Placement in Curriculum: Graduate

Prerequisites: Admission to a graduate nursing major or departmental permission.

Credits: This is a 3 credit (45 clock hours) course.

Faculty: H. Sabrina Kao, PhD, RN, FAAN
Office # 335 HSSN Building
hkao@utep.edu (but Bb message mail is preferred)
Office Phone: 915-747-7279 (I am possibly not in my office most of time)
Cell: 682-472-0958 (the easiest way)

Office Hours: Thursdays 2-4PM via Microsoft Team &/or TBA. You can visit me via online virtual office hours or call me at my cell. If you cannot make it on Thursdays and have questions after Q&A discussions, please call my cell or Bb message me to quickly answer or set up an online appointment. Do not wait until Saturday to contact me; or you may not have sufficient time to reorganize your thoughts. I will last check Bb at 2PM on Saturday; after then on weekends, please call my cell number to contact me.

Meeting times:
This is a 7-week course offered 100% online, in asynchronous format. Opportunity for virtual and actual communication with the instructor is facilitated to optimize group and individual interactions. There will be meeting times for live lectures, group and individual meetings, and opportunity for impromptu meetings.

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the nature of scientific explanation and inquiry related to the nursing discipline. Nursing theory will be examined as the integral foundation for nursing research and evidence-informed clinical practice.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the learner should be able to:

1. Discuss the role of knowledge development in the evolution of the nursing discipline
2. Examine the relationship of theory to nursing practice and research
3. Critique selected conceptual models and theories for nursing
4. Evaluate a middle range theory for application to nursing practice, research, education, or administration

Teaching/ Learning Strategies: This is an online course that focuses on creating a dialogue among students and faculty:

1. Students will be provided with opportunities to participate in online discussions to facilitate cooperative learning.
2. The course employs a range of teaching-learning strategies using online technology.
3. Assigned textbook and journal readings remain essential, and independent literature searches are encouraged and rewarded.
4. The faculty member serves primarily as a facilitator and evaluator, but is also a co-learner and resource to guide students in meeting learning objectives.
5. Students are expected to possess a strong commitment to their own learning. Such a commitment includes identifying and working to meet individual learning needs and actively participating in all of the learning opportunities offered in the course.
6. To successfully complete this online seminar, students must have regular access to the following: Blackboard and related online resources; Including Zoom, UTEP e-mail, library resources, and computer word processing. For information on computer requirements and technical support call the Help Desk, or contact the faculty.
7. **BB Technical Assistance**: The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and helpdesk support. The link is located in the course menu.
8. **Scholarly writing assistance**: Graduate student level writing skills are essential and expected. The University of Texas at El Paso offers assistance with writing skills. Contact the University Writing Center (915-747-5112) or type this link on your browser: uw.c.utep.edu. Note the links at the top of the screen, click on “consultation” and make an appointment through the web site. You will actually log in with your paper, and receive on-line synchronous, or face to face assistance as well as on-going consultation. Another alternative is to use commercial writing software, such as Grammarly, which does not provide as much useful feedback. Therefore, working with the UTEP Writing Center may be preferable.
9. Communication by email within the Bb shell (message) is the preferred means of communication with faculty. Here is my utep email (hkao@utep.edu) but it is for announcement, do NOT use it to reply. You could use it only for emergency that you cannot access Bb.

**Course Assignments:**

Module 1.1 = Introduction + Acknowledgement (10-point extra credits, all or none base)
Module 1.2 = Discussion and Synthesis on Patterns of Knowing (75 points)
Module 2.1 = Think (can be a draft without point. However, the highest of your module 2.2 will be B/125 points without this part before due)
Module 2.2 = Think-Pair-Share (final product but your perspectives must be similar to the content in your 2.1 draft; 150 points)
Module 3 = Discussion and Synthesis on Emancipatory & Empiric Knowing (75 points)
Module 4 = Concept Map on Theory/ Concepts/ Practice (150 points)
Module 5 = Group PowerPoint (180 points + team participation 20 points)
Module 6 = Poster (150 points)
Module 7.1 = Speech on the Future of Nursing Theory (150 points)
Module 7.2 = Reflection (50 points)

**Grading Scale:**

- **A= 90-100%**  
  900- 1000 points
- **B= 80-89%**  
  800 - 899 points
- **C= 70-79%**  
  700 - 799 points
- **D= 60-69%**  
  600 - 699 points
- **F < 60%**  
  below 600 points
Required Textbooks

Other Resources:
University Writing Center. 915-747-5112 (uwc.utep.edu).
Grammarly software. Free version available.

Computer Requirements:
Make sure your computer and browser software meets specifications for a UTEP on-line course. Use the technical resources as needed. The UTEP Help Desk is located in the Library on the 3rd floor, Room 300. Email to Helpdesk@utep.edu or call 915-747-help. Or click this link: http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74092. It is recommended that you use secure connection to UTEP resources from remote locations through the Virtual Private Network (VPN). To set up your VPN connection access the following web link: http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=58534. Zoom will be used to deliver virtual course presentations.

This is a 100% asynchronized online course and course components are located in the BB course shell. The content is sequentially organized per Module. It is critical that students log in to the course regularly. Logging in only once per week is considered insufficient to stay abreast of important communications. It is highly recommended that students maintain adequate communications with the instructor during the term as well.

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk @ 915-747-help, helpdesk@utep.edu or chat (not the course instructor, please go to Bb content page -UTEP Tech Support) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you! Click on this link for
important current information about on-line learning at UTEP
https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/learningremotely.html

Late Assignments: Late submission of assignments may be allowed, but generally requires a 24-hour notification and approval from faculty. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate with the faculty regarding the reasons for a planned late submission to obtain such approval. If no submission is posted after the due date, 10% deduction per day for a maximum of 30%, after which (3 days) the assignment may not be accepted. However, even if you receive a zero you should still make every effort to contact faculty immediately to discuss any possible remedy. Pre-approved late assignments will not be penalized. Notify the instructor immediately if there are any urgent life disruptions that will interfere with your ability to post your assignment on time. Contact the instructor to help you navigate a course drop in a timely manner.

