

**CEDAR CREST COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING  
NURSING 322 - RESEARCH I**

**COURSE SYLLABUS  
Spring 2009**

- Title:** N 322 Nursing Research II
- Credit:** 2 semester credits
- Prerequisites:** Cumulative Nursing GPA of 2.5  
Satisfactory completion of prescribed nursing curriculum
- Placement:** Junior year – Spring or Summer

**Course Description:**

This course focuses on the understanding of the research process and the role of the professional nurse in designing and conducting research. Quantitative design will be studied with emphasis on the use of research to improve nursing care.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon the completion of the course the student will:

1. Describe each of the components of the research process.
2. State the rights and responsibilities of both participants and subjects in research.
3. Identify nursing problems that need to be investigated in order to foster improved patient care.
4. Utilize critical thinking skills in the reading of research.
5. Enhance scholarly communication skills.
6. Communicate recommendations for clinical practice based on the review of research and non-research literature.

**Time Allocation:** 2 hours of class weekly

**Faculty:** Nancy Johnston PhD CRNP  
Office phone: 610-606-4666 Ext. 3491  
E-mail: najohnst@cedarcrest.edu (preferred method of communication)  
Office hours: HBB #25.  
Before class or by appointment.  
Most easily reached by email.

**Teaching Methods:**

Audio-visual materials	Lecture and discussion
Case studies	Computer-assisted instruction
Reflective writing	Problem solving exercises

**Course Evaluation:**

- |    |  |            |
|----|--|------------|
| 1. | Assignment # 1 (Research Question & Databases)       | 5%         |
| 2. | Quiz #1  | 5%         |
| 3. | Assignment #2 (8 articles with APA citation)         | 10%        |
| 4. | Quiz #2  | 5%         |
| 5. | Assignment #3 (Search & Retrieval Paper)             | 20%        |
| 6. | Assignment #4 (Critique of a Nursing Research Study) | 15%        |
| 7. | Assignment #5 (Scholarly Presentation)               | 20%        |
| 9. | Assignment #6 (Scholarly Paper)                      | <u>20%</u> |
|    |  | 100%       |

**Grading Scale with Quality Points:** The following grading scale, used in other courses at Cedar Crest College, will be applied in this course. Grades will not be rounded for projects, papers, etc., however, the final grade will be rounded.

A	93-100	= 4.0	quality points
A-	90-92	= 3.7	quality points
B+	87-89	= 3.3	quality points
B	83-86	= 3.0	quality points
B-	80-82	= 2.7	quality points
C+	77-79	= 2.3	quality points
C	73- 76	= 2.0	quality points
C-	70-72	= 1.7	quality points
D+	67-69	= 1.3	quality points
D	60-66	= 1.0	quality points
F	below 60	= 0	quality points

A grade below C is not passing. Students must achieve a minimum grade of a 73 in order to receive a C. Grades will be rounded up if the decimal is greater than or equal to .5.

### **Honor Philosophy:**

The Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy states that students should uphold community standards for academic and social behavior in order to preserve a learning environment dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Upholding community standards is a matter of personal integrity and honor. Individuals who accept the honor or membership in the Cedar Crest College community of scholars pledge to accept responsibility for their actions in all academic and social situations and for the effect their actions may have on other members of the College community.

### **Community Standards for Academic Conduct:**

Academic integrity and ethics remain steadfast, withstanding technological change. Cedar Crest College academic standards therefore apply to all academic work, including, but not limited to, handwritten or computer-generated documents, video or audio recordings, and telecommunications.

As a student at Cedar Crest College, each student shall:

- Only submit work which is his/her own.
- Adhere to the rules of acknowledging outside sources, as defined by the instructor, never plagiarizing or misrepresenting intellectual property.
- Neither seek nor receive aid from another student, converse with one another when inappropriate, nor use materials not authorized by the instructor.
- Follow the instructions of the professor in any academic situation or environment, including taking of examinations, laboratory procedures, the preparation of papers, properly and respectfully using College facilities and resources, including library and computing resources, to ensure that these resources may be effectively shared by all members of the College community.
- Abide by the Cedar Crest Computer Use Policy.
- If a student witnesses a violation of the Academic Standards, he/she will go to their instructor.
- If you are unable to resolve the problem with the instructor, you should go to the chair of the department. If you need further assistance after consultation with the instructor and the chair, you should see the Provost.

