

## Course Syllabus

### **Wendy Robb**

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**Wendy J. Robb, PhD, RN, CNE** joined Cedar Crest College Nursing Department in the Fall of 2000. Her background includes expertise as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the area of adult acute care, particularly trauma care, and research experience as a clinical research coordinator. Dr. Robb graduated from Gwynedd-Mercy College and DeSales University before completing her doctoral studies at Widener University in Chester, PA. Her research expertise is in the area of complementary and alternative healing and she has explored alternative healing modalities in The People's Republic of China. She has published and presented nationally and internationally on a variety of topics and has traveled to nursing schools in Ghana, West Africa and Sweden as part of international exchanges. Dr. Robb has participated in several national grants, holds memberships in numerous professional organizations, and maintains certification as a Nurse Educator by the National League for Nursing.

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**Title** NUR 322 Nursing Research I

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**Credit** 2 semester credits

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**Prerequisite** Cumulative Nursing GPA of 2.5  
Satisfactory completion of prescribed nursing curriculum

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**Placement** Junior year – Spring or Summer

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**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 studies with emphasis on the use of research to improve nursing care.

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<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<p>Upon the completion of the course the student will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe each of the components of the research process</li> <li>2. State the rights and responsibilities of both participants and subjects in research.</li> <li>3. Identify nursing problems that need to be investigated in order to foster improved patient care.</li> <li>4. Utilize critical thinking skills in the reading of research.</li> <li>5. Enhance scholarly communication skills.</li> <li>6. Communicate recommendations for clinical practice based on the review of research and non-research literature.</li> </ol> <hr/>																																	
<b>Time Allocation</b>	<p>2 hours of class weekly</p> <hr/>																																	
<b>Teaching Methods</b>	<p>Audio-visual materials  Case Studies  Reflective writing  Lecture and discussion  Computer-assisted instruction  Problem-solving activities</p> <hr/>																																	
<b>Course Evaluation</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="367 1045 391 1077">1.</td> <td data-bbox="459 1045 1101 1077">Assignment # 1 (Research Question &amp; Databases)</td> <td data-bbox="1230 1045 1279 1077">5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="367 1115 391 1146">2.</td> <td data-bbox="459 1115 1040 1146">Assignment #2 (8 articles with APA citation)</td> <td data-bbox="1247 1115 1312 1146">10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="367 1184 391 1215">3.</td> <td data-bbox="459 1184 1008 1215">Assignment #3 (Search &amp; Retrieval Paper)</td> <td data-bbox="1230 1184 1295 1215">15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="367 1253 391 1285">4.</td> <td data-bbox="459 1253 854 1285">Assignment #4 (Critique #1-9)</td> <td data-bbox="1239 1253 1312 1285">7.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="367 1323 391 1354">5.</td> <td data-bbox="459 1323 886 1354">Assignment #5 (Critique #10-20)</td> <td data-bbox="1239 1323 1312 1354">7.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="367 1392 391 1423">6.</td> <td data-bbox="459 1392 967 1423">Assignment #6 (Scholarly Presentation)</td> <td data-bbox="1222 1392 1287 1423">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="367 1461 391 1493">7.</td> <td data-bbox="459 1461 881 1493">Assignment #7 (Scholarly Paper)</td> <td data-bbox="1222 1461 1287 1493">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="367 1530 391 1562">8.</td> <td data-bbox="459 1530 557 1562">Quiz #1</td> <td data-bbox="1255 1530 1312 1562">5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="367 1600 391 1631">9.</td> <td data-bbox="459 1600 557 1631">Quiz #2</td> <td data-bbox="1255 1600 1312 1631">5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="367 1669 391 1701">10.</td> <td data-bbox="459 1669 557 1701">Quiz #3</td> <td data-bbox="1255 1669 1312 1701"><u>5%</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td data-bbox="1255 1759 1336 1791">100%</td> </tr> </table> <hr/>	1.	Assignment # 1 (Research Question & Databases)	5%	2.	Assignment #2 (8 articles with APA citation)	10%	3.	Assignment #3 (Search & Retrieval Paper)	15%	4.	Assignment #4 (Critique #1-9)	7.5%	5.	Assignment #5 (Critique #10-20)	7.5%	6.	Assignment #6 (Scholarly Presentation)	20%	7.	Assignment #7 (Scholarly Paper)	20%	8.	Quiz #1	5%	9.	Quiz #2	5%	10.	Quiz #3	<u>5%</u>			100%
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<b>Description</b>	<u>Quizzes</u>																																	

## of Course Evaluation

There will be 3 quizzes throughout the course. Quizzes may include definition of terms, short essays, multiple test questions, and research critiques. Quizzes may be online or administered during class. Quizzes are worth 5% each, for a total of 15% of the course grade.