Failing Assignments: After a grade of C or lower, re-submission of a corrected assignment will be approved and is highly recommended. Re-submitted assignments cannot receive a grade higher than a grade of B. Contact the instructor to help you navigate a course drop in a timely manner.

UTEP Writing Center Policy: All students will have the opportunity to utilize the UTEP Writing Center for writing assistance with editing. Students are expected to make use of the UTEP Writing Center depending upon their individual needs. Faculty may also recommend to a student the use of the Writing Center if necessary. Students may also employ writing software (e.g. Grammarly) as needed to help ensure graduate level writing.

Incomplete Grade
Students who cannot complete all of the course work prior to the end of the course must notify and consult with the faculty member in advance. Current UTEP policy relating to incomplete work will be followed.

Policy related to recording and posting recordings of online classes
Class sessions will be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this class. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the class and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the class in any form without express permission.

Disabled Student Statement
The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability on-line must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal. Inform the instructor as soon as possible if you experience Covid-related disruptions that threaten to interfere with your completion of course objectives. CASS’ Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.
Expectations & Responsibilities of the Instructor:
The style of teaching demonstrated in this course strives to be one of mentoring, role modeling, and facilitating. You can expect this instructor to:

- Respond to student emails in a timely manner (within 12-24 hours) during weekdays and to notify students about > 24-hour periods when the instructor will not have computer access; in such cases communications will continue via the instructor’s cell phone. The instructor will last check Bb on weekends at 2PM on Saturdays.
- Review all submitted assignments and provide feedback in a sequential and timely manner.
- Be receptive to constructive suggestions that would improve teaching effectiveness or the quality of learning in this course.
- Be personable, kind, and available to students in a mutually respectful relationship to promote an appropriate learning climate.
- Support and encourage learners to explore new or innovative ideas or approaches to learning.

Expectations & Responsibilities of Learner:
The majority of learning occurs during discussions with peers, colleagues, and faculty, while independently researching the roots and direction of nursing knowledge, by reading and understanding assigned material, and by demonstrating synthesis of knowledge through graduate level writings. Students should share, examine, and clarify information and learning within the virtual classroom setting on the discussion boards. Students should be actively involved in communicating their ideas and responding to peers’ ideas in scholarly give-take learning relationships. Being a student participant will require logging in to the course more frequently than once each week, asking questions at any time, and attending to assignments in a timely manner. Minimum preparation consists of reading assigned materials and accessing the other resources provided in each Module. More advanced preparation may consist of independent online research, but this does not substitute for completing the assigned readings. Make your postings distinctly your own work. Strive to develop original thoughts about the readings through understanding, and to cite the original ideas of other using appropriate sources according to APA procedures. Students may access online APA format resources, such as Purdue owl https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/ or other similar sites (however, websites might have some unintentional errors. The APA Manual is your ultimate source). Save the syllabus and your postings in a separate file for future use.

At a minimum, participants are expected to:

- Review all course material to ensure understanding of the requirements.
- Complete readings prior to writing assignments and to include relevant material from the readings in each paper (with proper APA citations).
- Participate in engaging discussion with your peers.
- Communicate clearly and openly with peers and faculty on a regular basis; Refer as needed to the website netiquette for tips on proper online etiquette.
- Contact the UTEP Writing Center on line or in person as needed to meet graduate level writing standards;
- Students must notify the professor if there are problems that interfere with their ability to fulfill the obligations of the course, such as inability to post an assignment and/or replies in a timely manner (with the screen shot sent to hikao@utep.edu if it passed 2PM Saturday.) Any issues, problems, challenges with meeting responsibilities must be discussed in advance of assignment due dates.
Time Management
The recommendation for time planning for an academic course is approximately 3 hours for every credit hour taken. Therefore, you should expect to spend, at minimum, 3 hours of asynchronous course time + 9 hours of study and prep time = 12 hours per week.

Course Access Expectations
It is strongly recommended that you check the course regularly to ensure you do not miss any information. Check emails (message), course questions/concerns DB (Q&A), and announcements regularly.

Course Evaluations
Students are encouraged to participate in course evaluations as they provide opportunities for improvements in course content delivery, to reflect on learning throughout the semester, and to benefit future students.

How to access course evaluations video can be found at the following link:
https://utep.yuja.com/V/Video?v=3942026&node=13415303&a=778779798&autoplay=1

Copyright Notice
Many of the materials that are posted within this course are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further retained or disseminated. In this course, Safe Assign software is provided for both students and faculty to check the overlapping areas of their scholarly papers against published copyrighted manuscripts, or other previously written student papers (if no Safe Assign check, that module assignment will be deducted 5 points).

Academic Honesty:
Students are responsible and accountable for all the work submitted or presented as their own for evaluation. It is expected that all students maintain the highest standard of veracity when completing all scholastic activities. While collaboration with others in the process of completing course assignments is encouraged, UTEP has a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a serious violation of policies in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from and/or passing around written papers to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. This includes cutting and pasting from electronic sources and photocopying. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/; The BB platform employs powerful plagiarism software with the ability to identify plagiarism in written work submitted for evaluation. Students are required to use the Safe Assign link in the Course page to check that their written work meets standards before submitting for evaluation; there is no restriction against the faculty using other plagiarism tools independently, but this will not substitute for automated Safe Assign results provided to the instructor.