UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

COLLEGE OF NURSING

COURSE SYLLABUS

FALL 2019

COURSE NUMBER NGR 7115

COURSE TITLE Philosophy of Nursing Sciences

CREDITS 3

PLACEMENT Required core course

PREREQUISITES Admission to the PhD College of Nursing Program or permission of the instructor

FACULTY Lisa Domenico, PhD, RN, CARN

Assistant Professor

Office: HPNP 4218

Office Phone: GNV: 352-273-6637; JAX: 904-244-3272

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10am-12pm or by appointment

Email: [ldomenico@ufl.edu](mailto:ldomenico@ufl.edu)

COURSE DESCRIPTION This course provides the opportunity to critically analyze historical and current views of knowledge development and scientific progress. Emphasis is on the underlying ontological and epistemological assumptions of these views, how they influence scientific inquiry in nursing. The implications of diverse approaches to knowledge development for nursing research, practice, and education are emphasized.

COURSE OBJECTIVES Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Analyze philosophical worldviews applicable to the generation of knowledge across scientific disciplines in general and in nursing.

1. Critically analyze ontological and epistemological assumptions of worldviews in relation to the disciplinary goals of the physical sciences, biological sciences, social sciences, and nursing.

3. Differentiate between deductive and inductive reasoning in relation to logical arguments/reasoning, inferences, and scientific methods for inquiry.

1. Examine the goals and aims of science from a practice perspective and how this relates to the translation of science to meet disciplinary goals.

5. Develop arguments based on principles of logic and reasoning.

6. Evaluate the role of science and knowledge production as a social and political activity.

# COURSE SCHEDULE

Section Day Time Room

3565 Wednesday 12:00pm-2:50pm G109

E-Learning in Canvas is the course management system that you will use for this course. E-Learning in Canvas is accessed by using your Gatorlink account name and password at <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>. There are several tutorials and student help links on the E-Learning login site. If you have technical questions call the UF Computer Help Desk at 352-392-HELP or send email to [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

It is important that you regularly check your Gatorlink account email for College and University wide information and the course E-Learning site for announcements and notifications.

Course websites are generally made available on the Friday before the first day of classes.

# TOPICAL OUTLINE

1. Defining the boundary between science and pseudoscience
2. Implications for rationality, objectivity and values in science
3. Inductive and deductive approaches to science and their relation to verification and falsifiability
4. Laws of nature and the unity of science
5. Scientific realism, antirealism and scientific progress
6. Social construction, politics and peer pressure in science
7. Reconciliation of differing philosophical approaches to science

TEACHING METHODS

Seminar discussion, readings, student presentations.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

In-class discussion of select readings and current events related to the course, preparing written responses to select topics. Weekly reading assignments will be posted on the Canvas course website.

## EVALUATION METHODS/COURSE GRADE CALCULATION

Students will be evaluated in the course based on the quality of written work, class participation, and participation during small group work.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assignment | % of Final Grade |
| Individual Position Papers (3 points each/total of 8 papers)  Group Position Papers (5 points each/total of 3 papers) | 25%  15% |
| Seminar Discussions (5 points each/total of 12 Discussions) | 60% |
|  |  |
| Total | 100% |

Overview: Students will be assigned to provide an overview of the readings for the next class by submitting an individual and/or group position paper the Wednesday night before class (see specific dates in course schedule/calendar). The written position papers will be a 1-page scholarly response to a question derived from that week’s assigned readings. During seminar, the position papers will be used to generate discussions between students on the assigned readings.

Individual and Group Position Papers

1. The position papers should incorporate:
   1. main points of the readings for the week,
   2. opposing arguments made related to the question,
   3. culminate with an argument the student(s) found most persuasive, with rationale/justification.
2. Individual Position Papers must be submitted by 11:59pm the Wednesday before class. The Group Position Paper must be submitted by one group representative by 11:59 on the day of class (Thursday) as designated in the Weekly Class Schedule (see Weekly Topics & Assignments section below).
3. The individual position papers are to be no more than 1 single-spaced page, using > 11 point font and conclude with a reference list on the second page using current APA format.
4. The group position papers are to be no more than 2 single-spaced pages, using > 11 point font and conclude with a reference list on the second page using current APA format.

Seminar Discussions

1. At the beginning of each class period, each student will present their original ideas/thoughts/perspective, and then further discuss how those ideas/thoughts/ perspectives may have been refined or changed based on the in-class discussions during seminar.
2. There will be no formal structure for the discussion, but students should discuss the following essential components during seminar:
   1. their original points of view on the matter,
   2. 1-3 significant points raised by their peers in the responses,
   3. what additional reading they may have done relative to the position, and
   4. the extent to which their original ideas/thoughts/perspectives were changed (or not!) after dialogue with their student and faculty colleagues.

