

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Nursing

Course Number:	NUR 504
Course Title:	Nursing Research
Credits:	3 S.H.
Grading:	Pass/Fail
Placement:	FOUNDATIONAL CORE
Pre-requisites:	Undergraduate statistics and research courses. NUR 501 is a pre- or co-requisite to NUR 504

Course Description:

Overview of the research process as applied to problems in clinical nursing practice. Identification of researchable problems. Analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of extant research for application in practice, with an emphasis on practice outcomes.

Student learning outcomes By the end of the semester, the student will be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of empirical research methods to the analysis and critique of research relevant to health care delivery and clinical nursing practice.
2. Evaluate existing research in terms of its theoretical and methodological consistency and relevance.
3. Identify implications of reported research for clinical nursing practice, making appropriate recommendations for the application and implementation of findings.
4. Synthesize and integrate critically evaluated research studies related to a topic of special interest to the student.
5. Discuss principles of ethical research practice and protection of human subjects in the research process.
6. Design a scholarly, research-based project or thesis utilizing the principles of empirical research.

Content Outline:

- I. Overview of the Research Process
- II. Identifying Relevant Problems for Study
 - A. Sources
 - B. Researchability
 - C. Ethical issues
 - 1. Protection of human subjects
 - 2. Informed consent issues
 - 3. Role of Institutional Review Boards
 - 4. Protection of animal subjects
- III. Reviewing the Literature
 - A. Purposes
 - 1. Context of problems
 - a. clinical
 - b. theoretical
 - 2. Research completed to date
 - 3. Methodological approaches
 - B. Process
 - 1. Accessing the literature
 - a. using library resources
 - b. computerized searching
 - C. Presentation
 - 1. Critiquing research
 - 2. Synthesizing findings
- IV. Theoretical Frameworks for Research
 - A. Types and levels of theory
 - B. Purposes of theory
 - C. Identifying the theoretical frameworks supporting research
- V. Research Questions and Hypotheses
 - A. Study purposes
 - B. Research variables
 - 1. Manipulation of independent variables
 - 2. Measurement of dependent variables
 - 3. Control of extraneous variables
 - 4. Operational definition of terms
 - C. Research questions vs. hypotheses
- VI. Research Design
 - A. Evaluative criteria
 - 1. Internal validity
 - 2. External validity
 - B. Quantitative designs

- VII. Sampling and Issues and Strategies
 - A. Nonprobability sampling
 - B. Probability sampling
 - C. Sample size
 - D. Evaluation

- VIII. Instrumentation
 - A. Methods
 - B. Construction
 - C. Evaluation
 - 1. Reliability
 - 2. Validity
 - 3. Practicality

- IX. Data Collection Procedures
 - A. Practical concerns
 - 1. Access
 - 2. Acquiescence
 - 3. Administration
 - 4. Amassing
 - 5. Aggregating
 - B. Ethical issue

- X. Data Analysis
 - A. Statistical tests
 - 1. Descriptive statistics
 - 2. Inferential statistics
 - B. Interpretation of data
 - C. Presentation of data
 - D. Evaluation

- XI. Interpretation

- XII. Peer Critiques of Research Project Designs

Approved: Jan 2006 Graduate Council