

*Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health
Course Outline*

NURS 511

Nelson

**Nursing Knowledge: Analysis and
Critique**

**Course Co-ordinator:
Pamela Wood**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health at Victoria University of Wellington, uses all reasonable skill and care in an effort to ensure the information and course content information contained in this outline is accurate at the time of going to print.

Students should be aware, however, that in the event course timetables and venues need to be changed, all attempts will be made to notify the students.

Produced by the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health,
81 Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn, Wellington 6021.

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STAFF TEACHING IN THIS COURSE

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

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Web site: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/nmh>

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

GRADUATE SCHOOL DATES

The Graduate School office will be open on Wednesday 3 January 2008 and close on Tuesday 23 December 2008.

In keeping with the practice of other years, academic staff will not be available on Fridays, except for the times they are involved in Schools.

COURSE AIMS

This course supports registered nurses to examine critically the nursing knowledge underpinning and emerging from their practice. They examine the way knowledge can be expressed in varying forms, and consider the different ways in which their own nursing knowledge can be articulated. Nurses choose a subject or problem relevant to their practice or professional interests and write a scholarly paper that integrates related literature with their own nursing knowledge. They are also challenged and supported to express the essence or aesthetic of their own practice in an aesthetic form. In these ways the paper values nurses' own experience and knowledge while encouraging them to develop skills and strategies in exploring, critiquing and integrating a range of knowledge sources.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Participants will engage in the teaching/learning processes of this course in order to:

- understand and choose from a range of ways in which nursing knowledge can be organised and expressed
- understand the history, development and future of scholarship related to professional nursing practice
- understand the influence of the unique environment of Aotearoa/New Zealand on the development of nursing scholarship
- understand the relationships between nursing theory, research and practice in the development of nursing knowledge
- articulate a personal philosophy of nursing knowledge with reference to the national and international scholarly nursing discourse
- express the aesthetic of their nursing practice
- extend their skills in critique and synthesis of nursing scholarship through an epistemological inquiry of their practice

COURSE ORGANISATION

This course will run over two trimesters. Two Schools, both lasting two days, will be held in Nelson. These Schools support students' individual study. The first School introduces students to ideas related to nursing epistemology, which is the development and organisation of nursing knowledge. Discussions in class consider the different ways in which the profession's knowledge has been developed historically, and the approaches current nursing scholars take in advancing and organising knowledge. The unique place of Aotearoa/New Zealand in this development and its relationship with international trends are also explored.

While the course encourages students to identify and critique a range of nursing literature, it also values knowledge emerging from individual nurses' practice. Each student is therefore encouraged to choose a topic of interest to them in their practice, or related to their broader professional interests, which will form the basis of a scholarly inquiry throughout the course. These topics are discussed in class so that students leave the first School with a clearer idea of their planned programme of study for the course. Individual nursing knowledge is also valued through nurses' exploration of their own unique qualities as nurses, the essence of their practice, their nursing philosophy and how these might be expressed in an aesthetic way. Each student makes an 'aesthetic presentation' in second School. Both the 'aesthetic' and 'scholarly inquiry' assessments are described in more detail later in this course outline.

In this course we also concentrate on supporting students to develop their writing skills. A good writing ability is important for conveying ideas to other nurses and to a wider scholarly community through publication. Feedback is given in each assessment to help students build on their current capability so that they can be more effective as they progress through their academic programme.

SUGGESTED READING

Each student will pursue an individual programme of reading, based on literature relating to their scholarly inquiry. We hope, however, that nurses will read more broadly than this, so that they can locate their individual reading within the wide field of national and international nursing literature. Students should always approach their selection and reading of literature with a critical eye, which includes considering who has written the piece, why they might have written it, how they have constructed the article, why the article might have been chosen for publication and what it reveals about the writer's epistemological framework. Some questions which might be helpful in guiding this critique will be considered in the first School.

WORKLOAD

30 point courses in the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health have an average workload of twelve hours per week.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to successfully complete this course you are required to attend all Schools unless under special circumstances prior arrangements have been made with the course co-ordinator.

