

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School: Public Service & Health-Nursing program
Course Number: NURS 498

Course Name: Senior Seminar in Nursing Studies
Credit Hours: 3

Length of Course: 8 weeks

Prerequisite: successful completion of all course work

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Instructor Information

Instructor:

Email:

Phone:

Office Hours:

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Course Description (Catalog)

This course is organized around individual student projects and serves as a capstone and culminating experience where students integrate knowledge and apply professional skills to improve the quality of health in the workplace. Students prepare formal written presentations

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of the project. A final evaluation of progress toward meeting goals is completed. (3 credit hours)

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Course Scope

The primary focus of this course is to assess the student's synthesis, integration and application of knowledge obtained in their academic studies, and to evaluate their readiness to practice as baccalaureate-prepared nurses. This course re-examines core program concepts, principles, and best practices. The student will synthesize, integrate, and apply program learning into a capstone paper and action plan. Students will be required to participate in class discussions, complete an annotated bibliography, submit a formal research proposal for professor approval, complete a research paper, present the research to the class, and critically comment on classmates' work. Students will use reflection exercises to set goals and evaluate their progress toward their degree.

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Course Objectives

At the end of this course, each student should be able to:

- Increase leadership skills by demonstrating techniques for working with health care teams to provide optimum patient care
- Broaden current level of communication patterns to more effectively function in partnerships with patients, families, and members of the healthcare team to achieve safe and desirable patient outcomes
- Demonstrate ability to review and analyze evidence-based research as a basis for development of a patient safety project
- Describe mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of healthcare interventions in their patient population
 - Exercise evidence-based nursing practice along with safety initiatives and professional ethical standards in the development of patient care plans across the lifespan continuum
 - Develop a plan for implementation of relevant population-based safety initiatives in their workplaces
 - Articulate the value of lifelong learning and engagement in professional networks on the development of the professional nursing role

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Course Delivery Method

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This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Course Materials

Required readings:

Parker, Marilyn, *Nursing Theories and Nursing Practice*, 2nd Edition, FA Davis, 2006

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition, 2010, Washington D.C. American Psychological Association

This is available in the online APUS library in the student tutorial center.

http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/apus_apa.pdf

Textbooks and readings from all nursing courses

Additional Resources

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Evaluation Procedures

Time Management:

This course requires careful time management for a successful and fulfilling outcome. The work in this course is very intensive and will require significant time. Weekly assignments are very specific and detailed. It is very important that students adhere to the timelines that are set in the classroom in order not to fall behind and have difficulty completing the research assignment within the 8-week time frame allotted.

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Evaluation Procedures

Reading Assignments:

Because of the nature of this course, there are no designated reading assignments. Students are encouraged to use all of the materials and resources given to them throughout their nursing course of study, including textbooks and online resources.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the excellent APUS library resources related to writing papers, writing research proposals, and other aspects of this course. This material, as well as the APA manual for citations, may be found in the APUS library under the Student Services link.

Forum Assignments:

Introductory Forum

Your introductory Forum is considered by the university to be your official entry into the classroom. You must participate in this Forum by midnight, Eastern Time on Sunday of the first week of class. Your initial response must be a minimum of 250 words. Read below for more information about other Forum assignments in this course.

There are four Forum assignments in this course—three in which you will discuss your proposal and progress toward your goals, and one in which you will present your work to the class. The purpose of these Forums is for you to share your work on your research project with your classmates as you progress through the course. Directions for each Forum submission are very specific and are included in attachments within the Forum.

Very few of us work best in a vacuum, so your feedback and comments to your classmates will be particularly valuable in this course. In each Forum, your responses should be substantive and constitute constructive feedback on the work that your classmates are doing. Respond to as many of your classmates as you can, but you must respond to at least two, unless otherwise notified by your professor.

For your Forum assignment each week you will be responsible for the following:

- 1) Respond to the question that is posted. In this course, the Forums will be directly related to your overall capstone project work.
- 2) Respond to at least two of your classmates. If the class size is small, this required number may be changed at the discretion of your instructor. Your responses to your classmates(s) constitute a significant portion of your Forum grade, so be sure that they are meaningful responses that contribute to the overall quality of the weekly discussion and encourage “out of the box” thinking.. Just saying “I agree....” is not acceptable.
- 3) If you cite any resources in the course of preparing your response, you need to reference them at the end of your post, just as you would in a paper.

