



**St. Luke's School of Nursing  
at Moravian College**  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania



**Nursing 316: Applied Research\***  
Spring 2007

Michele August-Brady, RN, DNSc  
Associate Professor, Nursing

Email: [augustm@moravian.edu](mailto:augustm@moravian.edu)

Office: Comenius 401

Phone: (610) 625-7864

Cell: (610) 554-5563

Pager: (610) 606-3695

Class meets: Fridays 1010 - 1240

Clinical: Tuesdays and Thursdays and as  
needed

Office hours: Monday: 1000-1400

Friday: 0900-1000

**Catalog/Course Description:**

A clinical practicum course in which the student collaborates with a nurse researcher in an ongoing nursing research project during one or more of the investigative phases. Students develop insight into the process and application of research in nursing practice.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Evaluate formal nursing research utilization within the health care context.
2. Apply research principles in an ongoing nursing research project at one or more of the investigative phases.
3. Distinguish characteristics between qualitative and quantitative research.
4. Demonstrate beginning knowledge of research methodologies, concepts and terminology.
5. Analyze research from nursing and other disciplines as a basis for practice.
6. Formulate individual strategies for involvement in nursing research as a professional nurse.

**Required Texts:**

LoBiondo-Wood, G., & Haber, J. (2006). *Nursing research – Methods and critical appraisal for evidence-based practice* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). St. Louis: Mosby.

**\* Writing Intensive Course**

**Required Readings:**

Oliver, D., & Mahon, S. (2005a). Reading a research article. Part I: Types of variables. *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*, 9 (1), 110-112 (EbscoHost)

Oliver, D., & Mahon, S. (2005b). Reading a research article. Part II: Parametric and nonparametric statistics. *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*, 9 (2), 238-240. (EbscoHost)

Oliver, D., & Mahon, S. (2005c). Reading a research article. Part III: The data collection instrument. *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*, 10 (3), 423-426. (EbscoHost)

### **Recommended Readings:**

Melnyk, B. (2005). Rapid critical appraisal of randomized controlled trials (RCTs): An essential skill for evidence-based practice (EBP). *Pediatric Nursing*, 31(1), 50-52. (EbscoHost)

Melnyk, B. (2004). Integrating levels of evidence into clinical decision making. *Pediatric Nursing*, 30(4), 323-325. (EbscoHost)

Pravikoff, D., Tanner, A. , & Pierce, S. (2005). Are nurses ready for evidence based practice? *American Journal of Nursing*, 105(9),40-51.

Yoder, L. (2005). Evidence-based practice: The time is now! *MEDSURG Nursing*, 14(2), 91-92. (EbscoHost)

Yoder, L. (2005). Clinical trials: What you and your patients need to know. *MEDSURG Nursing*, 14 (5), 351-353. (EbscoHost)

Yoder, L. (2005). Phase III and IV clinical trials: What you and your patients need to know. *MEDSURG Nursing*, 14 (6), 408-415. (EbscoHost)

**\*\*Additional readings will be assigned as part of the course.**

## Course Requirements:

1. Class and clinical attendance is an expectation. Students are expected to be prepared for all class meetings; that means having completed assignments prior to attending class. If unable to attend a class or clinical experience, please contact me an hour before class via email or phone. Any absence from class must be accompanied by an appropriate written verification of absence (doctor's note for illness, etc). Absences without written verification will be considered as unexcused and may affect the course grade. Students are responsible for obtaining any notes, handouts, or other class items from classmates.

College policy will be followed relative to inclement weather. Please check blackboard course site for any announcements relative to weather and the cancellation of class.