MAKE UP POLICY

A grade penalty may be assigned for late assignments and/or missed seminars Make-up opportunities may not be available.

GRADING SCALE/GRADE POINTS

A 95-100 (4.0) C 74-79\* (2.0)

A- 93-94 (3.67) C- 72-73 (1.67)

B+ 91- 92 (3.33) D+ 70-71 (1.33)

B 84-90 (3.0) D 64-69 (1.0)

B- 82-83 (2.67) D- 62-63 (0.67)

C+ 80-81 (2.33) E 61 or below (0.0)

\* 74 is the minimal passing grade

For more information on grades and grading policies, please refer to University’s grading policies: http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=907#grades

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

The College of Nursing expects all Nursing students to be professional in their interactions with patients, colleagues, faculty, and staff and to exhibit caring and compassionate attitudes. These and other qualities will be evaluated during patient contacts and in other relevant settings by both faculty and peers. Behavior of a Nursing student reflects on the student's individual’s ability to become a competent professional Nurse. Attitudes or behaviors inconsistent with compassionate care; refusal by, or inability of, the student to participate constructively in learning or patient care; derogatory attitudes or inappropriate behaviors directed at patients, peers, faculty or staff; misuse of written or electronic patient records (e.g., accession of patient information without valid reason); substance abuse; failure to disclose pertinent information on a criminal background check; or other unprofessional conduct can be grounds for disciplinary measures including dismissal.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>. Students are required to provide their own privacy screen for all examination’s administered to student laptops. No wireless keyboards or wireless mouse/tracking device will be permitted during examinations.

University and College of Nursing Policies:

Please see the College of Nursing website for a full explanation of each of the following policies - <http://nursing.ufl.edu/students/student-policies-and-handbooks/course-policies/>.

Attendance

UF Grading Policy

Accommodations due to Disability

Religious Holidays

Counseling and Mental Health Services

Student Handbook

Faculty Evaluations

Student Use of Social Media

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students who wish to obtain individual accommodations due to special learning needs must register with the University of Florida Disability Resources Center (DRC) **at the beginning of each semester**. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the DRC at the beginning of each semester in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. The DRC may be contacted at 352-392-8565 so that appropriate accommodations may be made.  **Individual accommodations require time for the Disability Resources Center (DRC) to approve and the faculty to respond to any special learning needs**.  **Each semester**, it is the students’ responsibility to notify all their faculty of any special accommodations **once approval by the DRC for special accommodations has been made**.  <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Dahnke, M.D., & Dreher, H.M. (2016). *Philosophy of science for nursing practice* (2nd ed.).

New York, NY. Springer Publishing.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **WEEKLY TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS\*** |
| August 22  Week 1 | **OVERVIEW OF COURSE** |
| August 29  Week 2 | **SCIENCE AND NONSCIENCE DEFINING THE BOUNDARY**  Main Topic: Verification vs falsifiability  Individual Position Paper #1 |
| September 5  Week 3 | Main Topic: The Kuhn-Popper controversy  Individual Position Paper #2 |
| September 12  Week 4 | Main Topic: Induction vs deduction |
| September 19  Week 5 | **INDUCTION AND COFIRMATION: THE NATURE OF SCIENTIFIC INFERENCE**  Main Topic: Experiments of application vs experiments of testing |
| September 26  Week 6 | Main Topic: Causality, statistical explanation, and context  Individual Position Paper #3 |
| October 3  Week 7 | **LAWS AND EXPLANATION: THE NATURE OF SCIENTIFIC THEORIES**  Main Topic: Values in scientific investigation  Individual Position Paper #4 |
| October 10  Week 8 | Group Position Paper # 1 |
| October 17  Week 9 | **THE UNITY OF SCIENCE**  Main Topic: Are all sciences reducible to physics?  Individual Position Paper #5 |
| October 24  Week 10 | Main Topic: Lines of demarcation  Individual Position Paper #6 |
| October 31  Week 11 | Group Position Paper #2 |
| November 7  Week 12 | **SCIENCE AND OBJECTIVITY: THE SCIENCE WARS**  Main Topic: Realism vs anti-realism  Individual Position Paper #7 |
| November 14  Week 13 | **NURSING KNOWLEDGE**  Main Topic: What is Nursing Knowledge?  Individual Position Paper #8 |
| November 21  Week 15 | Group Position Paper # 3 |
| November 28  Week 14 | **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY** |
| December 5  Week 16 | **READING DAYS** |

\* Readings and assignment topics will be posted on the Canvas course website.

|  |
| --- |
| **Thursday, November 21**  **Classes End** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Final Exams**  **(No Final Exam in this Course)** |

Approved: Academic Affairs Committee: 10/97; 08/03; 09/15

Faculty: 12/97; 08/03; 09/15

UF Curriculum: 06/98; 11/15