Students must submit and pass all pieces of assessment to satisfactorily complete the course.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the VUW homepage at:

http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:
www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

COURSE TIMETABLE

WEEK STARTING Monday	DATES	EVENT	ACTION
25 February			
3 March			
10 March	10 & 11 March	1st School	
17 March	21 March	Good Friday	
24 March	24 March 25 March	Easter Monday VUW holiday	
31 March	31 March		Assignments 1 & 2, Part A due
7 April			
14 April			
21 April	25 April	ANZAC Day	
28 April			
5 May			
12 May			
19 May			
26 May			
2 June	2 June	Queens Birthday	
9 June			
16 June			
23 June			
30 June			
7 July			
14 July			
21 July			
28 July			
4 August			
11 August			
18 August			
25 August	25 & 26 August	2nd School	Assignment 1, Parts B & C, due during School
1 September			
8 September			
15 September	15 September		Assignment 2, Part B, due
22 September			
29 September			
6 October			
13 October			
20 October			
27 October	27 October	Labour Weekend	
3 November			
10 November			
17 November			

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

1ST SCHOOL

Dates: Monday 10 & Tuesday 11 March 2008

Times: Monday 10 March – 9.30am to 5.00pm
Tuesday 11 March – 9.00am to 4.30pm

Venue: Kauri Room, Tahuna Function Centre, 70 Beach Road, Tahunanui, Nelson

2ND SCHOOL

Dates: Monday 25 & Tuesday 26 August 2008

Times: Monday 25 August – 9.30am to 5.00pm
Tuesday 26 August – 9.00am to 4.30pm

Venue: TBA

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment information including grade descriptions, the procedures for submitting assignments and referencing information is available on the Graduate School's Website.

Assignment cover sheets and acknowledgement postcards are attached at the back of this outline. Please ensure you complete an assignment cover sheet and attach it to the front of each assignment you submit. All assignments are to be sent to **Abbey McDonald, Student Administrator**, who will record the details and pass it to the appropriate marker. **Please do not address assignments to members of the academic staff, as they are not necessarily the markers of the assignment.** If you want to have receipt of your assignment acknowledged, complete an acknowledgement postcard and attach it to the front of your assignment.

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health has set a number of assessment tasks and due dates to best meet the outcomes of the course. In keeping with the Graduate School's stated philosophy that no assessment work shall serve the Graduate School alone, it is possible to negotiate alternative assessments and schedule. This should be undertaken in consultation with the course co-ordinator.

Graduate School guidelines for submission and return of student assignments:

1. All assignments are to be submitted to the Graduate School by 5.00pm on the nominated due date.
 - 1.1 An extension to the due date may only be given in exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances would typically be sickness (as evidenced by a medical certificate) or bereavement.
 - 1.2 Application for an extension must be made to Course Co-ordinators at least 24 hours before the due date.
 - 1.3 Course Co-ordinators may grant an extension of up to 2 weeks.
 - 1.4 Any extension requested for longer than 2 weeks must be agreed to and signed off by the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator or in her absence the Head of School.
2. Dean's extensions
 - 2.1 are available in exceptional circumstances for only the final piece of assessment in any course,
 - 2.2 must be applied for in writing at least 48 hours prior to due date,
 - 2.3 may be approved for up to 4 weeks by the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator or Head of School with the appropriate documentation provided,
 - 2.4 may be extended beyond 4 weeks with written approval by, and an interview with, the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator or Head of School.

3. Student coursework assignments submitted by the due date will be returned with feedback within four weeks of the due date. Students who do not submit within this timeframe may be subject to delays in their assignment being returned and may not receive comprehensive feedback.
4. Assignments which remain outstanding for up to two weeks without due cause beyond the due date will be marked, but cannot attract a grade higher than a 'C' (pass) grade.
5. Assignments that remain outstanding beyond two weeks from the due date without due cause will attract an 'E' (fail) grade. These assignments will not be marked and will not be able to be resubmitted for grading.
6. In exceptional circumstances withdrawal from assessment is a mechanism that may be recommended by the Course Co-ordinator to the Head of School when all avenues for extension have been exhausted and the Course Co-ordinator is satisfied that the student will be able to complete the required work in the negotiated timeframe. This timeframe will normally be to the end of the following trimester and will not extend beyond three trimesters.