2. Plagiarism is the intentional use of another's words or ideas as your own. This can range from using another individual's direct words or changing the words slightly (paraphrasing) without the appropriate citation to purchasing a paper from the Internet or a professional writing service. Please note that the copying of information from the Internet to a powerpoint slide presentation without acknowledgement of source is plagiarism. Evidence of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be handled according to the college policy on academic honesty. Copies of the statement on academic dishonesty are published in the Student Handbook.
3. Learning activities stated on the topical outline section of this syllabus are to be completed prior to class time. The student can expect to work approximately 8-12 hours per week in preparing for this class.
4. Communication between instructor & student can be facilitated through the use of email. Students are expected to check their email every 24-48 hours.
5. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
6. Students are required to earn a *Satisfactory* clinical evaluation in each nursing course in order to progress in the curriculum. Failure to earn a *Satisfactory* clinical evaluation will result in a grade of **F** for the course. The clinical experience in Nursing 316 does not involve the direct provision of patient care; however, students will be expected to fully engage in their collaborative projects in their area of clinical interest. On average, students are expected to actively participate in 12 hours of clinical experience each week for ten weeks. Given the nature of the selected collaborative project, students may have clinical learning activities that fall outside the regularly scheduled T/Th clinical days.

## Methods of Evaluation:

Some learning activities will be non-graded but designed to facilitate thought and/or processes involved in achieving learning outcomes.

**Required non-graded learning activities are as follows:**

**1. Blackboard Web-site**

The course web-site is NURS316B SP07. All students have been enrolled by the instructor. Announcements and assignments will be posted there during the course. It is solely the student's responsibility for all communications, announcements, or additional assignments from the course site. This necessitates the development of routinely checking for announcements.

**2. Chapter quizzes**

Intermittently, quizzes will be posted on the Blackboard course site and are to be completed prior to attending class. Failure to complete quizzes may result in a reduction in your course grade.

**Portfolio Evidence should reflect the following areas:**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Holism</b>	<b>Inquiry</b>	<b>Professionalism</b>
Health Care Systems	Health Health Promotion	Critical thinking Reflectivity Research	Practitioner Accountability Standards

**Graded learning activities are as follows:**

- |                                              |           |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mini-Integrative Review of the Literature | 25%       |
| 2. Mini-Integrative Review: Draft            | 10%       |
| 3. Research Critique(s)                      | 40%       |
| a. Quantitative Study                        | worth 20% |
| b. Qualitative Study                         | worth 20% |
| 4. Dissemination of Findings                 | 25%       |
| a. Oral Presentation, Abstract & References  |           |

**Total Percentage: 100%**

**Grading Policy:**

7. Formal papers must be typed according to APA style (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Use of a computer, Internet access, and electronic searches of CINAHL and other databases are required.
8. Assignments are expected on or before their due date. At the discretion of the instructor, five points per day may be deducted from the grade if assignments are handed in late. **A grade of B- or better is required in each nursing course.**

The grading scale is as follows:

A = 93-100	C = 73-76
A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 60-66
B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	F = <60

## Topical Outline

Date	Topic	Reading
1/16/07	Introduction to Nursing Research - Importance of Nursing Research - Overview of the Process / Clinical	Ch. 1, 2
1/19/07	Identifying Problems & Analyzing Existing Knowledge - Research problems, questions & hypotheses / Clinical - Literature Reviews	Ch. 3, 4 Oliver 2005a
1/23/07	Theoretical Frameworks / Clinical	Ch. 5
1/25/07	Hesi Exit Exam (3 hours) / Clinical Intro to Qualitative Research	Ch. 6-7
1/26/07	Qualitative Research (cont) & Critique	Ch. 8
2/2/07	Ethical – Legal Intro to Quantitative Research	Ch. 13 Ch. 9
2/9/07	Quantitative Designs & Critique – <b>Qualitative Critique Due</b>	Ch. 10, 11, 18
2/16/07	Sampling & Data Collection	Ch. 12, 14
2/23/07	Validity & Reliability; Data Analysis	Ch. 15, 16 Oliver 2005c
3/02/07	Data Analysis (cont) <b>Integrative Draft Due</b> - Descriptive - Inferential	Ch. 16, 17 Oliver 2005b
3/9/07	SPRING BREAK – No classes	
3/16/07	Presentation Tips; Intro to Evidence-based practice- <b>Quantitative Critique Due</b>	Ch. 19
3/23/07	Evidence-based practice (cont)	Ch. 20
3/30/07	Course Wrap-up: <b>Integrative Paper Due</b>	

January 2007