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- 4) Since the discussion is asynchronous, you are not required to be online at a specific time with either the professor or your classmates. However, as you can see, it will be difficult for your classmates to respond in a timely manner above if you do not post your initial response early. Therefore, with the exception of Week 1, the initial posting in each week's Forum is due by Wednesday of that week. The Forum rubric includes point deductions for late submission of both your initial post and your responses. If you have questions or need additional guidance, you should email me at the college email address and I will get back to you with an answer.

Remember that all times in this classroom are Eastern Time (Daylight or Standard, as applicable)

Forum assignments will be graded using the Forum grading rubric in the classroom

Reflection Forum

The Reflection Forums, as in your other courses, will serve as the reflective journaling component of this course. They serve a particularly significant role in this capstone course, as they give you the opportunity to reflect on the entirety of your baccalaureate education and your plans for the future. For that reason, there are more Reflection Forums in this course than in other nursing courses that you have taken.

In the Reflection Forum, you will be graded for your attendance and participation, not on the content of your discussion. This is different than in the general classroom Forum, which does have a rubric for content quality. Because the Reflection Forum is intended for reflection and thoughtful sharing, I want all of you to feel free to share openly without concern about getting a grade for what you write. As in the general Forum, please take the time to provide substantive feedback to your classmates as they reflect on their nursing practice.

Research proposal: You will submit three potential proposals in Week 1 as instructed, and a formal research proposal is due by the conclusion (Sunday) of Week 2. The professor will approve, disapprove or approve with modifications all proposals.

Your research proposal will be based on a topic of interest to you that can be validated by research and evidence-based information. This work will be research that can support a project related to nursing practice that you could choose to implement in your workplace or in your community. You might also be able to use this work later as initial research for graduate work. Due to the time constraints of this 8-week course, you will not be implementing any proposal that you might create, but will be doing the research that will support its implementation.

Your proposals must meet specific requirements, which are described in the classroom. All course work must support achievement of the course objectives above, as well as the overall objectives for the nursing program, listed below.

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- Improve performance in the professional nursing role by developing leadership, management and communication skills to improve the health of individuals, families, and communities
 - Enhance communication and collaboration with patients, families and members of healthcare teams to achieve effective and efficient coordination of care
 - Utilize evidence and leadership principles to promote a culture of safety and achieve outcomes that are grounded in institutional values and professional ethics
 - Develop competence with available technologies to access critical information, network with other professionals, and facilitate optimal patient care
 - Apply scientific principles and the nursing process to evaluate responses to therapies and changes in patient stability
 - Integrate knowledge of human and organizational behavior to lead teams and promote cultures of safety
 - Analyze the impact of financial, regulatory, and political decisions on local, national, and global health outcomes
 - Integrate knowledge of ethical, socioeconomic and cultural factors to decrease health disparities and advocate for vulnerable populations
 - Value lifelong learning and participation in professional networks to promote and shape the profession of nursing.

More guidance and information about the research project and possible topics can be found in the “Course Information Documents” Lesson in the classroom.

Grading of your work will be graded using the rubrics that are available in the classroom.

Grading scale

Grade Instruments	Percentage
Introductory Forum	2%
Forums (3) and responses	12%
Reflection Forums	10%
Research proposal	10%
Annotated bibliography (Week 3)	10%
Outline, summary and references (Week 5)	10%
Research paper/project	35%
Presentation and responses (Week 8 Forum)	10%
End of course survey	1%
Total	100%

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8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University's [grading scale](#).