Final assignments will not be accepted by email.

Students must submit and pass all pieces of assessment to satisfactorily complete the course.

ASSIGNMENT WRITING: GUIDELINES FOR FORMAT AND PRESENTATION

The Graduate School recommends the use of APA referencing for all assignments and information on APA referencing can be found by searching online:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: 5th ed. (2001).

Students can also request a copy of the Referencing the APA Style A Brief Guide (Brochure) from Student Learning Support Services or view on:

http://www.vuw.ac.nz/st_Services/slss/studyhub/reference/APA.pdf

- Assignments should be concise and relevant; when a word limit applies students should avoid exceeding it. Keep within 10% of the stated limit, e.g. 3000 words means 2750 - 3300. Word count includes references
- Font size 12, Times New Roman or Arial only
- Double or 1.5 line spacing. Justify all text
- 4.5-5 cm margin on the left side for marker's comments.
- Assignments must be typed and printed clearly on one side of A4 size white paper only, with all pages fastened together by staple or secure clip.
- All pages should have a footer which includes the following:
 - Course number, assignment number and student ID number (left aligned), e.g. *NURS 512, Assignment 2, 300011122*
 - Page number (right aligned)
- Include a title page and always attach an assignment cover sheet on top. The cover sheets are included with the Course Outline.
- Appendices: These are additional materials related to the text but not suitable for inclusion because of its length or format (e.g. policy documents, etc). These are not marked or counted in the word limit, but should be clearly referred to as appropriate within the main text (e.g. see Appendix A).
- Do not use plastic sheets, clear files or folders to put the assignment in (except for your portfolio), as these make it difficult for markers to handle.
- Ensure you keep a copy of your assignment until it is returned from being marked.

CONFERENCE & SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Students of the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health are encouraged to present their work at professional conferences and as papers for publication. Students should discuss this with the course co-ordinator in the first instance. Dissemination of findings from academic work is a very important part of graduate education and assists clinical teams and professional groups to access up-to-date and new knowledge. Course co-ordinators will provide academic guidance in relation to the targeted activities, and also in relation to the proper academic processes of authorship and acknowledgement.

For all conference, professional and workplace presentations our VUW Power Point template should be used. You are also required to use this template for all school presentations as part of your assignment requirements. This template is available and can be accessed by those students using Blackboard or you can email: abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz for a copy of the template to be sent to you.

As a general rule, presentations and papers should cite yourselves as post-graduate students, and name the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health as the organisation. In keeping with academic conventions course co-ordinators and teaching associates who help with the ideas and preparation of the paper/presentation should be directly acknowledged or named as co-authors.

REPORTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

At the end of each year the Graduate School reports to the University details of student special achievements (such as awards, grants, presentations, and publications).

You are required to complete and submit this form Record of Special Achievements related to Study at Victoria (attached to back of outline) with your final assignment for this course.

If you would prefer to complete and submit this form electronically, a copy of the form can be located on Blackboard, our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/nsemid/research/student-achievements.aspx> or you could contact Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz to request a copy.

Assignment Number One

Assignment Name: **Conceptualising the Aesthetic of your Practice**

Due Date: Part A due 31 March 2008

Parts B & C in 2nd School, 25 or 26 August 2008

(Part A is not Graded; Parts B & C are graded)

This assignment is worth 40% of your final grade

An understanding of the “art” or “aesthetic” nature of practice is something that most practitioners develop with experience. Developing an ability to represent that understanding and communicate it to others is much more difficult. This assignment challenges and supports you to express the art or aesthetic of your nursing. In this way it relates to nursing ontology (way of being) as it is expressed in practice.

