

NURS 6341 Scholarship of Writing for Doctoral Studies

Welcome!

Welcome to your inaugural doctoral course. We will get you off to a good beginning by building on the writing skills that you bring into the educational venture. You will have the opportunity to practice while receiving feedback from your peers and professors. The goal is to improve writing skills as well as your confidence in putting original thoughts into words. This course will provide the tools you will use throughout the rest of your doctoral program and throughout your career. Let's get started!

This is a short summer course, so it will go by quickly. An assignment is due two times per week, but they are short and relevant to topics that are familiar to you. The goal is for you to write. Writing begets better writing if you get feedback so that you can eliminate mistakes and improve your skills. That is what we will do in this course. You will be assigned a writing partner at the beginning of the semester. We know that everyone (including us) hates to work in groups. But this is a slightly different way of working. Your writing partner will review your work and give you feedback before you turn in the assignment, and you will do the same in return. If your writing partner does not give you feedback, you will have to tell us when you explain why you do not have an edited version of your paper to turn in. It is not tattling – it is fact, so it will be in everyone's best interest that persons fulfill their end of the partnership. This is not a situation where you will get stuck doing all the work while someone else gets a grade for your effort. Students who critique get as much benefit from that process as they do from having their work edited. Remember, the goal is to improve your writing.

Read the **Weekly Calendar and Assignments** (found in Getting Started tab) carefully; it lists assignments, expectations and due dates. If you have any questions, make a note, and we will address them in our Discussion Board where you will find a General Course Discussion Board Forum for any questions and feedback throughout the semester.

Please refer to the information contained in this Syllabus anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information. Most likely you will want to print a copy of the Syllabus for your quick reference. You will need to download a free [Adobe Reader](#) to view PDFs.

One final note, if you have questions regarding technical requirements, you may need to contact Blackboard Support located on the Blackboard login page, available 24/7. A list of basic technical requirements is also listed later in this Syllabus for your convenience.

Introduction

Is this your first time to take a Web-based online course? If so, you will find it dramatically different from your previous experiences. After the first class session, there is no face-to-face contact with your instructor and fellow participants. You may feel you are working alone. You may feel frustrated and anxious because you can't ask questions and receive immediate feedback. Relax! You are not alone, and any anxiety you feel will go away as you become more

comfortable with this environment. You will love the flexibility that online courses afford you in managing your valuable time and the learning materials.

We want to stress to both experienced and inexperienced online 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 the expectations, including required textbooks, grading policies, assignments, and a schedule of readings and assignment due dates. This is not a self-paced course. Deadlines exist because the course is offered within the UT Tyler academic calendar and to help you successfully complete the course in a timely manner. If you have any problems, just let us know, and we will work things out. Do not suffer in silence. We are here to build on the strengths that you bring into the program to help you successfully graduate with your doctoral degree.

Instructor Contact Information

Your Instructors



Instructor: Danita Alfred, PhD, RN
Office: BRB 1160
Office Hours: online by appointment
Course Email: dalfred@uttyler.edu

Phone: 903-566-7019

Fax: 903-565-5533



Instructor: Susan Yarbrough, PhD, RN, CNE
Office: BRB 2025
Office Hours: online by appointment
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Phone: 903-565-5554

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Special Acknowledgement

Gratitude and special thanks go to Dr. Lynn Wieck who originally saw the need and developed this course to help launch new doctoral students into the world of scholarship. Because of her caring and generosity, you will see many of her tips, helps, and PowerPoints throughout the course.

Dr. Lynn Wieck retired from her role as a full-time professor here at the University of Texas at Tyler after an outstanding career as an educator, nurse researcher and consultant for health policy and workforce issues. Her research area has been nursing workforce issues with a focus on intergenerational issues. She has studied and published about both the young emerging workforce and mature and experienced nurses.

Thank you, Lynn!

