UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

COLLEGE OF NURSING

COURSE SYLLABUS

FALL 2020

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

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appointment

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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 10:00am-12:00pm Online via Zoom

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded.  If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.  If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

When we have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

* You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
* This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
* Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
* Follow your instructor’s guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom.  Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
* If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/).
  + - * Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/).

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

Lecture, discussion, readings, student presentations.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

In-class (virtual via Zoom) 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.

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| Assignments | % 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% |
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| 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 by the Monday 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 Monday before class. The Group Position Paper must be submitted by one group representative by 11:59 on the day of class (Wednesday) 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: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

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/>.

ACCOMMODATIONS DUE TO DISABILITY

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

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 student policies (<http://students.nursing.ufl.edu/currently-enrolled/student-policies-and-handbooks/>) and a full explanation of each of the university policies – (<http://students.nursing.ufl.edu/currently-enrolled/course-syllabi/course-policies>)

Attendance

UF Grading Policy

Religious Holidays

Counseling and Mental Health Services

Student Handbook

Student Use of Social Media

Faculty Evaluations

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Dahnke, M.D., & Dreher, H.M. (2016). *Philosophy of Science for Nursing Practice* (2nd ed.).

New York, NY. Springer Publishing.

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| **DATE** | **WEEKLY TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS\*** |
| September 2  Week 1 | **OVERVIEW OF COURSE** |
| September 9  Week 2 | **DEFINING THE BOUNTARY BETWEEN SCIENCE AND PSEUDOSCIENCE**  Main Topic: Verification vs Falsifiability  Individual Position Paper #1 (Due the Monday before class 11:59pm) |
| September 16  Week 3 | Main Topic: The Kuhn-Popper Controversy  Individual Position Paper #2 (Due the Monday before class 11:59pm) |
| September 23  Week 4 | **INDUCTION AND CONFIRMATION: THE NATURE OF SCIENTIFIC INFERENCE**  Main Topic: Induction vs Deduction |
| September 30  Week 5 | Main Topic: Experiments of Application vs Experiments of Testing |
| October 7  Week 6 | Main Topic: Causality, Statistical Explanation, and Context  Individual Position Paper #3 (Due the Monday before class 11:59pm) |
| October 14  Week 7 | **LAWS AND EXPLANATION: THE NATURE OF SCIENTIFIC THEORIES**  Main Topic: Values in Scientific Investigation  Individual Position Paper #4 (Due the Monday before class 11:59pm) |
| October 21  Week 8 | Main Topic: Scientific Theories and Models  Group Position Paper # 1 (Due the day of Class at 11:59pm) |
| October 28  Week 9 | **THE UNITY OF SCIENCE**  Main Topic: Are all Sciences Reducible to Physics?  Individual Position Paper #5 (Due the Monday before class 11:59pm) |
| November 4  Week 10 | Main Topic: Lines of Demarcation  Individual Position Paper #6 (Due the Monday before class 11:59pm)  Group Position Paper #2 (Due the day of Class at 11:59pm) |
| November 11  Week 11 | **VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY** |
| November 18  Week 12 | **SCIENCE AND OBJECTIVITY: THE SCIENCE WARS**  Main Topic: Realism vs Anti-realism  Individual Position Paper #7 (Due the Monday before class 11:59pm) |
| November 25  Week 13 | **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY** |
| December 2  Week 14 | **NURSING KNOWLEDGE**  Main Topic: What is Nursing Knowledge?  Individual Position Paper #8 (Due the Monday before class 11:59pm) |
| December 9  Week 15 | Main Topic: Synthesis & Wrap-up  Group Position Paper #3 (Due the day of Class at 11:59pm) |

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

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| **Wednesday, December 9th**  **Classes End** |

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| **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