### Assignments

1. **Assignment #1: Research Question & Database Search** – 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. The skeleton of the scholarly paper is initiated with a cover page formatted in APA style. Paper must be submitted electronically in dropbox and via hardcopy. See grading rubric. This assignment is worth 5% of the course grade.
2. **Assignment #2: Retrieved Research Publications with APA Citation** – 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. Paper must be submitted electronically in dropbox and via hardcopy. See grading rubric. This assignment is worth 10% of the course grade.
3. **Assignment #3: Search and Retrieval Assignment** – 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 articles. All published studies must be full-text and copies must be submitted with the paper. Paper must be submitted electronically in dropbox and via hardcopy. See grading rubric. This assignment is worth 15% of the course grade.
4. **Assignment #4: Critique #1-9** – Using the Quantitative Research Critique Guidelines for COMPREHENSION (Burns & Grove, 2007, p. 448-451), answer questions # 1 through #9. This critique is to be written using the research study from Assignment #3. Assignment must use the template provided, typed with Times New Roman size 12 font, and submitted electronically in the drop box and hardcopy. See grading rubric.

This assignment is worth 7.5% of the course grade.

5. **Assignment #5: Critique #10-20** – Using the Quantitative Research Critique Guidelines for COMPREHENSION (Burns & Grove, 2007, p. 448-451), answer questions # 10 through #20. This critique is to be written using the research study from Assignment #3. Assignment must use the template provided, typed with Times New Roman size 12 font, and submitted electronically in the drop box and hardcopy. See grading rubric. This assignment is worth 7.5% of the course grade.

6. **Assignment #6: Scholarly Presentation** – Using the selected topic of interest from Assignments #1, #2, and #3, the Search and Retrieval Paper, 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 one research publication. 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. This assignment is worth 20% of the course grade.

7. **Assignment #5: Scholarly Paper** – Using the selected topic of Assignments #1, #2, #3, and #4, a scholarly paper, no more than 7 - 10 pages is to be written. The paper will scholarly 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. The paper must be submitted electronically in the dropbox and via hardcopy. See the grading rubric for details. This assignment is worth 20% of the course grade.

Note:

All assignments are due on the designated dates. Lateness will reflect in a lower grade (10 points per day). There will be no change of quiz dates or make-up of missed quizzes. The grade for a missed quiz/assignment will be recorded as a zero (0). If there are extenuating circumstances, these must be brought to the attention of the professor prior to the due date. All assignments not submitted by the last day of class will be given a grade of zero (0).

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**Grading Scale**

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	<60%

A grade below C is not passing. Students must achieve a minimum grade of a 73 in order to receive a C. Grades from 0 to 72.99 will not be rounded up. Final course grades above 73 will be rounded up if the decimal is greater than or equal to .5.

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**Honor Code** 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 zero for the assignment in question.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's paper or work 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 attrition.

A paper suspected of intentional plagiarism or careless scholarship 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.

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**Classroom Protocol** Friendly Classroom

Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest 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 any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or comprise students' access to their Cedar Crest College education.

#### Cumulative Knowledge

The student is reminded that knowledge in nursing is cumulative and that she/he will be held accountable for prior learning. Furthermore, the student is expected to be knowledgeable about anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and health/physical assessment as they relate to material covered in this course. The student is responsible for material discussed in class as well as information covered in the required readings. Copies of journal articles may be placed on reserve in the Cressman Library.

#### 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. 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 an electronic copy of their scholarly paper to the dropbox in eCompanion.

#### Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments are due on the designated date. Lateness will be reflected in a lower grade of 10 points per day beginning immediately after the time due.

Weekend days are counted toward deductions. Assignments submitted after the assigned time on the due date will be considered one day late, and subsequent points will be deducted in 24 hour increments according to the policy. All assignments will be collected at the beginning of class. If an assignment is late, it is the student's responsibility to obtain a stamp from the nursing secretary indicating the date and time the assignment was received. Assignments in question without a stamped date and time will be counted as late. Assignments are not to be slid under the professor's door without a stamp indicating date and time.

#### Extenuating Circumstances

Extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on an individual basis by the professor. If a dispensation is granted, it must be documented in writing and

signed by both the professor and student. Extenuating circumstances are less likely to be considered once the assignment is late. If a student is experiencing difficulty, it is recommended that he/she meet with the instructor prior to the due date of an assignment to discuss possible alternatives or solutions.

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**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.

Burns, N., & Groves, S. (2007). *Accompanying Study Guide*

Clicker (classroom response system) - Available from the CCC bookstore.

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**ON-Line Resources** <http://evolve.elsevier.com/Burns/understanding>

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**Websites** See <http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html> and <http://www.apastyle.org/previoustips.html> for specifics on the appropriate methods for formatting and referencing papers.

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