Texas A&M University-Texarkana
NURS 501 Nursing Theory

Course Syllabus

Faculty: Jo Kahler, EdD, RN

Office: 233N Academic Building

Office Hours: Monday 9:30-4:30pm
Tuesday 12-1pm
Wednesday 9-11am
Other hours by appointment

Office Phone: 903-223-3715

Dept. faxes: (903) 223-3107

Emails: Through Blackboard [preferred] or jo.kahler@tamut.edu

Catalog Description: Examines the theoretical and conceptual bases of nursing to encourage the student to critique, evaluate and utilize appropriate theory within their own practice. Focus will be on a variety of theories from nursing. Application, testing, and utilization of these theories to provide quality health care in the current health care delivery system will be explored.

Required Textbooks:


**Student Learning Objectives:** Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the historical evolution and philosophical tenets of theory and science development in nursing.
2. Synthesize terminology related to theory development.
3. Appraise ways of knowing in nursing.
4. Analyze the role of inductive and deductive thinking in theory development.
5. Evaluate the appropriateness and unique perspectives of nursing theories in the description, explanation, prediction and control of clinical phenomena.
6. Critique a nursing concept using the process of concept analysis.
7. Evaluate selected nursing theories for their potential utilization in nursing practice, education and research.

**Course Competencies:** The following course competencies apply to the successful achievement of this course. The student must be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Articulate knowledge of the historical evolution, philosophical tenets, and science development in nursing.
2. Utilize the pertinent terminology related to theory development in presentations and papers.
3. Thoughtfully evaluate ways of knowing in class discussions.
4. Analyze the role of inductive & deductive thinking in theory development.
5. Write an APA style research paper regarding concept analysis.
6. Demonstrate through verbalization & presentations the ability to evaluate nursing theories showing their potential utilization in nursing practice, education and research.

**Prerequisites:** Students must have graduated with a BSN degree from an accredited university and have successfully met the Admission Criteria for the Masters in Nursing.

**Justification:** This core course has been developed and will be taught to meet the requirements of students seeking a Master of Science in nursing degree from Texas A&M University-Texarkana. It presents the student with an understanding of theory development and the integration of theory throughout their Masters Course work.

**Methods of Instruction:** On line discussion questions will be presented, readings assigned, and a synthesis of knowledge through presentations and written papers will
be utilized to achieve course objectives. Lecture, audiovisuals, email and web sites will be presented.

**A&M-Texarkana Email Address:** Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

**Evaluation:**

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>60 or below</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Weighted Assignments:** Evaluation of performance in the course will be based on the specified course requirement as listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal philosophy of nursing</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application of selected theory to case study</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concept Analysis Presentation &amp; Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theorist Presentations</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Drop Policy:** University Drop Policy: To drop this course after the 12th class day, a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website [http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html](http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html) or obtained in the Registrar’s Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an “approval” to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted
to the Registrar’s office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (P. O. Box 5518, Texarkana, TX 75505) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar’s Office for processing. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

NURS 501 Nursing Theory
Fall 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/25/11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Course Overview &amp; Review Syllabus</td>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Patterns of Knowing</td>
<td>Chinn &amp; Kramer Ch 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>History &amp; Philosophy of Science</td>
<td>Toney &amp; Alligood Ch 1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/1/11</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Knowledge Development Pathways</td>
<td>Chinn &amp; Kramer Ch 2</td>
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<td>Toney &amp; A. Ch 3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/8/11</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Emancipatory Knowing Development</td>
<td>Chinn &amp; Kramer Ch 3-4</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ethical Knowledge Development</td>
<td>Toney &amp; A. Ch 6-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/15/11</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Personal Knowledge Development</td>
<td>Chinn &amp; Kramer Ch 5</td>
<td>DB #1 Due 9/18 @MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/22/11</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Aesthetic Knowledge Development</td>
<td>Chinn &amp; Kramer Ch 6</td>
<td>Nursing Philosophy Paper</td>
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<td>Due 9/25@MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/29/11</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Empiric Knowledge Development: Explaining &amp; Structuring</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
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<td>Chinn &amp; Kramer Ch 7</td>
<td>DB #2 Due 10/2 @MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/6/11</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Description &amp; Critical Reflection of Empiric Theory</td>
<td>Chinn &amp; Kramer Ch 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Validating &amp; Confirming Empiric Knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/13/11</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Work on group presentations</td>
<td>Case Study Due 10/16@MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/20/11</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Utilizing &amp; Validating Empiric Knowledge in Practice</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chinn &amp; Kramer Ch 10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/27/11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Relevance of Theory in Nursing</td>
<td>DB #3 Due 10/30@MN</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Week 10  | Education  
--- | ---  
11/3/11 Week 11 | Relevance of Theory in Nursing Administration  
11/10/11 Week 12 | Theories of Selected Nursing Theorists  
11/17/11 Week 13 | Application of Theory to Personal Nursing Practice  
11/24/11 Week 14 | Happy Thanksgiving!  
12/1/11 Week 15 | Concept Analyses of selected clinically relevant concepts  
12/8/11 Week 16 | Reflections on the value of theory in nursing  