Course Title: NURS 6341: Scholarship of Writing for Doctoral Studies

Course Description

Foundational course to strengthen ability to engage in effective scholarly writing for dissemination of nursing knowledge. Philosophical and conceptual analyses of words are included. Progressively complex written products will allow the student to perfect writing skills through feedback/critique.

Prerequisites

Provisional or full acceptance into the doctoral program or permission of the instructor(s) is the only prerequisite for this course.

Instructional Goals and Objectives

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

1. Integrate writing and library skills with analysis and critique to produce a scholarly written product. **Evaluation of final scholarly paper on research area at end of semester.**
2. Assimilate foundational writing skills and organizational concepts to produce a coherent, logical written document with the goal of effective communication. **Evaluation of written assignments.**
3. Apply philosophical and conceptual analysis of words with the goal of engaging in scholarly communication. **Evaluation of student peer feedback on weekly written papers.**
4. Synthesize public and proprietary database evidence into an orderly process of producing increasingly complex written documents. **Evaluation of weekly written documents that contain progressive application of references from reliable and valid sources.**

Course Outline

- I. Mechanics of Successful Writing in Doctoral Education
- II. Writing for information sharing
- III. Dynamics of group authorship
- IV. Scholarly writing for persuasion
- V. Writing to influence others

VI. Writing to spur others to action

VII. Introduction to scientific writing

Weekly Calendar and Assignments (located in Getting Started tab)

Textbook Information, Other Readings and Materials

The required textbook for this course is:

American Psychological Association (APA). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.* Washington D.C.: Author. ISBN-10: 1-4338-0561-8 (softcover).

Grading Information

Weekly written work will be graded along with student's edited copy from student writing partner. Grading criteria are found in the **Weekly Calendar and Assignments** file located in Getting Started tab.

Course Requirements

1. Weekly written product: 80%
2. Participation in Discussions Board and editing for writing partner: 20%

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

Late assignments will not be accepted without prior discussion and approval of faculty.

Written Assignments

- All written assignments are to be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the **Weekly Calendar and Assignments**.
- Please note that all written assignments must be submitted by midnight U.S. Central Standard Time on the due date.
- All written assignments should be submitted through the **Assignments** tab.
- Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work.

Assignments/Projects Turn-In Process

All assignments and projects will be submitted through the **Assignments** tab that connects your assignment to the Grade Center.

When assignments are received, we will open them in Microsoft Word and will use Track Changes for grading. This will enable us to make edits, comments, ask questions, etc. We will then return your assignment to you in the **Grade Center**. You are responsible for checking the Grade Center to get feedback from us.

Email and Course Discussions

Email

You are required to use your patriots email account for all course correspondence. Please get in the habit of checking the patriots email account daily. To communicate by email within the course with other participants or all participants, click the **Course Tools** tab 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(s). If you need more instructions regarding Blackboard features access Blackboard Help for Students also found in the Course Tools tab.

The course email for your instructors: dalfred@uttyler.edu or syarbrough@uttyler.edu

We will make every effort to respond quickly to your emails. Generally speaking, we check our email inboxes several times a day during the workweek and less frequently on the weekend. One caveat: technical problems in email systems may slow down responses!! Our priority is communicating with you, so if there are any problems, we will work with you to solve them.

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. Although we will not use a lot of discussion in this course since it goes by so quickly, we will have an ongoing General Course Questions Discussion Board forum. This forum is a place where general course related questions should be posted. Your instructors will monitor this forum several times a week and respond appropriately to your questions. Chances are other students need the same information and this forum allows for open sharing of communication.

When you click the Discussion Board tab on the left side of your Blackboard page, a listing of general subject categories will appear in a table format. The instructor has control of what general subject categories are available for discussion in the course. Click on the category of interest. Students may introduce and name threads under the general subject or may reply to the threads of other students. That is why it is called "Discussion." At the instructor's discretion, students may or may not have the option of starting a new thread under the general subject categories and may or may not be able to edit their comments after they have been posted. If

there are restrictions on your access, you will know in advance what these restrictions are and why they are in place.

