

**WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
NURSING DEPARTMENT
NURS 4230.30 INTRODUCTION TO NURSING RESEARCH
Fall I, 2007**

Instructor: Susan Kasal Chrisman, RN, PhD **Phone:** 913-645-5377
Class: Monday, 5:30-9:30 PM **Email:** chrisman@webster.edu

Course description:

Elements of the research process and the application of research to clinical practice are examined. Current research studies are analyzed, critiqued, and evaluated for application to the clinical area. Students identify and discuss researchable nursing questions and review nursing research literature on a selected topic. (Prerequisites: NURS 3010, 3020, 3400, 3410, 3420, and PSYC 2750)

Objectives:

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

1. Discuss the relationship of theory to nursing research.
2. Describe the research process.
3. Discuss ethical considerations in research.
4. Critically evaluate published nursing research.
5. Summarize nursing research on a selected topic.
6. Evaluate research for applicability to nursing practice.

Textbook:

Fain, J. A. (2004) *Reading, understanding and applying nursing research*. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis.

Essential Course Content:

History of nursing research	Hypotheses
Critiquing research	Variables
Ethical considerations in research	Research designs
The research process	Sampling
Quantitative research	Measurement
Qualitative research	Application of research to practice
Research problems and questions	Evidenced-based practice
Outcomes research	Literature review
Theoretical and conceptual frameworks	

Teaching methods:

Lecture, discussion, videos, library work, research critiques, independent study, group work.

Assignments:

Critiques

Students will critique published nursing research articles following the guidelines outlined in Chapter 16.

Critique Assignment 1: Students work in groups to evaluate selected sections of a quantitatively designed research article. The assignment is spread over more than one class session, which allows for evaluation of critique content as presented in class. Complete the critique topics before class and be prepared to share in groups.

Critique Assignment 2: Students work in groups to evaluate a qualitatively designed research article. Complete the critique before class and be prepared to share in group.

Critique Assignment 3: Students evaluate either a quantitative nursing research article related to an issue in nursing practice. A clean copy of the research article is submitted with the critique. This critique must be typed and follow APA format; 5-8 pages, double spaced.

Literature Review

Students complete a literature review of nursing research articles about an issue in nursing practice. The purpose of the literature review is to select and analyze relevant nursing research articles, integrating the characteristics, findings, and results of the articles, and then applying the integrated literature review to practice. This paper must be typed in APA format; 6-8 pages.

Steps of the literature review process:

1. Select and review a set of nursing research articles (5-6) about an issue in nursing practice. Instructor must approve the articles.
2. After approval, re-read the set of articles and clearly state the purpose of the review.
3. Next, review and analyze each article. Develop a consistent format for reviewing and taking notes on each article. A grid or a set of note cards help to organize your notes. Include study design, sample, findings, results, implications for practice, and any other special characteristics about the research study.
4. Write your paper using the following format:
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Integrated literature review
 - C. Application of research literature to practice
 - D. Conclusion
 - E. References

Paper should begin with an introduction that states the purpose of your literature review. Write an integrated literature review summarizing the characteristics, findings and result of all the articles. In the next section, apply what was learned from the integrated literature review to nursing practice. Compare the research literature with current practice, e.g. consider whether practice needs to change or stay the same based on your review. Use specific examples from practice and compare to specific literature from your review. End the paper with a concluding paragraph.

Evaluation:

Class attendance and participation	15 points
Critique assignments 1 and 2	20 points
Critique assignment 3	25 points
Literature review assignment	40 points

**Attendance is expected at all classes and a requirement to receive an A in the course.

Grading Scale:

A	93-100 points
B	86-92 points
C	76-85 points
D	70-75 points

Plus and minuses may be used.