All information in this syllabus is subject to the written policies and procedures of the School of Nursing, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas. In the case of commission, omission, ambiguity, vagueness, or conflict, the policies and procedures of the School of Nursing shall control.

Each student shall be responsible for actual and/or constructive knowledge of the policies and procedures of the School of Nursing and for compliance therewith.

The student is responsible for all information in this syllabus.

This syllabus is provided for information purposes only.
Faculty Information

Name: Sara Bishop, PhD, RNC-OB  
Department: Nursing  
Email: bishopse@sfasu.edu  
Phone: 936-465-0473 (cell)  
Office: Retired – work from home (but will meet on campus as needed)  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday by appointment

Name: Angela Jones, DNP, RN  
Department: Nursing  
Email: jonesas7@sfasu.edu  
Phone: 936-468-7725  
Office: Annex-107  
Office Hours: Monday 0800-1100 & Tuesday 1000-1200  
*Additional times are available upon request.

Please email using SFA email for an appointment. Faculty will respond to emails and questions within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours on the weekend.

Class Meeting Time, Place and Attendance Policy

This course is taught in an online format. Calendar available in Brightspace.

Required Textbooks


Note: This open access book has a Creative Commons License: BY NC. Available at https://www.softchalkcloud.com/lesson/serve/Au0xZt1zQdV67O/html

Course Description

This course provides an analytic and systematic approach to critically appraise the existing research into nursing practice. The course builds on research concepts and evidence-based processes learned in the student’s baccalaureate program. This course explores theoretical foundations, ethical principles, cultural considerations, statistical analysis, and empirical principles of research in order to enhance the student’s ability to develop an evidence-based practice.

Credit Hour Distribution: 3 credit hours

(3 credits; fully online graduate course) The course spans 15 weeks over the semester. The course contains extensive written content requiring students to engage in online modules for at
least 12 hours a week. Required readings and external resources are woven into the content to support key concepts and provide advanced nursing perspectives. Students are expected to participate in discussions, submit reflective journals, complete Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), identify a clinical problem they might face as advanced practice nurses and write a PICOT question, perform a literature search, identify primary research articles related to the chosen problem, and appraise evidence in different articles.

**Prerequisites:** Admission to SON Graduate Program

**Program outcomes**

The Objectives/Outcomes of the MSN-FNP Graduates are as follows:

The student will:

1. Synthesize nursing science with knowledge from other disciplines as the basis for the advanced level of nursing practice.
2. Evaluate effective strategies for managing the ethical and legal dilemmas inherent in patient care, the health care organization, and research.
3. Employ effective communication and collaborative skills in interdisciplinary teams for creating change in health care.
4. Analyze concepts of health promotion and culturally competent care across the lifespan.
5. Assume responsibility for the use of health care information systems and patient care technology to improve patient outcomes.
6. Demonstrate leadership and accountability in the development and implementation of health care policy.
7. Critically appraise existing literature from nursing and other disciplines to determine and implement the best evidence for practice.
8. Advocate for the advanced practice role within the policy related to access and health care communities.
9. Value continuing competence, growth, and development in the profession.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student is expected to:

1. Assemble concepts, principles, and research findings of the arts, sciences, humanities, and nursing in order to make evidence based advanced practice nursing decisions.
2. Synthesize responsibility and accountability using consistent behavior patterns and professional communication.
3. Compare qualitative and quantitative methodologies in research.
4. Analyze the impact of ethical, legal, economic, and cultural issues on nursing research.
5. Evaluate various theories, philosophies, frameworks, and statistical process used in evidence based research.
6. Construct reviews of literature using multiple databases and internet sources.
7. Critique quantitative and qualitative research literature.
8. Apply research findings to evidence based advanced nursing practice.
9. Investigate the evidence-based practices of the interdisciplinary healthcare team.

