

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING
COURSE SYLLABUS
SUMMER 2021

<u>COURSE NUMBER</u>	NGR 6937
<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	Synthesis and Integration of State of the Science Research
<u>CREDITS</u>	03
<u>PLACEMENT</u>	Required core course
<u>PREREQUISITES</u>	All first-year core courses
<u>FACULTY</u>	Leslie Parker, APRN, PhD, FAAN, FAANP Associate Professor Office: HPNP 2227 Office Phone: (352) 273-6384 Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00- 12:00 and by appointment Email: parkela@ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is designed to enhance the student's ability to critically appraise and synthesize emerging trends in nursing science and integrate knowledge gained in doctoral coursework as it relates to their proposed dissertation topic. Emphasis is in three areas: 1) Contrasting the state of the science within priority nursing research areas; 2) Demonstrating the ability to conduct a reproducible and critical literature review in a topical area related to the student's proposed dissertation research; and 3) Illustrating the connections between one's proposed dissertation and priority nursing research areas. Students will gain confidence in synthesizing literature, developing rationale for the significance of the research problem, and identifying methodological strengths and weaknesses in designs, frameworks, and measurement of outcome variables.

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

1. Contrast the state of the science of priority nursing research areas.
2. Evaluate the research-based evidence for a focal area within one's dissertation topic.
3. Identify the gaps in scientific evidence within a body of research.
4. Assess the appropriateness of conceptual frameworks for an identified research area.
5. Propose a direction for filling the gap/s found in the student's research area.
6. Conduct a "reproducible" systematic literature review.
7. Illustrate the connections between one's proposed dissertation area and the priority nursing research areas.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>
Parker	77G0	Tuesday	12:30-4:45pm	3203

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](#)), 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](#).
 - 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](#).

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.

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. State of the science of priority nursing research areas.
2. The purpose, method, and applicability of “reproducible” literature reviews to the student’s dissertation research
3. Defining a researchable problem and levels of research evidence
4. Critical evaluation of nursing research (design, methods, analyses, findings, implications)
5. Identifying the gap(s) in the evidence: what is known, and what’s left to find out?
6. Conducting the reproducible literature review.
7. Demonstrating the connections of student’s research focus with priority nursing research areas.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

This course is structured as a seminar experience in which students will examine selected research literatures to gain experience in analysis and synthesis. Active participation in discussion is expected, as is willingness and ability to critically challenge one’s own and others’ ideas. The final paper will be a reproducible literature review related to the student’s dissertation topic.

TEACHING METHODS

Lecture, seminar discussion, written assignments

EVALUATION METHODS/COURSE GRADE CALCULATION

Grades are based on completion of the following criteria:

1. Class participation. Each week, students must be prepared for discussion with cogent and facilitative questions and rely on evidence from the assigned readings and/or previous coursework to support their arguments rather than first-person testimonials and anecdotes. (20%)
2. Exam. There will be one exam given mid-term. This will be a take-home, open-book, essay exam focused on critiquing, interpreting and synthesizing a selected set of readings on a topic. Students will be required to analyze theoretical, design, and measurement issues related to a set of assigned readings. The exam will be distributed on July 13th and is due July 27th (30%)
3. State of the science “synthesis” paper. Students will write a final paper which summarizes and evaluates the quality of the available knowledge and lays out the logical foundation for the next set of questions for hypothesis-testing in their selected focal area. The paper should describe and evaluate the current level of knowledge about and various approaches to the study of an NINR-fundable public health problem which is significant to the discipline of nursing (see NINR priorities from the www.ninr.nih.gov website). The components of the paper should include a rationale for the significance of the problem, a summary of key findings, analysis of methodological weaknesses in designs, frameworks, and measurement of outcome variables, and recommendations for the best directions for future study. Reflection on alternative designs, hypotheses, and data interpretation must be evident in the critical analysis of the prior work.

There are two parts to this assignment:

3a. Work in Progress Presentation: In class: July 20th

Prepare a 20-minute presentation (using PowerPoint) of the draft of your final paper. Be prepared to openly discuss your work, answer questions from your peers, and respond to critique and peer review. Feedback and critique will be used to inform your final paper. (20%)

3b. Final Paper: Due: August 3rd

The final paper will reflect a synthesis of the key components described above. Write clearly and succinctly. Pay particular attention to synthesizing, integrating and critically evaluating the literature. Present your ideas logically. Use transitions, and include an introduction and conclusion. Adhere to APA style (6th edition), including abstract, heading and subheading structure, reference format, and running head. Page limit is 20 pages, excluding abstract and references. (30%)

ATTENDANCE

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [Graduate Academic Regulations < University of Florida \(ufl.edu\)](http://www.ufl.edu/regulations)

MAKE UP POLICY

Students are expected to submit assignments by the established due dates. If extenuating circumstances occur, a student must notify their professor in a timely manner to establish a make-up plan.

GRADING SCALE/QUALITY 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.ua.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.ua.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.

As students in the health professions at UF Health, you are expected to promote safety and a culture of care and concern for each other and for patients. Across our academic health center's missions of research, teaching and patient care, nursing students must lead by example and take individual responsibility for modeling healthy habits and behaviors to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Failure to comply with the established public health measures, both on and off campus, is considered a serious breach of professional conduct.

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 <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>. 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>)

UF Grading Policy

Religious Holidays

Counseling and Mental Health Services

Student Handbook

Faculty Evaluations

Student Use of Social Media

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Galvan, J. L. (2017). Writing literature reviews. Glendale, CA: Pyczak Publishing.

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC/EVALUATION	ASSIGNMENTS/READINGS
Week 1 May 11	Course orientation and introduction to sources for accessing information related to the state of science	Review syllabus and assigned readings and websites
Week 2 May 18	Introduction to the state of the science of priority nursing research areas and identifying the gaps in what is known.	Assigned articles
Week 3 May 25	Defining research problems and evaluating the purpose and applicability of “reproducible” literature reviews	Galvin Chapters 1-3.
Week 4 June 1	Evaluating sampling sections of quantitative and qualitative research reports	Galvin Chapter 6-7 Assigned readings
Week 5 June 8	Evaluating methodology sections Methods for grouping and synthesizing results.	Galvin Chapters 8 Assigned readings
Week 6 June 15	Evaluating methodology sections Methods for grouping and synthesizing results continued	Galvin Chapters 8 Assigned readings
Week 7 July 6	Data interpretation & Guidelines for Writing a First Draft	Galvin Chapter 9-10 Assigned readings
Week 8 July 13	Take-Home Midterm Exam	Complete take home exam
Week 9 July 20	Students present their Work in Progress Presentation to the class	Students prepare and distribute PowerPoint slides or copies of their outline for class feedback and discussion Complete take home exam
Week 10 July 27	No class. Independent work on papers and meetings with instructor and/or PhD mentor Midterm Exam Due	
Week 11 August 3	Final papers due.	

Approved: Academic Affairs Committee: 09/15; 09/19
Faculty: 10/15; 09/19
UF Curriculum: 04/16