NURS 6333: Qualitative Research Designs and Methods

Syllabus – Summer 2013

Welcome to NURS 6333: Qualitative Research Design and Methods! This course has been designed to provide you as a Ph.D. nursing candidate with the information and skills that are most often required for understanding and subsequently engaging in qualitative research. We recognize that these skills are developed and refined over the years as one engages in qualitative research and therefore this course serves as the next step in your evolution as a qualitative researcher. It builds on the introduction to qualitative research you received as an undergraduate and graduate student, and hopefully sets you on the path towards further development in your post-doctoral research activities. We have some exciting learning activities for you and hope that you enjoy this course!

As you are well accustomed to by now, all content will be posted on UT Tyler Blackboard. Students will be divided into groups for completion of designated assignments. Your group will be assigned a name the first or second week of class. For the most part, students will be communicating with their individually assigned faculty member under Group Pages (within Communications tab).

Course content is organized into modules that are comprised of several weeks of content. We have attempted to make this a very interactive course with multiple and various types of activities to facilitate learning within a supportive environment. As you will see, some modules will have a videotaped lecture with power point and discussion questions. Others may have reading assignments with thought provoking questions to discuss with classmates and faculty. Others may have a learning activity that entails a "hands-on" learning experience regarding the qualitative research process. Though a lot of time is required in this course, we hope you will find it fun and interesting!

Because there is so much involved in this course, please never hesitate to contact faculty for any questions!

COURSE FACULTY

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: NURS 6333: Qualitative Research Designs and Methods

Advanced qualitative research that integrates classical and developing philosophical traditions, methodology, design, analysis, and interpretation is studied.

Course Prerequisites   NURS 6310 Philosophy of Science

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Distinguish the central philosophical and methodological tenets of qualitative research.
- Compare and contrast common methods of qualitative research and related key issues.
- Critically analyze qualitative research.
- Develop a qualitative proposal to study a substantive transcultural health problem.

Course Competencies

1. Computer-based skills: Students will be required to use a variety of skills in the online environment.

2. Communication skills: Students will use a variety of communication skills in expressing their opinions, findings, expertise, and knowledge about various course topics to other participants and to course faculty.
3. Searching for and locating pertinent information and literature: Students must be able to search and retrieve relevant literature.
4. Critical thinking: Students must be able to demonstrate their conceptual thinking, creativity, and innovation in developing and presenting their responses to each module's assignments.
5. Personal accountability for achievement: Participants will complete assignments according to the designated schedule and will participate in discussions in a timely manner.

You most likely know by now that the key to successful completion of this online course, or any online course, is organization. This syllabus outlines in detail our expectations of you as student, including required textbooks, grading policies, assignments, and projects, and a schedule of readings and assignment/project due dates. **This is not a self-paced course.** Deadlines exist because the course is offered within the UT Tyler course schedule and to help you complete the course successfully in a timely manner. If you anticipate having difficulty submitting an assignment on time, contact your individual group faculty member **before** the assignment or discussion is due.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Streubert, H.J., Carpenter, D.R. (2011). Qualitative research in nursing: Advancing the humanistic imperative. 5th ed., Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th Edition. Washington D.C.: The American Psychological Association.

Recommended:

Munhall, PL. (2007). *Nursing research: A qualitative perspective.* Jones & Barlett Publishers, Boston

Reading Assignments

- Each participant is responsible for completing the reading assignments in a timely manner. The nature of the reading assignments varies and each student will determine how much reading they do.
- Discussion and written assignments are made with the assumption that required reading assignments are completed prior to completing discussion and written assignments.

Written Assignments

- All written assignments and projects are to be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the Course Schedule.
- All assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm Central Standard Time on the due date.
- All written assignments should be submitted through the assignment links provided in the Modules. If your Web connection is down for some reason, assignments may be faxed to (903) 566-1981. Please note that if your assignment is faxed, turnaround time for grading may be slightly longer.
- Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work. Refer to the Avoiding Plagiarism handout.
- Late assignments will receive 5 point deduction for each day that the assignment is late. **If unavoidable situations occur, e.g., work or family emergencies or illness that prevents timely submission of assignments, be sure to contact group faculty <u>before</u> the assignment is due.**

Completion Time/Expectations

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 about 10-15 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.

Grades and Grading

You will have access to all 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, including discussion boards, have set due dates.

