Academic Unit: School of Nursing
Course Prefix: NUR 530
Course Title: Advanced Principles in Evidence-Based Practice
Term Offered: Fall/Spring
Credit Hours/Clock Hours: 3 credits (45 clock hours)
Prerequisites: NUR 510
Mode of Instruction: Online

Instructor Name:
Instructor Contact Information:
Instructor Availability:

Catalog Description:
Methods of inquiry that give students the knowledge base in the core principles of evidence-based practice that underpin best practices for nursing and health care.

Course Purpose:
This course is a required foundational master’s level course usually taken in the second semester. This course provides the critical knowledge base in the core principles of evidence-based practice. Student’s learn how to find specific evidence, how to appraise and analyze the evidence and then communicate the evidence in a scholarly way including papers, posters, and presentations. Students will use their skills to identify a specific health care related issue, then find and apply the most current evidence that identifies the needs and supports the solution to that issue. This class provides the foundational skills necessary to find and use evidence to support individual clinical practice, and appropriately apply evidence to different population-based settings (such as hospitals and community or educational settings).
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: The successful student will be prepared to:

Clinical Practice and Prevention:
1. Appraise evidence as it relates to advanced nursing practice and improving health outcomes.

Communication:
2. Develop skills to disseminate evidence.
3. Use technology to identify important sets of empirical literature.

Critical Reasoning:
4. Demonstrate the process used with primary sources of evidence to answer selected clinical questions.
5. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate elements of the research process.

Global:
6. Explore possible research roles in nursing and other healthcare services from local to global perspectives.

ASSIGNMENTS/ASSESSMENTS OF STUDENT LEARNING: This online course uses a Bb Learn platform for the organization and delivery of course content over required topics. Text and electronic readings, a research principles quiz, written assignments, poster preparation and presentation are included as approaches to learning and assessment of learning. Graded course assignments include:

1. **Research Principles Review/Quiz:**
The first two weeks of the course are devoted to the student undertaking a review of basic research concepts and principles as a foundation for ongoing work over the semester. Resources/readings are provided to prepare the student for an online quiz (10-20 questions; open-book and open notes---but does require preparation and reading to apply concepts.). 10 course points. See Course Schedule/BBLearn for due date at the end of week 2.

2. **Clinical problem and PICOT question:**
Using the assignment template, the student identifies a clinical question of interest for your future role as FNP OR the MS Generalist that could be the basis of MS Capstone Project. Part I of the assignment involves the description of the clinical question/issue, as well as the relevant patient population, setting, nurse’s role (FNP or RN), and the significance of the problem. Also discuss current management/approach to the problem and the gaps/needs to address the issue. Part II of the assignment is the development of a PICO(T) question—one tool to begin research search process that involves key elements. Also, please suggest key search terms that you will use to begin your search. 5 course points. See Course Schedule/BBLearn for the due date in week 3.

3. **Critical appraisal of two research articles:**
Using the assignment template, critically appraise two primary, single-study research articles that you have discovered in your search. One article should be of a qualitative methodology (ie, phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnographic, historical, etc.) and one article should be of a quantitative methodology (ie, randomized control trial, correlational study, quasi-experimental study, etc.). For each critical analysis, the final portion is the composition of a summary paragraph addressing key concepts in the
study. Examples will be provided in course lessons. 10 course points. See Course Schedule/BBLearn for due date at the end of week 5.

4. **Critical appraisal of reviews/guidelines:**
   Using the assignment template, critically appraise one practice guideline or standard of practice related to your clinical topic, and one additional appraisal of a meta-analysis or systematic review. Again, please include a summary paragraph for each. 10 course points. See Course Schedule/BBLearn for due date at the end of week 6.

5. **Evidence table:**
   Using the assignment template, construct an evidence synthesis table that presents the results of the evidence searches you have conducted on your topic. While a total of 10 items should be included in the table, four of those items should be from the preceding two assignments. The evidence table should include a variety of RECENT research, and at least two articles should be from a nursing focus/published in a nursing journal. This then provides you the basis for writing your final paper. 20 course points. See Course Schedule/BBLearn for due date at the end of week 8.

6. **Final paper:**
   This formal paper is developed with a required draft (for feedback) and final version. It should be 8-10 pages of text (not including title page, reference list, and appendices) presented in APA format. The required content includes
   - Introduction/purpose
   - Description of the clinical problem/question within the context of a population and clinical setting; prevalence of the problem; importance/significance of the problem; consequences of the problem.
   - The search: PICOT, search terms and search process.
   - Description of current practice/standards of practice; what is the gap or need not being addressed in current practice?
   - Proposed solution/recommendation (based on the evidence)
   - Summary and conclusion
   - Appendix---Evidence Synthesis Table

   More specifics, sample papers, rubric, and other resources will be provided in BBLearn. 30 course points. Required draft is due weeks 9-10; final paper is due at the end of week 13. See Course Schedule/BBLearn for specific dates.