Students are reminded to review the Honor Code and Plagiarism statements as found in the Cedar Crest College Customs Handbook. Students found guilty of Honor Code offenses will receive a failing grade in this course. Dishonesty constitutes a failing grade in this course.

**Plagiarism** is the presentation of someone else's ideas or language as one's own. Examples of plagiarism include turning in someone else's paper or lab report under one's own name with or without additions or modifications; downloading and turning in a paper from the Internet or including concepts, phrases, sentences, or paragraphs from print or electronic sources – whether verbatim or paraphrased –in one's own paper without proper attribution. As well, all papers are to be the student's original work. Submission of a paper from a previous course is unacceptable and will result in a zero. Unintentional plagiarism and accidental improper citation of sources according to APA is considered plagiarism.

A paper suspected of intentional plagiarism will receive a grade of zero. Students who submit papers with evidence of academic dishonesty of a more serious nature may receive an "F" for the course at the discretion of the course instructor. Students who turn in work with unintentional plagiarism including overuse of direct citations, inappropriate and inaccurate citations, or omission of citations, will receive a serious deduction of points for critical analysis, paper content, and APA formatting.

All papers are to be the student's original work. Submission of a paper from a previous course or from a previous assignment in this nursing course is unacceptable and will result in a zero.

Dishonesty of any kind throughout this course may result in an "F" in this course.

**Prior Knowledge:**

The student is reminded that knowledge in nursing is cumulative and that she/he will be held accountable for prior learning. The student is responsible for material discussed in class as well as information covered in the required readings.

### **Classroom Protocol:**

Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest College Honor Code. Such behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations and other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to their Cedar Crest education. Cell phones and pagers are to be placed on silence during class and are not to be answered while in the classroom. Cell phone disruptions are viewed as a violation of courteous and respectful classroom protocol. Sidebar conversations are disruptive to all students and will not be tolerated. Students who arrive late during a guest speaker will not be permitted to enter the room until a break, or until the lecturer has completed the presentation.

### **Disability Accommodation:**

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with their professors during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact Academic Services.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Class Attendance is required for the successful completion of this course. Participation is crucial to "an understanding" of the role of consumer research. You must be present in class for participation to be achieved. If you will be absent, please let the professor know ahead of time. Small group exercises and seminar presentations require students to come prepared to discuss assigned readings for each class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are required to contact the professor if they will be late or absent from class. Excessive absences from class will be reflected in a lower final grade. Attendance is mandatory and necessary to complete the course objectives.

### **Copy of Student's Work:**

Students are required to keep a hard copy of all written work assignments for this course. In the event an assignment is lost, it is the student's responsibility to provide an additional copy of the written assignment. Failure to provide this copy will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Additionally, students are required to submit electronic copies of their scholarly assignments to the dropbox in eCompanion.

### **Description of Course Assessment:**

#### **Quizzes**

There will be 2 quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes may include definition of terms, short essays, multiple test questions, and research critiques. Quizzes may be online or administered during class. Quizzes 1 and 2 are worth 5% each, for a total of 10% of the course grade.

### **Assignments**

1. **Assignment #1: Research Question & Database Search (5%)**

The purpose of this assignment is to begin to explore research topics of interest and conduct a preliminary search of the literature of this topic. The process of this exploration is explained in a **1 to 2-page** narrative.

A research question is decided upon and three databases are searched. Peer-reviewed nursing research journals are the focus of this search. See grading rubric.

2. **Assignment #2: Retrieved Research Publications with APA Citation (10%)**

The purpose of this assignment is to retrieve a minimum of 8 nursing research publications related to the chosen research question of Assignment #1. The goal is to be able to differentiate research from other types of publications, with a focus on recent, quantitative, nursing research.

Copies of the **8 retrieved** full-text publications are to be submitted with an accurately cited reference page formatted in APA style. See grading rubric.