**MSN Essentials**

I. Background for Practice from Sciences and Humanities  
II. Quality Improvement and Safety  
III. Translating and Integrating Scholarship into Practice  
IV. Informatics and Healthcare Technologies  
V. Health Policy and Advocacy  
VI. Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes  
VII. Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving Health  
VIII. Master’s-Level Nursing Practice  

**NONPF NP Role Core Competencies (2022)**

1. Knowledge of Practice  
2. Person-Centered Care  
3. Population Health  
4. Practice Scholarship and Translational Science  
5. Quality and Safety  
6. Interprofessional Collaboration in Practice  
7. Health Systems  
8. Technology and information Literacy  
9. Professional Acumen  
10. Personal and Professional Leadership  

**QSEN Graduate Competencies**

1. Patient-centered Care  
2. Teamwork and Collaboration  
3. Evidence-based Practice (EBP)  
4. Quality Improvement (QI)  
5. Safety  
6. Informatics  

**NLN Core Competencies for Academic Nurse Educators**

1. Facilitate Learning  
2. Facilitate Learner Development and Socialization  
3. Use Assessment and Evaluation Strategies  
4. Participate in Curriculum Design and Evaluation of Program Outcomes  
5. Function as a Change Agent and Leader  
6. Pursue Continuous Quality Improvement in the Nurse Educator Role  
7. Engage in Scholarship
8. Function Within the Educational Environment

Topics

1. Introduction to Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice
2. Problems, Questions, Literature Reviews
3. Frameworks, Ethics, and Their Relation to Study Planning
4. Quantitative Research  
   a. Designs, Rigor & Validity  
   b. Sampling, Data Collection, Measurement  
   c. Analyzing and Interpreting Data
5. Qualitative Research  
   a. Designs, Sampling, Data Collection  
   b. Analyzing and Interpreting Data, Rigor
6. Mixed Methods Research and Systematic Reviews of Evidence
7. Disseminating the Evidence

Instructional Methods

Discussion board, online presentations, individual written assignments, reflective journals

Teaching Strategies

Discussion, reading/resources, online content delivery/presentation, video, online interactions

Course Requirements

Faculty developed coursework to provide students with a foundation to meet the program outcome objectives which are consistent with the Essentials of Master of Science in Nursing and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioners - Family Nurse Practitioner expected outcomes. The course requirements for this course are:

- Complete all course assignments by the assigned due date/time. Late work will not be accepted without prior faculty approval and a 10% late penalty will apply.
- Communication should be professional, respectful of other views, and have a positive and polite tone.
- All assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless assigned as a group project.

Additional Course Requirements for the online forum:

- The electronic week begins on Monday at 0000 CST (12:00 AM) and ends on Sunday at 2359 CST (11:59 PM).
- Students are expected to participate in assigned discussions on at least three separate days out of seven in the electronic week.
• The three weekly posts consist of one Main post and a minimum of two responses to peers. All will be posted on separate days.
• There are no “make-ups” for not posting to the Weekly Discussions and late posts will not be accepted at the close of the module week.
• Students must post a Main post to the Discussion board each week on or before Thursday at 2359.
• Points will be deducted for not having the Initial post completed on or before Thursday to ensure active learning and engagement with peers and course faculty. See the grading rubric for details.
• Students must read and respond to a minimum of two peer posts each week.
• Students must provide references in current APA format for all posts.
• It is recommended that you prepare your weekly discussion posts in Microsoft Word and then cut and paste into the BRIGHTSPACE discussion. We also recommend you attach the Microsoft Word doc as an attachment.
• All discussions posted must reflect scholarly writing.
• Posts must be on the correct Weekly Discussion board, or no points will be awarded.

Grades and Grading

Assignments and the associated grading rubrics are available in BRIGHTSPACE

Discussion Boards (group assignment, 5 total)…………………..25%
Short Paper (individual assignment)……………………………………10%
Reflective Journal (individual assignment, 1 total)………………..5%
Problem/PICOT Question Assignment (individual assignment)……..15%
CITI modules (individual assignment)…………………………………10%
Article Appraisal Assignment (individual assignment, 3 articles)…..30%
Visual Abstract Assignment………………………………………………..5%
Total……………………………………………………………………100%

SON Rounding Policy:

1. Rounding is confined to the final course grade.
   Grades on individual exams (including comprehensive or HESI), assignments, quizzes, and projects are recorded in the gradebook (Brightspace) in their original form without rounding.
2. Final course grades are rounded to the closest whole number using the 0.5 math rule and using one decimal point to the right of the whole number. If the final course grade is not a whole number, the following rounding rules apply:
   a. If the decimal attached to a whole number is 0.5 or greater, then round up to the next whole number (equal to or greater than 85.50 = 86)
   b. If the decimal attached to a whole number is less than 0.5, then round down to the previous whole number (equal to or less than 85.49 = 85).
3. The grading schedule for all Nursing Courses is as follows:
   90-100 = A
   80-89 = B
   Less than 80 = F
MSN Grading Scale

90-100 = A  
80-89 = B  
Less than 80 = F

No course with a grade below B can be used to satisfy MSN degree requirements. A student may repeat one course one time.

