the course successfully in a timely manner. If you anticipate having difficulty submitting an assignment on time, contact your faculty member **before** the assignment or discussion is due.

Textbook Information, Other Readings and Materials

Required:

1. Patton, M.Q. (2015). *Qualitative research & evaluation methods* (4th ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.

This book is also available as an e-book to rent through Coursesmart.com

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

Grading Information

Reading Assignments

- You will find that modules have reading assignments that are required and some are recommended. It's important to focus on the <u>required</u> readings. The recommended ones are only there as an additional reference if needed, or for your own specific interest.
- Each participant is responsible for completing the reading assignments in a timely manner.
- Discussion and written assignments are made with the assumption that required reading assignments are completed <u>prior</u> to live Zoom sessions and/or completing discussion and written assignments on BlackBoard.

Written Assignments

- Written assignments are expected to be written at the level of a scholarly doctoral student. If you know you have difficulty with writing professional papers that reflect logical flow, correct spelling, grammar and punctuation, and appropriate APA 6th Ed. formatting, you may want to solicit extra assistance with this prior to submitting written assignments.
- All written assignments and projects are to be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted on time. Deadlines are listed in the Course Schedule.
- All assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm Central Standard Time on the due date.
- All written assignments should be submitted through the assignment links provided in the Modules. If your Web connection is down for some reason, assignments may be faxed to (903) 565-5533. Please note that if your assignment is faxed, turnaround time for grading may be slightly longer.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work. Refer to the Avoiding Plagiarism handout.

- Late assignments will receive 5 point deduction for each day that the assignment is late. **If unavoidable situations occur, e.g., work or family emergencies or illness that prevents timely submission of assignments, be sure to contact faculty <u>before</u> the assignment is due. It is an expectation that these types of occurrences will be very rare.**

Completion Time/Expectations

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 about 8-10 hours per week on this course. The actual amount of time will vary from individual to individual. Some students have had more experience with qualitative research than others. This estimate includes the time you spend in reading, discussions, and assignments.

Grades and Grading

You will have access to all 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.

Due dates are as of 11:59 Central Standard Time on that date. Discussion boards will terminate on the day following the assignment due date as shown in the Modules area. Extensions to assignment deadlines can be negotiated with the group faculty member but need to be negotiated in advance; <u>retrospective extensions will not be awarded.</u>

There is a five point deduction in your grade for each day of late submission.

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

Assignment	Percentage
Discussion Board Postings/ Responses	18%
Proposal Topic	Cr/NC
Data collection & Analysis (includes field notes and transcript)	23%
Phenomenology Assignment (Debate or Educational Presentation)	24%
Mini-Proposal	35%

1. **Discussion board postings and/or Zoom live conferencing**

   These postings help to enrich your understanding of the topic being discussed, and also help you as peers to obtain opinions and perspectives from each other. Refer to *Discussion Board Grading Criteria* for a thorough discussion of how to successfully complete these assignments.

2. **Data collection activity**

   This activity introduces you to how important observation is and how important it is to truly "listen" in different ways during an interview while keeping your feelings and emotions in check.

3. **Phenomenology Debate**

   This will get groups in both sections involved as you explore the philosophical underpinnings of descriptive vs interpretive research, and of Max van Manen who uses a bit of both in his approach to data collection and analysis. Some individuals feel fairly strongly about one or the other. Which is better? The Great Debate and Critiques will tell!

4. **Qualitative Mini-Proposal**

   This project helps to synthesize much of the material introduced to you this semester, and may even get you started on your dissertation proposal.

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.
- All assignments should be submitted through the assignment links. If your web connection is down for some reason, please contact your faculty member 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 properly citing all sources that you use in your work.

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. DukeG Data Collection)
- 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

Faculty will return your assignment through the Student Grade Center area. 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 Tools 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 for Dr. Gloria Duke is gduke@uttyler.edu.

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

We will make every effort to respond quickly to your emails. Generally speaking, we check email twice a day during the workweek. Do not expect responses on the weekend. Occasionally, we will be traveling, and it might take up to 48 hours to respond. If our schedule makes us unavailable to answer emails for an extended period, we will post an announcement so that you can plan accordingly. One caveat: technical problems in email systems may slow down responses! We are 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.

Student Resources:

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

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, 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.

College of Nursing & Health Sciences Withdrawal Policy

Given the rapid growth of our Graduate Nursing program in recent years, we have reviewed our official withdrawal policy in relation to course offerings and seat

availability. To better assist in student advising, predict class enrollment numbers, and ensure that each of you graduate within program year requirements, the long-standing policy related to course withdrawals will be enforced. The policy states that "two or more semesters of at least one withdrawal per semester will result in the student being required to submit a Petition for Progression within 10 business days after the official drop date".

Please note that this policy only applies to official withdrawals that are reflected on your transcript. Any drops made prior to the census date will not be taken into account and any withdrawals prior to spring 2016 will not be taken into account. This policy is separate from our 2-C policy, which states that students are allowed one failing grade; a second failing grade will result in program dismissal.

If you have any questions, please contact the Graduate Nursing Advisor at nursing-graduate@uttyler.edu

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/rightsresponsibilities.php

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. 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 is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. 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.

Disability Services

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 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

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.