Due dates are as of 11:59 Central Standard Time on that date. Discussion boards will terminate on the day following the assignment due date as shown in the Modules area. Extensions to assignment deadlines can be negotiated with the group faculty member but need to be negotiated in advance; <u>retrospective extensions will not be awarded.</u>

There is a five point deduction in your grade for each day of late submission.

Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments, and you must achieve a final grade of over 80% in order to pass this course.

A - 90-100
B - 80-89

C - 70-79
D - 60-69
F - Below 60

The work you will perform for this course is weighted as follows:

Discussion Board postings and participation	**15%**
Observational activity	**10%**
Data Analysis	**15%**
Critique of Phenomenological study	**15%**
Ethnography paper	**10%**
Qualitative research mini-proposal	**35%**

Navigation

In order to effectively participate in online learning, it is imperative that you understand how your course is arranged and how to access and contribute information. If you have a question regarding the navigation within this course, please refer to the Blackboard Student User Manual available under the Tools area.

General Course Requirements and Guidelines

Assignments

- Each graded assignment will have specific guidelines and grading criteria under the "Grading Criteria" tab in Blackboard. Review these guidelines and criteria several times prior to beginning and submitting your assignments.
- Each student is responsible for completing the assignments in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the Course Calendar.
- If you believe you will not be able to submit an assignment on time, please notify your faculty **before** the assignment is due! An exception may be granted and requests are for rare incidences only.
- Late assignments will receive a 5 point deduction for each day that it is late unless prior arrangements with the faculty have been made.
- Discussion and written assignments are made with the assumption that required reading assignments are completed prior to completion of discussion and written assignments.
- Assignments are to be submitted electronically.
- All written assignments are to be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted through designated Assignment links.
- If your web connection is down for some reason, please contact your course faculty to make arrangements for submission. Papers will be run through Safe Assign, a plagiarism detection program.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work. Academic dishonesty, such as unauthorized collusion, plagiarism and cheating, as outlined in the [Handbook of Operating Procedures](), University of Texas at Tyler, will not be tolerated. University regulations require the instructor to report all suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. In the event disciplinary measures are imposed on the student, it becomes part of the students' official school records. Also, please note that the handbook obligates you, the student, to report all observed cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor.

- The College of Nursing **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**: Students are expected to assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted as homework, examinations, papers, etc. The **graduate program at U.T. Tyler seeks to create a climate that encourages its members to act as responsible adults in an academic community**. Generally, institutional disciplinary measures are invoked only in response to conduct that adversely affects the University's pursuit of its educational mission and objectives. Penalties may range from a warning to probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Behaviors that could subject a student to disciplinary action include all forms of academic dishonesty. *Refer to the CON Graduate Student Guide* for specific statements related to plagiarism, etc.

Completion Time

You should expect to spend as much time on an online course as you do in a traditional face-to-face course. As a rough estimate, you should plan to spend four to six 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.

Assignments/Projects Turn-In Process

Use the following process to submit assignments through designated Assignment links:

- Name your assignment with the following convention: last name (no space) first initial, assignment title (ex. LastF_Assignment title; PittB Ethical Issues Paper).
- Click on "View/Complete Assignment".
    - Number 1-shows the assignment instructions.
    - Number 2-is where you add your comments and attach your completed assignment.
    - Number 3-when all attached files (your completed assignment files) are uploaded, click submit.
    - You have successfully turned in your assignment when an exclamation point (!) is displayed in the Grade Center for that assignment.

When assignments are received, your instructors will open them in Microsoft Word for grading. This will enable the instructors to make comments, ask questions, etc. The

instructors will then return your assignment through the Tools Area, Check Grades link, or via email. An announcement will be posted when papers are returned to remind you to check the Student Grade Center. To see comments about your assignment, click on your grade.

If you need more instructions on how to submit files through the Assignment link, please read the Blackboard User Manual located in the Tools area.

Email and Course Discussion Processes

Email

All electronic mail communication related to this course will utilize your student e-mail (*patriots*) account. To communicate by email within the course with other participants or all participants, click the Tools tab on the left. Click Send E-mail to send a message. You are able to send messages to All Users or Select Users in the course, including the instructors. If you need more instructions on how to send email messages within Blackboard please read the Blackboard User Manual located in the Tools area of the course. Contact Campus Computing Services (903.566.7357) or Technical Support (ITsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu) if you experience problems with the student email system. Notify your instructor if you are unable to receive student email.

Questions or problems **other than technical problems** (see Technical Requirements posted later in this Syllabus) may be submitted to the instructors' email addresses.

