

## 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 each assignment is 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 each person fulfills 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.

Go to the **Getting Started Module** (found on the homepage). Read the **Getting Started Instructions** and the **Syllabus**. Please refer to the information contained in the Syllabus anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information. Most likely you will want to save or print a copy of the Syllabus for easy reference. You will need to download a free [Adobe Reader](#) to view PDFs.

Read the annotated **Calendar** carefully (also found in Getting Started Module); it lists assignments, expectations and due dates. If you have any questions, make a note, and we will address them in the Discussions area listed on the left where you will find a General Course Discussion Board Forum, a place where you may ask any course related questions and receive feedback throughout the semester.

For technical support or Canvas related questions, click on the **Help** button at the bottom of the global navigation on the left side of the screen. Help is available 24/7. Students are provided with a Support Hotline, Chat option, and the ability to report a problem directly to Canvas.

### 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  
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Instructor: Susan Yarbrough, PhD, RN, CNE  
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**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 denotes successful completion of this requirement.**
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 denotes successful completion of this requirement.**
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 denotes successful completion of this requirement.**
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 Module)**

### **Textbook Information, Other Readings and Materials**

The required textbook for this course is:

American Psychological Association (APA). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 by the published due date and time. Deadlines are listed in the **Weekly Calendar and Assignments**.
- Please note that all written assignments must be submitted by midnight U.S. Central Time on the due date.
- All written assignments should be submitted through the link in the **current module**.
- 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 link in the **current module**. 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 **Grades** link on the left side. You are responsible for checking **Grades** 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 INBOX in the GLOBAL NAVIGATION on the far left side of the frame. Select the course (Scholarship, your section, select student or teacher then the name or names of the person(s), click compose a message, write your message, and click Send to send a message. You are able to send messages to the instructor(s) and other students in the course. The course email for your instructors: [dalfred@uttyler.edu](mailto:dalfred@uttyler.edu) or [syarbrough@uttyler.edu](mailto: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 **Discussions** feature 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 Course Questions Discussion 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 Discussions tab on the left side of your course 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 and click Reply. 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." Students can respond to threads in the course discussion. To respond to a thread:

- In the Discussions 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
- Click Post Reply

Your response will now appear in the table, along with your name as author and date/time of posting. Check the **Discussions** section often. Since the discussion is asynchronous, other responses will be submitted after your post. Be sure to check the Discussions 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 "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**

For technical support or Canvas related questions, click on the **Help** button  at the bottom of the global navigation icons on the left side of the screen. Help is available 24/7. Students are provided with access to a Support Hotline, Chat option, and the ability to report a problem directly to Canvas.

#### **Navigation**

To efficiently and effectively participate in this course, an understanding of how the course is arranged, how to access information, and how to contribute to the learning environment is essential. If you have any questions about how to navigate the course, go to the Help for Students tab.

#### **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 weeks 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.

## **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 Module.

## **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*