DB#4 Due 10/30@MN  
Theorists presentations – Be Creative 
Module 4 
DB # 5 Due 11/20 @MN  

CONCEPT ANALYSIS PAPER:

Choose a concept relevant to your nursing practice [present or future]. Following the guidelines given in Chinn & Kramer [Chapter 7], analyze the concept and develop cases: model, contrary, related, and borderline. The paper length should not exceed 10 pages.

Criteria for concept analysis paper:

Identification of Concept  
__________points [possible 20]

Background & significance of concept. Discuss the meaning of the concept as used in 3 theories [1 should be a nursing theory.] Incorporate relevant research that has been conducted. Discuss why this concept analysis is necessary for nursing.

Aims of This Analysis  
__________points [possible 5]

Discuss what will be generated by this analysis

Definitions  
__________points [possible 10]

Provide definitions for concept & other terms used, including operational definitions as appropriate
Development of Cases

__________ points [possible 30]

Provide cases: Model, contrary, related & borderline

Tentative criteria

__________ points [possible 15]

Discuss criteria developed for concept

Overall Evaluation

__________ points [possible 20]

Clarity, logic, grammar, spelling, & APA format

Total points

__________ points [possible 100]

NURSE THEORIST POWERPOINT PRESENTATION:

Individually choose a nursing theory for analysis via class presentation.

Your presentation needs to include the following:

A. Why this theory was chosen 10%
B. Appropriateness of theory chosen for analysis 10%
C. Presentation of key points of theory 40%
D. Critique [evaluation of theory following standardized format, e.g., Chinn & Kramer; Walker & Avant; Fawcett] 20%
E. Creativity of presentation 15%
F. Organization of presentation 5%

One class period prior to your presentation, give your classmates an appropriate reading assignment from the nursing literature for the theory.

APPLICATION OF SELECTED THEORY TO PRACTICE:

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate the application of a nursing theory/model to practice. Review the clinical case and apply your chosen theory to the case. Your paper should not exceed 4-5 pages.

Criteria for Application of selected theory to practice
I. The case data are organized by & clearly reflect the concepts of the model

II. Clearly explains & illustrated by example how the theory guides:
   a. The focus of the assessment phase of the nursing process 10%
   b. The choice of the variables to be assessed 10%
   c. How the theory guides the assessment phase of the nursing process 10%
   d. How the theory guides nursing interventions 20%
      a. Identify the nursing interventions
      b. Describe how the interventions will modify, prevent remove or decrease the etiology of the problem as defined by the theory

III. Evaluates the applicability of the nursing theory to practice 20%

IV. Clarity, logic grammar, spelling, APA format 20%

PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY OF NURSING PAPER:

The purpose of this paper is to define, describe and explain your thoughts, feelings and beliefs about the four concepts of the nursing metaparadigm and their interrelationship to one another as they guide your current nursing practice. There are no right or wrong thoughts, feelings or beliefs; these represent your own philosophical beliefs. If your current philosophy includes any particular nursing or other theory(ies), identify these. The final paper is to be typed according to APA format and no more than 5 pages in length. The paper should include a title page and reference list, however, these pages are not to be included in the final count. Evaluation criteria are as follows:

Criteria for Personal Philosophy of Nursing Paper:

1. Introduction - identifies purpose of the paper. 5%

2. Brief description of the factors influencing the development of the personal nursing philosophy. 5%

3. Define, describe and explain your personal thoughts, feelings and beliefs about the concepts of the nursing metaparadigm: 25%
   a. Person/client
   b. Environment
c. Health
d. Nursing
e. Summarized interrelationship of the concepts

4. Identification and brief description of the nursing theory(ies) found to be the most compatible with the student's personal nursing philosophy.  25%

5. Provided explanation, with documentation, that demonstrated compatibility of personal philosophy with the nursing theory(ies) identified in #4 according to:
   a. Person/client  25%
   b. Environment
   c. Health
   d. Nursing
   e. Summarized interrelationship of concepts

6. Summary and conclusion  5%

7. Organization, documentation, references followed APA format.  10%

**CRITERIA FOR DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION:**

Each student is to be prepared for class discussion. That means you are to be knowledgeable of the topics being discussed and you are to contribute to the discussion demonstrating:

- A critical analysis of the literature 10%
- Include references 10%
- Thoughtful deliberation 10%
- Comparisons with other evidence 10%
- Synthesis of applications to your own experience or practice setting 10%
- Utilize theory terminology in your discussions 10%

In addition to posting a response to the discussion topic, you are expected to respond to the postings of at least two of your classmates.

- The initial posting should be a minimum of 200 words 20%
- The responses should be a minimum of 100 words 20%
Late online discussion postings will not be graded.

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or disciplinary actions." For additional information see the university policy manual.

**Disability Accommodations** Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

**Resources Needed:** The student will need access to a computer and printer at home or at school or both home/school.

**All papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word format or pdf.**

[If you are not sure what this means, please consult with the professor.]

**Student Technical Assistance:**

- Solutions to common problems and FAQ’s for your web-enhanced and online courses are found at this link: [http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/index.php?pageid=37](http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/index.php?pageid=37)
- If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a support request detailing your specific problem here: [http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/gethelp2.php](http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/gethelp2.php)
- Blackboard Helpdesk contacts:
  
  Office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p
  Kevin Williams (main contact) 903-223-1356 kevin.williams@tamut.edu
  Frank Miller (alternate) 903-223-3156 frank.miller@tamut.edu
  Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu

**Technical Requirements**

Minimum System Requirements
The following computer system requirements are recommended for an online course:

**OS:** Windows 2000/XP/Vista; Mac OSX 10.2 & above  
**RAM:** 256 MB, Processor: 2.0 GHz, Free space on HDD: 500MB  
**Internet Connection:** (Broadband/DSL preferred), Dial Up 56k minimum  
**Browser:** Internet Explorer 6 or 7, Mozilla Firefox 2.0, Safari 1.0  
**Java:** Version 6 Update 11 or later  
**Sound card and speakers**

**Software Requirements**

**Pop-up Blockers**  
All pop-up blockers installed on your computer must be set to allow pop-ups from Blackboard  
**Java Runtime Environment**  
You must have the Java Runtime Environment installed. This is a free plug-in for your browser that can be obtained by going to [http://www.java.com](http://www.java.com)

**Additional Plug-ins**  
You may need additional software based on the content that your instructor posts in their course. Commonly needed applications are:

- **Microsoft Office 2007/2003/XP Suite/Works** (not free software)  
- **Adobe Acrobat Reader** (free download)  
- **Windows Media Player** (free download)  
- **Real Time Media Player** (free download)  
- **Quick Time Media Player** (free download)  
- **Macromedia/Adobe Flash** (free download)  
- **Macromedia/Adobe Shockwave** (free download)

**Justification for Graduate Credit:** This course will be a part of the core requirements for achieving a Masters in Nursing Degree and it is geared to a master’s level of teaching and student participation. Students will receive masters’ education level coursework in nursing. It will foster independent learning and creative frameworks for the Masters’ degree nurse in all areas of nursing practice.

**Other:**

The faculty reserves the right to make any changes that are necessary to facilitate student learning and/or to accommodate any other issues that may develop during the semester for this course.

**Bibliography:**

Philadelphia: F. A. Davis.