Students have the responsibility for monitoring grades in the course website throughout the semester and in communicating with course instructors regarding grade status. Two course failures will result in dismissal from the program (Retention and Progression Policy 3.16)

In the event of course failure, the student must petition the MSN Coordinator to repeat the course and to remain in the program. See the School of Nursing Policy 3.16 for details.

POLICIES

Attendance Policy: Your participation in class is expected, is essential to the learning experience, and your contribution valued.

Mid-term and Drop Dates: Refer to University Calendar

Academic Integrity

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.
Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) programs, including but not limited to ChatGPT, may be employed to enhance learning experiences, research, or assignments, provided it aligns with the guidelines established by the institution. It's imperative to remember that AI should supplement and not substitute critical thinking. **Use of AI or any automated tools is permissible only when explicitly authorized by the instructor for a specific assignment or task. Unauthorized use may result in penalties as outlined in The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.**

NOTE: in this course, the use of AI is NOT permitted. The use of Grammarly for editing is appropriate.

Self-Plagiarism Statement

As a student, self-plagiarism is the presentation of your own previously completed work as an original and is considered unethical (APA, 2021). In specific circumstances, students may wish to duplicate their written work; however, appropriate notation of previous work is required. Normally, if one is repeating a course in the nursing program and the student previously successfully completed the assignment but is required to complete the assignment again as part of the course work, the vast majority of the assignment should constitute new work of the student. If the student needs to add a small segment of the work into any assignment, it should be noted in the new document. For example, "As discussed in the Spring 2021 assignment XYZ, COVID-19 vaccinations are essential for promoting public health (Name, 2021)." This clearly identifies the student's intent to point the reader to the previous document.


Withheld Grades Course Grades Policy ([https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/02-206.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/02-206.pdf)). At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
**Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aides, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

**Acceptable Student Behavior:** Course behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. The prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the on-line classroom. Students who do not access the course regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Communication with Instructor:** The Instructor will communicate with students about the course through the use of Brightspace. Students are required to check this site at least three times a week (daily is recommended) for announcements and posted material and are responsible for information posted in Brightspace. Grades will be posted electronically. Students are highly recommended to make appointments to speak with the instructor if making less than 80 on any assignment.

**Evaluation Input from Students:** The faculty of the School of Nursing places great value on evaluative input from students. Evaluation of courses, instructors and clinical facilities provides the College with important data which is used to strengthen the program. Data is analyzed as to trends and themes and is important to curriculum and sequencing decisions. All evaluations for the courses are posted on-line. The online mechanism allows us the opportunity to tabulate and store information in order analyze trends within the curriculum. Please be assured that this information is secured and not released until after grades are submitted. No names are available to faculty at any time. In order to garner some reliability and validity, the College must have representative data from the student population. The representation, based on literature, has been set at 70%. The College is anticipating that the students with thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process which will assist the faculty with the growth of the programs. A link to evaluation will be available on Brightspace toward the end of the semester. Thank you in advance for your assistance with the evaluation process.

**Online Resources:**
Graduate School Student Handbook on the SFA School of Nursing website: https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/nursing/msn-student-handbook.pdf
APASStyle website: https://apastyle.apa.org
Purdue Owl: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
Brightspace Course Platform: https://d2l.sfasu.edu/
Course Calendar/Timeline: copy provided in Brightspace

Technology Requirements
All students are required to have access to a laptop or desktop computer for academic and testing purposes. Please find the complete list of technology requirements here: https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/nursing/technology-requirements.pdf

For questions regarding laptop hardware or software, please contact The SFA Help Desk at https://help.sfasu.edu/TDClient/2027/Portal/Home/ or 936-468-HELP.

Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu
Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741