3. **Assignment #3: Search and Retrieval Assignment (20%)**

The purpose of this assignment is to learn the technique of conducting literature searches and obtaining relevant research articles. A reference list of the articles found via the literature search using APA format must be attached. The Search and Retrieval Scholarly Paper is the result of the Search in Assignment #1 and the Retrieval in Assignment #2.

This paper should also include the significance of the research to nursing and the process of the literature search, as well as an accurate reference list of 8 to 10 studies. All published studies must be full-text and copies must be submitted with the paper. See grading rubric.

4. **Assignment #4: Critique of a Nursing Research Study (15%)**

Using the selected topic of interest from Assignments #1, #2, and #3, the student will conduct a critique of one quantitative research report using the guidelines provided in Chapter 13, Critiquing Research for Nursing Practice, in the textbook. This paper should also include the significance of the research to nursing and the process of the literature search, as well as an accurate reference list of 8 to 10 articles (See Assignment #3).

All published studies must be full-text and copies must be submitted with the paper. See grading rubric.

**5. Assignment #5: Scholarly Presentation (20%)**

Using the selected topic of interest from Assignments #1, #2, #3, and #4, the student will present a summary of the research topic, significance to nursing, process of the literature search and subsequent retrieval, and research critique of the selected quantitative research report. The presentation is to be **10-12 minutes** in length and a Power Point is to be presented.

The presentation must be submitted electronically to the document sharing tab of eCompanion, and a hardcopy of the PowerPoint and any accompanying handouts are to be submitted to the instructor the day of the presentation. See the grading rubric for details.

**6. Assignment #6: Scholarly Paper (20%)**

Using the selected topic of Assignments #1, #2, #3, and #4, a scholarly paper, no more than **8 - 10** pages is to be written. The paper will describe the research topic, elaborate on the reason it is chosen for review, describe the process of the literature search, and critique one research study of interest.

The paper must be typed using APA format. Please use headings/subheadings. An Introduction should include a brief overview of the intention of the paper. A Conclusion should include the student's opinion about the quality of the study and knowledge gained on the topic. See the grading rubric for details.

**Assignment Logistics:**

- Check all due dates of assignments and place in your calendars.
- Length of papers must be adhered to. Length of a paper does not include the cover page, abstract, and references.
- All assignments must have a cover page in APA format.
- Format: Times New Roman, 12 font, one inch margins
- Citations: Content demonstrates scholarly writing and use of APA (5th ed) format throughout. Headings and subheadings are desirable.

**Submission Process:**

- All papers are due on the date/time as posted in the pacing schedule by the professor.
- Submit one copy of the paper to the assignment drop box in eCollege. This copy must be posted prior to the paper due date/time.
- Submit one hard copy of the paper in a folder to the professor. Include a copy of the selected research articles when appropriate.
- Include a copy of the grading rubric available from eCollege.
- All of the above is to be handed in together in a folder/envelope.

**Lateness Policy:**

- Papers submitted late will receive a deduction of 10 points per day, increasing by 10 points every 24-hour period after the due date.
- Both the electronic copy and the hard copy must be submitted on time. If one is late, 10 points will be deducted according to the policy. Do not wait until the last minute to post your electronic copy. Plan appropriately and allow for enough time to submit prior to the due time.
- Email copies of assignments will not be accepted. The paper is to be submitted according to the explicit submission policy provided.
- If there are extenuating circumstances, these must be brought to the attention of the professor prior to the due date.

**Available Resources:**

- Academic Advising services are available for students who request assistance with scholarly papers. Please confirm their hours of operation and allow ample time for an appointment.
- An APA tutor is available through Academic Advising Services for the sole purpose of APA formatting questions. Please contact the Academic Advising Office for instructions on contacting the tutor. Allow ample time for an appointment.

**Required Textbooks:**

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, D.C: Author.

Burns, N., & Grove, S. (2007). *Understanding nursing research: Building an evidenced-based practice* (4th ed.) Philadelphia, PA: Saunders.

**ON-Line Resource:**

<http://evolve.elsevier.com/Burns/understanding>