7. **Research poster and presentation:**
   In this assignment you will have the opportunity to develop and electronic research poster to disseminate your findings, based on above assignments. A poster template is provided and samples of prior student work will be available. You will disseminate/share with your classmates in a final discussion forum where you will post and overview of your clinical question and findings along with your poster. You will be expected to ask questions of classmates and answer any questions you receive—all in the discussion forum in the final week of the semester. There will be a selection process for the best poster. 15 course points: 10 points for the poster and 5 points for participation in the discussion forum. See Course Schedule/BBLearn for specific dates during weeks 14-15.
GRADING SYSTEM:
Assessment of student learning will occur across the semester in order to evaluate student mastery of material and achievement of course learning outcomes. Grades will be derived from a variety of assignments, as described above. The grading plan and scale are as follows:

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (100 points possible)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Principle Review/Quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Problem &amp; PICOT Question</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Appraisal of 2 research articles</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Appraisal of Guideline &amp; Review</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Synthesis Table</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Poster &amp; Online Presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
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Letter grades will be assigned following the standard School of Nursing scale:

- **A** 93-100%
- **B** 84-92% (*a grade of “B” or above is a passing grade in this course)
- **C** 78-83%
- **F** < 78%

*MS Program Requirement:* A grade of 84% or better is required to pass a graduate nursing course. If a student earns less than 84% in a graduate nursing course, the student must repeat the course. Therefore, a graduate course with a C or less must be repeated. Students are also required to earn an 84% or better on the final paper/poster which includes the dissemination of the project. The student’s coursework related to the development and completion of the paper will be submitted in their portfolio for partial fulfillment of the graduation requirements for the Masters of Science (MS) degree in Nursing.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:


*Supplemental Resources are available in BBLearn.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Melnyk &amp; F-O Chpts</th>
<th>L-W &amp; H Chpts</th>
<th>Activities due on Sundays @ 11:59 pm</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Orientation to course</td>
<td>19,20</td>
<td>6,8, 9, 10</td>
<td>Introductions: on discussion board (not graded)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quantitative &amp; Qualitative research design review</td>
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<td>Research review quiz (graded:10 course points)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other types of evidence review</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Relationship between evidence and research</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Evidence Base Practice (EBP)</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>19 &amp; 20 App A</td>
<td>Clinical problem + PICOT question (graded: 5 course points)</td>
<td>Due:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Clinical Problem</td>
<td>(p.420-428)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Asking a PICOT Question</td>
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<td><strong>Critical Appraisal</strong></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Finding the Evidence &amp; Levels of Evidence</td>
<td>3,4</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Appraising/critiquing the research articles</td>
<td>5,6 App B</td>
<td>7,18</td>
<td>Critical appraisal of 2 research articles (graded: 10 course points)</td>
<td>Due:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Appra</td>
<td>8 App B</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Guideline &amp; SR/MA appraisals (graded: 10 course points)</td>
<td>Due:</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Appraising/critiquing other types of evidence</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Summarizing the evidence using an evidence synthesis table</td>
<td>App C</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Evidence Table (graded: 20 course points)</td>
<td>Due:</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Summarizing the Evidence within a scholarly paper</td>
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<td><strong>Implementation</strong></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Data Analysis and Catch up</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15,16</td>
<td>Paper draft (preferred)</td>
<td>Due:</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Organization and Practice related topics</td>
<td>9,11,12,14</td>
<td>20 (p. 431-439)</td>
<td>Paper draft (Official due date)</td>
<td>Due:</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Evaluation of Project Effectiveness</td>
<td>10,17</td>
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<td><strong>Dissemination</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>Work on Papers &amp; Posters</td>
<td>18, 11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Paper (graded: 30 course points)</td>
<td>Due:</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sharing the Evidence</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Poster/posting and discussing in discussion forum (graded: 15 course points)</td>
<td>Poster Due:</td>
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</table>
Course Policies: There is strict adherence to every part of the NAU Student Handbook and the NAU Graduate Nursing Student Handbook.

1. Each student is accountable and responsible for knowledge and skills obtained in the prerequisite courses.
2. Each student is expected to work independently and submit only their own work.
3. Each student is expected to complete all readings and all assignments.
4. All written work must be written in APA format, 6th edition (i.e., typewritten, double-spaced, reference citations, etc.).
5. Microsoft WORD (.doc or .docx) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) are the required word processing program for sending papers and assignments as attachments. BBLearn does not support the use of other programs for viewing/grading papers.
6. Assignments are due by 11:59 pm Sunday on the due date. Assignments will be submitted using the appropriate assignment link within Bb Learn.
7. Prior arrangements must be made with course faculty to negotiate alternate due dates for any assignment. Please be sure to contact the instructor if you are not able to meet the defined timeline for an assignment.
8. It is expected that students conform to and comply with the Northern Arizona University’s Graduate Student Handbook and the SON Graduate Student Handbook.
9. Oral or written material belonging to another author which is not properly documented and which is represented as the student’s own work constitutes plagiarism. Any student who plagiarizes will be given a grade of zero on the paper/assignment. Quotation marks should be used to indicate exact words of another along with the page or paragraph number. Paraphrasing (i.e., summarizing a passage, rearranging the order of a sentence, or changing some of the words) does not necessitate quotation marks; however, each time a source is either quoted or paraphrased, credit for the source including page number, paragraph number, and so on must be included within the text and in the reference list at the end of the document. See the APA manual for the format for in-text and end-of-text referencing.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Review the following policies available on the Northern Arizona University Policy Statement website (http://nau.edu/OCLDAA/_Forms/UCC/SyllabusPolicyStmts2-2014/):

1. Safe Environment Policy
2. Students with Disabilities
3. Academic Contact Hour Policy
4. Academic Integrity
5. Research Integrity
6. Sensitive Course Materials
7. Classroom Disruption Policy