You will receive quick responses to any emails you send during our office hours. Generally speaking, we check our email inbox at least once a day during the workweek, less frequently on the weekend, and rarely after 6 p.m. any day. If our schedules will make us unavailable to answer emails for a day or two, we will send an announcement so that you can plan accordingly. One caveat: technical problems in email systems may slow down responses!!

Discussions

The Discussions feature in Blackboard is an online discussion forum in which students and faculty can communicate asynchronously (anytime) via message postings.

When you click the Discussion Board tab on the left, a listing of categories will appear. One general forum will be utilized to address course questions that may apply to all students. In addition, you will find a link for each instructor's section. All other forums will be posted in these instructor sections. Instructors will post questions in a table format called forums, named for each corresponding module. Click on the appropriate forum.

All threads (topics) pertinent to a general subject category will appear as links under that subject category forum. The instructors have control of what general subject

categories are available for discussion in the course. At the instructors' discretion, students may or may not have the option of starting a new thread under the general subject categories and may or may not be able to edit their comments after they have been posted. Students can (and will be required to) respond to threads in the course discussion. To respond to a thread:

- In the Discussion Board 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

Your response will now appear in the table, along with your name as author and date/time of posting. Icons will appear to the right allowing either a response, or perhaps editing and deletion options. If the edit icon or the trash can (delete icon) doesn't appear, the student doesn't have editing or deletion privileges.

Check the Discussion Board section often. Since the discussion is asynchronous, other responses will be submitted after your post. Be sure to check each time you log into the course to view any added material.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)

- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)

- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment

- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria apply to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Technical Information

If you experience technical problems or have a technical question about this course, you can obtain assistance by emailing itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu or call 903.565.5555.

When you email IT Support, be sure to include a complete description of your question or problem including:

- The title and number of the course

- The page in question

- If you get an error message, a description and message number

- What you were doing at the time you got the error message

You may also visit the Help Tab in Blackboard for useful information or check out On Demand Learning Center for Students http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm

Plug-ins and Helper Applications

UT Tyler online courses use Java, JavaScript, browser plug-ins, helper application and cookies. It is essential that you have these elements installed and enabled in your web browser for optimal viewing of the content and functions of your online course. Always

ensure that you are using the most update version for the browser you choose to access the online learning content.

> **NOTE: Mozilla Firefox** is the recommended browser for Blackboard. (URL: http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/)

- **Adobe Reader** allows you to view, save, and print Portable Document Format (PDF) files. (URL: http://get.adobe.com/reader/)

- **Java Runtime Environment** (JRE) allows you to use interactive tools on the web.
  (URL: http://www.java.com/en/download/)

- **Adobe Flash Player** allows you to view content created with Flash such as interactive web applications and animations.
  (URL: http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)

- **QuickTime** allows users to play back audio and video files.
  (URL: http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

- **Windows Media Player** allows you to view, listen and download streaming video and audio. (URL: http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/products/windows-media-player)

- **RealPlayer** allows you to view and listen to streaming video and audio.
  (URL: http://www.real.com/)

Netiquette Guide

"Netiquette" is network etiquette, the do's and don'ts of online communication. Netiquette covers both common courtesy online and informal "rules of the road" of cyberspace. Review and familiarize yourself with the guidelines provided.
(URL http://www.learnthenet.com/learn-about/netiquette/index.php)

Last Day to Drop Any or All Classes

Summer 2013 – Wednesday, July 3, 2013

Courses may be dropped online through *My*UTTyler until 4 p.m. on the last day of online (early) registration. After that time, all drops and/or withdrawals must be completed through the Registrar's Office, either in person, by fax or by mail. Faxed or mailed drop/withdrawal requests must include the students name, student ID number, course(s) to be dropped, date, student's signature, contact phone number and copy of a photo ID (driver's license, student ID, etc.). Requests should be mailed to UT Tyler Registrar's Office, 3900 University Blvd, Tyler, TX 75799 or faxed to (903)565-5705. Students are advised to meet with their instructor(s) and/or academic advisor prior to

dropping any classes. Dropping or withdrawing from classes may affect financial aid eligibility, veteran's benefits, athletic eligibility, or international student status. Students should consult with those departments prior to dropping or withdrawing.

Getting Started

Please print out a copy of this syllabus and refer back to the information contained herein anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information. Please begin this course by clicking on the Weekly Module button in the left-hand navigation bar, and then choose Module 1.

We look forward to working with you this semester. Welcome!