Students can respond to threads in the course discussion. To respond to a thread:

- In the Discussion Board area, you will see a list of forums
- Click on a forum link to open it and view the contents within
- Open a message
- Click Reply to respond to the message

Your response will now appear in the table, along with your name as author and date/time of posting. Icons will appear to the right that allow either a response, or perhaps editing and deletion options. If the edit icon or the trash can (delete icon) doesn't appear, the student does not have editing or deletion privileges.

Check the Discussion Board section often. Since the discussion is asynchronous, other responses will be submitted after your post. Be sure to check the Discussion Board each time you log into the course to view any added material and respond to your colleagues' comments. As noted above, we will have a "General Course Questions" thread open all the time where we will answer any questions or respond to any deep thoughts you may have.

Accessing Library Resources

Students enrolled in this course have excellent access to the [Robert R. Muntz Library](#) at the University of Texas at Tyler. Follow the 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. Please take the time to set up your account and get familiar with the resources available. They are awesome.

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 or contact Blackboard Support located on the Blackboard login page, available 24/7.

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 received the error message

Blackboard support is available for students 24/7. For Blackboard assistance, Click on the 'Help for Students' tab.

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.

-  Macromedia Flash Player allows you to view content created with Macromedia Flash such as interactive web applications and animations.
-  Shockwave Player allows you to view content created with Macromedia Director such as games and interactive 3D simulations.
-  RealPlayer allows you to view and listen to streaming video and audio.
-  QuickTime Player allows Mac and Windows users to play back audio and video files.
-  Windows Media Player allows you to view, listen and download streaming video and audio.
-  Adobe Reader allows you to view, save, and print Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files.
-  Sun Java Runtime Engine (JRE) allows you to use interactive tools on the web.
-  PowerPoint Viewer 2003 lets you view full-featured presentations created in PowerPoint 97 and later versions.

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, posted on the University [Academic Calendar](#), 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 (Undergraduate Students Only)

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

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 must 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.

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.

Last Day to Drop Any or All Classes

Summer I 2016 – June 27 Courses may be dropped online through *myUTTyler* until 4 p.m. on the last day of online (early) registration. After that time, all drops and/or withdrawals must be completed through the Registrar's Office, either in person, by fax or by mail. Faxed or mailed drop/withdrawal requests must include the student's name, ID number, course(s) to be dropped, date, student's signature, contact phone number and copy of a photo ID (driver's license, student ID, etc.). Requests should be mailed to UT Tyler Registrar's Office, 3900 University Blvd, Tyler, TX 75799 or faxed to (903)565-5705. Students are advised to meet with their instructor(s) and/or academic advisor prior to dropping any classes. Dropping or withdrawing from classes may affect financial aid eligibility, veteran's benefits, athletic eligibility, or international student status. Students should consult with those departments prior to dropping or withdrawing.

Student Roles and Responsibilities

Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings, participating in the online discussions and thoughtfully considering the implications of policy on the health of citizens. Successful completion of the course requirements will demonstrate evidence of content mastery.

Course Evaluation

UT Tyler may ask you to complete a voluntary evaluation to help them make improvements and adjustments in their overall online learning forums.

Also, an end-of-semester evaluation specifically 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 continually improve 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 online courtesy and informal “rules of the road” of cyberspace. Review and familiarize yourself with the guidelines provided.

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, access Blackboard Help for Students found in the Course Tools tab.

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 US 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 accessing the **WEEKLY CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENTS** document found in the Getting Started tab.

Final Note:

Writing is a skill which gets better the more you do it. It is something people take for granted. And it is the key to your success in graduate school. Everything you do in this program will depend on your ability to communicate with someone else. Writing is the vehicle you will use to show your progressing skills and your mastery of content. If you cannot articulate your accomplishments, they will not be recognized. The goal of this course is to set you on a successful trajectory to succeed. Let us help you. It is going to be a wonderful journey.

Danita Alfred and Susan Yarbrough, Instructors