

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course various modes of nursing inquiry will be addressed. Some of these include scientific, empirical, philosophical and historical modes. Relationships between 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

The purpose of the nursing inquiry course is to provide the student with an opportunity to further explore the process of inquiry in nursing. The focus of this course is on the profession of nursing and knowledge development of the profession. Through readings, the student will have the opportunity to critically examine how nurses “know” and the process of inquiry in nursing. Students will also have the opportunity to explore their own processes of knowing and to engage as an active participant in the development of the growing body of knowledge in nursing.

Process

Praxis is the underlying process that will be used in the course. Critical reflection on self, values, ways of knowing, experience, context, and theory will be integrated. The intent is that students engage in an interactive process with the nursing literature and their own practice. Preparation, discussion, learning activities, and written exercises will be used.

WebCT

Each of the learning activities has associated online discussion questions. It is a requirement of the course that students post responses to these questions. These responses are meant to focus learners on some of the integral elements of discussion from each week’s Learning Activity. The WebCT postings will be the starting point for further discussion. They need to be a thoughtful, succinct (250-300 words) and critical discussion of each week’s Learning Activity content. They should be a representation of the student’s beginning understanding of the course content.

They will not be marked or corrected by the course professors but are meant to be a class discussion of the knowledge associated with the week’s Learning Activity. Students are encouraged to read and respond to other students’ postings to enhance their own understanding of each week’s Learning Activity. These WebCT postings, combined with the in-class discussion of the knowledge associated with each Learning Activity, will serve as a foundation for the overall understanding of nursing knowledge and inquiry and the student’s ability to critically examine, discuss and apply this essential course content. Referencing is required. Failure to meet the posting requirements for the course will result in the loss of 50% of the WebCT assignment mark.

III. TOPICS:

1. The nature of knowledge/ontology
2. Ways of knowing/epistemology
3. Literature review preparation
3. Conceptual thinking
4. Nursing paradigms, models, and theories
5. Praxis

* Topics may be modified depending on needs of students/faculty.

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

There is no textbook required for this course. Required readings related to each learning activity will be assigned. These readings consist of current and classic articles relevant to the subject of nursing inquiry.

A complete set will be placed in the Sault College library for in-library use only. Information will be provided about other means of accessing these readings.

See course syllabus for detailed list of required readings for the current school year.

V. ATTENDANCE

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 credit for the course.

VI. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

A passing grade of 60% is required for all nursing courses. The grade for NURS 3406 will be based on the following methods of evaluation as described below. Further information about the evaluation methods are detailed in the course syllabus.

1. WebCT : 20%**Due Dates:**

Posting #1 – October 2/05 by 2400 (5%)

Posting #2 – November 13/05 by 2400 (15%)

2. Descriptive Literature Review: Marks: 50%

Due Date: December 5/05 by 1200 hrs

The school policy on written assignments applies to this written assignment. APA (5th ed.) format is required. Students may lose up to 10% of the total possible mark for poor form and writing style. It is expected that students who have experienced difficulties with writing competency in past courses will seek writing assistance before submission of the formal paper.

Two copies of each assignment, in its entirety, must be submitted to the course professor by the specified time on the due date (one copy may be submitted electronically in the Sault College WebCT for NURS 3406 assignment dropbox). *If, for personal reasons, you are not able to meet the deadline, it is your responsibility to contact the course professor prior to the due date.* If an extension is granted, you are required to document your situation and request in writing, and submit this request to the course professors within two days of the original request. *Extensions will not be granted on the day that the assignment is due*

3. Final Exam: Marks: 30%

The final exam will be held in the University exam period. The questions will consist of the final WebCT questions from each of the five learning activities.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in post-secondary courses

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	3.00
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
D	50 – 59%	1.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00
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:

For such reasons as program certification or program articulation, certain courses require minimums of greater than 50% and/or have mandatory components to achieve a passing grade.

It is also important to note, that the minimum overall GPA required in order to graduate from a Sault College program remains 2.0.

All NURS courses require 60% for a passing grade.

All science courses, including BIOL2105, BIOL2111, CHMI2220 and elective courses require 50% for a passing grade.

VII. SPECIAL NOTES:Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your professor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 703 so that support services can be arranged for you.

Retention of Course Outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other post-secondary institutions.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Rights and Responsibilities*. Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Course Outline Amendments:

The professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

VIII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the professor. Credit for prior learning will be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

IX. DIRECT CREDIT TRANSFERS:

Students who wish to apply for direct credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain a direct credit transfer form from the Dean's secretary. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.