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Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Assignment
1 Nov. 5-11, 2012	Research proposal topics	<p>Identify and discuss three research topics and discuss their viability with classmates and professor</p> <p>Conduct preliminary research to identify and evaluate appropriate academic and legitimate sources</p> <p>Evaluate personal professional development and competency with professionally-related technology</p>	<p>Introductory Forum</p> <p>Reflection Forum</p> <p>Submit three proposed topics in the Week 1 Forum</p>
2 Nov. 12-18, 2012	Research proposal	<p>Develop and submit a formal research proposal</p> <p>Validate a research plan.</p> <p>Conduct preliminary research to identify and evaluate appropriate academic and legitimate sources</p>	<p>Reflection Forum</p> <p>Submit formal research proposal</p>
3 Nov. 19-25, 2012	Annotated bibliography	<p>Create an annotated bibliography in correct APA format style</p> <p>Conduct ongoing research to identify appropriate academic and legitimate sources</p> <p>Consider the impact of financial, regulatory, and political decisions on local, national, and global health outcomes</p>	<p>Reflection Forum</p> <p>Submit annotated bibliography</p>
4 Nov. 26- Dec. 2, 2012	Topic and research plan	<p>Identify and discuss the paper/project topic, thesis statement, main points/sections with classmates and professor</p> <p>Use feedback obtained from classmates and professor to</p>	<p>Submit topic and research plan in Week 4 Forum</p>

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		improve and continue development of research paper	
5 Dec. 3-9, 2012	Outline, thesis, bibliography	Revise the preliminary proposal into an acceptable first research study draft Conduct ongoing research to identify, evaluate and utilize appropriate academic and legitimate sources Consider ways in which you have become a more effective nurse leader	Reflection Forum Submit detailed outline, thesis statement, and reference list
6 Dec. 10-16, 2012	Progress report and discussion	Report paper/project topic progress with classmates and professor Finalize research to identify and evaluate appropriate academic and legitimate sources	Submit a report of your progress in the Week 6 Forum
7 Dec. 17-23, 2012	Submission of paper	Evaluate research paper/project prior to final submission Complete and submit research paper/project Consider ways in which your baccalaureate education has improved your ability to provide safe patient care	Reflection Forum Submit your final paper
8 Dec. 24-30, 2012	Presentation	Present paper/project to classmates and professor Critically/substantively comment on at least two classmate's papers/projects. Defined measurable and achievable professional goals	Reflection Forum Submit your presentation for discussion and review End of course survey

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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

Writing Expectations

Describe your writing expectations.

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

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- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](http://tutor.com) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

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The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

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Turnitin.com

Your final paper must be submitted through Turnitin.com. This site will analyze your paper and report instances of potential plagiarism. You will have the opportunity to edit your paper if you wish after you submit it to Turnitin.com. However, the deadlines for submission still apply, so if you think that you may want to re-submit a paper, do not wait until the due date to submit it for the first time!

Without faculty intervention, students can only submit to Turnitin.com one time. If, after reviewing your originality report, you want to edit your paper and re-submit, you will need to notify me so that I can delete your initial submission. This process will then allow you to re-submit your edited paper.

Read below for instructions on how to set up a Turnitin.com account if you do not have one, and how to access this course.

Turnitin Student Instructions

There are two (2) parts to the Student Instructions. Please be sure to complete both parts.

PART 1 - Set up your user profile

- Step 1 Go to www.turnitin.com
 Click "create user profile" located up at the top right corner
 Select "Student" as your user type and click "next"
- Step 2 Enter in the following account information provided by your instructor
 class ID: 5657571
 class enrollment password: checkup
 click "next"

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- Step 3 Enter in your student email address
- Step 4 Enter in a password - Your password is case sensitive (for example, paSS123 would be different than pass123), must be 6-12 characters long, and contain at least one letter and one number (for added security).
- Step 5 Enter in Your First Name, Your Last name, Country of Residence, and State of Residence. Click "Next"
- Step 6 Click "I agree - create profile"

Your user profile is now complete. You will not have to go through this process again.

PART 2 - Upload an assignment to your class
Now view your class and submit assignments

- Step 1 Click "return to login page"
- Step 2 Enter your email address and password for your personal profile. Click "Login"

You are now viewing your homepage. This lists all of your classes (each having a unique ID)

- Step 3 Click the desired class to view the assignments
- Step 4 Click the Submit icon to upload your assignment
- Step 5 Make sure the "file upload" option is selected. DO NOT CUT AND PASTE YOUR PAPER
- Step 6 Your first and last name should be entered for you. Enter the title of the paper or assignment as directed by the instructor.
- Step 7 Browse and select the document you wish to submit. Click "Submit"
- Step 8 Click "yes, submit" to confirm submission

Selected Bibliography

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