



**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This theory-based course will address various modes of nursing inquiry (e.g. scientific, philosophical, historical, etc...). Relationships between nursing practice, theory, and research will be explored. Past and present contributions to nursing knowledge will be discussed.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:****Ends-In-View**

This course will provide an opportunity for learners to enhance their ability to make connections between nursing practice, theory, and research. Learners will acquire knowledge about a range of research techniques and methods associated with the positivist and constructivist paradigms. Learners will participate as research consumers by reading and reviewing nursing research studies and by engaging in learning activities to develop skills for critically examining research process and products.

**Learning Process**

The aim of NURS 3416 is to facilitate enhance praxis through increased knowledge of research processes. The learner will examine scientific inquiry and gain an understanding of quantitative and quantitative research approaches used in generating and evaluating nursing. The course content and learning activities will address the following concepts: ontology, epistemology, the research process, the dominant inquiry paradigms, literature reviews, ethics, specific research designs, sampling strategies, data collection and analysis processes, and descriptive and inferential statistics within the context of nursing praxis.

The learner will take the role of research consumer to develop skills aimed at reading and critically evaluating research studies. An understanding of research terminology and approaches, and the development of research consumer skills are achieved through active participation as a research consumer. Students are encouraged to engage in an interactive process with the nursing literature and their own practice.

**III. TOPICS:**

1. Introduction to nursing research
2. Appraising the literature & developing research questions
3. Research: Legal and ethical issues
4. Qualitative methods in research
5. Quantitative methods in research
6. Research designs
7. Sampling
8. Data collection methods
9. Research rigor

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:**

Davis, B., & Logan, J. (2012). *Reading research: A user-friendly guide for health professionals (5<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Toronto, Canada: Mosby/Elsevier.

LoBiondo-Wood, G., Haber, J., Cameron, C., & Singh, M.D. (2013). *Nursing research in Canada: Methods, critical appraisal, and utilization (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)*. Toronto, Canada: Mosby/Elsevier. (student choice for hard copy or electronic copy)

LoBiondo-Wood, G., Haber, J., Cameron, C., & Singh, M.D. (2013). *Workbook for nursing research in Canada: Methods, critical appraisal, and utilization (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)*. Toronto, Canada: Mosby/Elsevier. (cost bundled with hard copy...can be purchased individually from Amazon.com)

It is expected that learners will seek out current and relevant journals from peer-reviewed nursing/healthcare literature resources (e.g. CINHALL, Academic Search Premier and the Cochrane Library) to complete assignments. In addition, all students are encouraged to make full use of collaborative and on-campus resources to meet individual learning needs (e.g. Library, Internet, Writing Center, etc...).

## V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

A passing grade of 60% is required for all nursing courses. As noted in the Sault College Nursing Handbook, course absence in excess of 20% may jeopardize receipt of credit for this course regardless of marks earned on course assignments.

The grade for Nursing NURS 3416 will be based on 3 methods of evaluation. These methods are (1) a written critique of nursing research, (2) eight weekly in-class quizzes, and (3) a final comprehensive examination.

1. Eight (8) weekly quizzes = 40% of final grade (8@ 5% = 40%)

These short quizzes will be conducted weekly (starting week 3 of the semester) at the beginning of each class to test. Since this course builds on course content provided each week, if missed, these quizzes can only be made up if the student makes a written LMS request for such and it is accompanied by a written medical excuse provided by a physician/nurse practitioner. The weekly quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice questions, short answer and/or calculation questions.

2. Critique of nursing research (limited critical nursing literature review: 25% of final grade)

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to develop a further foundational understanding of nursing inquiry through the development of a limited integrated critical review of nursing research. Elements of the literature will relate directly to the topic to be covered in the weekly classes and postings. This task will require a systematic synthesis with your critique of a *minimum of fifteen (15)* research articles related to a specific topic related to your clinical practice. It is recommended that you used the same articles that formed the basis of your limited descriptive literature review in NURS 3406.

Process: The major elements in a critical literature specifically address *differences in designs* in both the quantitative and qualitative methodologies reported in the literature, *specific demographic characteristics* of the sample that most accurately represent the population to which the findings are to be generalized, the *sample recruitment process* and the *sample sizes*. We will also be looking more closely at the limitations and the ethical safeguards for research studies.

Major sections of the Review:

- Introduction - significance and relevance of the problem for nursing practice
- Critique of the Literature - synthesized descriptive critique of the research reviewed in relation to theoretical orientation of the literature, sample designs, samples, sampling process, data collection, measurement strategies, ethics, and description of significant and/or theoretical findings
- Summary – brief synthesized summary addressing the major section of the description of the review
- Limitations – synthesis of the limitations of the body of research reviewed
- Conclusion – synthesis of the future research identified by the researchers

The school policy on written assignments applies to this assignment. Using the APA (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) format is required and up to 10% of the total possible mark can be deducted for not consistently demonstrating APA format in your paper. In addition up to 10% of the total possible mark can be deducted for poor form and/or writing style. It is expected that students who have experienced difficulties with writing competency in past courses will seek writing assistance before submission of papers for this course. Please review your literature review APA notations from papers submitted in NURS 3406 Fall 2011 to determine some of your recommended areas for improvement.

One hard copy of the critique of nursing research must be submitted as well as one copy of every article used in the paper at the start of class on the due date noted in the weekly guide. The assignment and articles must be placed in a titled envelope or folder with your name on it for submission. A second copy of the critique of nursing research assignment (minus the articles) must be submitted electronically to the course professor through LMS's "safe assign" system.

3. Final examination 35% Date Set by Registrar

In the final examination the students will be asked to *apply their knowledge* in the examination of two nursing research articles.

4. The following semester grades will be assigned to students:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	3.00
B	70 - 79%	2.00
C	60 - 69%	1.00
D	50 – 59%	0.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

***NOTE: Mid Term grades are provided in theory classes and clinical/field placement experiences. Students are notified that the midterm grade is an interim grade and is subject to change.***

## **VI. SPECIAL NOTES:**

### Attendance:

Sault College is committed to student success. There is a direct correlation between academic performance and class attendance; therefore, for the benefit of all its constituents, all students are encouraged to attend all of their scheduled learning and evaluation sessions. This implies arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the scheduled session.

Punctual and regular attendance at the various academic exercises is required of all students. If there are extenuating circumstances bearing upon a student's absence, the instructor should be notified. Absences in excess of 20% may jeopardize receipt of credit for the course.

Due Date Compliance:

*If, for personal reasons you are not able to meet the deadlines, it is your responsibility to contact the course professors prior to the due date. If after speaking with the instructor, the instructor determines the situation has extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control, a one time short term extension time for the assignment may be negotiated and granted **if the student** (1) provides the instructor written verification of all work done on the assignment up to that date, and (2) submits all instructor required written documentation regarding the situation as soon as the situation becomes known to that student. **Extensions will not be granted on the day that the assignment is due.***

**\*Note: there will be a deduction of 10% per day associated with all extensions granted unless a medical certificate is submitted with the extension request.**

LMS

This course's Blackboard site, its features, and its contents are for the exclusive use of nursing students registered in this section of this course. The information contained herein is privileged and confidential. Any unauthorized use, dissemination, or copying is strictly prohibited.

**VII. COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDUM:**

The provisions contained in the addendum located on the portal form part of this course outline.