This assignment asks you to think about the essence of your practice and to express this in an aesthetic form. Most students find it useful to begin this process by thinking about the things that make them unique as a nurse. This will probably be a blend of things that make you distinctive as an individual person and as a nurse in a particular clinical or professional area. What has made you the nurse that you are? What sustains you as a nurse? What is your philosophy of nursing? How do you express this philosophy in practice? As an experienced nurse, what is the special skilfulness you have that makes you distinctive? These questions might help you recognise what makes you unique as a nurse, and therefore what the distinctive aesthetic of your nursing practice might be. Once you have decided what this is, think of a metaphor that captures it. This metaphor might then suggest possible ways to present the aesthetic of your practice to your peers in class during the second School. In the first School we will discuss the possibilities for this assignment and for your presentation.

This assignment has three parts. The first part is a brief written statement about the aesthetic of your practice and how you might present it in an aesthetic form. This is not graded – it is designed as an opportunity for you to get feedback on your ideas as early as possible. The second part is your actual class presentation, and the third is a written paper accompanying your presentation.

Part A

Considering the aesthetic of your practice.

Type: Working paper

Length: 200-300 words

Due date: 31 March 2008

In the early part of the course you will need to think about the aesthetic of your nursing practice. Shortly after the first School, decide what form your aesthetic presentation might take. Part A of this assignment asks you to submit a working paper which outlines the key ideas, images and metaphors you have been considering for representing the aesthetic of your practice. This written

paper is not graded. It is to enable you to receive feedback from an academic staff member as early as possible in developing your ideas.

Part B

Aesthetic Presentation

Type: Presentation

Due date: 25 or 26 August 2008, in class

You are asked to create an aesthetic presentation in whatever form you feel appropriate (with regard to the feedback from Part A) that is representative of the “art form” and essence of your nursing practice. The presentation will be made before an academic staff member and a group of peers (other students in the course) during the second School. Feedback from your peers is an integral part of the assignment process. We expect feedback to be thoughtful, gentle and helpful.

Part C

Conceptualising the Aesthetic of your Practice

Type: Written Paper

Length: 1500 – 2000 words

Date Due: 25 or 26 August 2008

Write a paper that explains the link between the aesthetic of your practice and its representation in Part B of this assignment. Your paper could include aspects of your personal nursing philosophy and should show linkages to relevant literature. This paper must be handed in at the same time as your presentation in class.

We recognise that this can be a challenging assignment, as it asks you to think about your practice in a different way. Students from previous classes have made these comments about this assignment and the presentation process:

Awesome experience.

An incredible journey of self discovery.

Very stimulating, insightful, impressive and honouring of nursing.

How diverse, creative and inspiring nurses are. This has been an enormously rewarding School.

It challenged me, but I felt great benefit from it. I was made to think about my beliefs and art as I had never before and I really valued that.

Assignment Number Two

Assignment Name: **Scholarly Paper**
Due Date: Part A due 31 March 2008
Part B due 15 September 2008
(Only Part B will be graded)

This assignment is worth 60% of your final grade

For this assignment you are required to write a scholarly paper that makes a contribution to the discipline of nursing. This assignment therefore relates to nursing epistemology (way of organising or thinking about knowledge). Throughout the course you will be extending your understanding of nursing knowledge by exploring a clinical or professional topic of interest to you. Shortly after the first School you need to confirm what this topic will be and how you are going to explore it. You will write a scholarly paper based on your inquiry. This paper should make a contribution to the discipline of nursing by the way it offers a scholarly consideration of the clinical or professional interest you have chosen.

Part A

Ideas in Progress

Type: Working paper
Length: Up to 500 words
Date Due: 31 March 2008

You are asked to submit a working paper which addresses the ideas you have for your inquiry. Identify the basis of your interest, the question you will address in your inquiry, your strategy for accessing, selecting and critiquing the literature and your ideas for crafting the essay at the end of your inquiry. Part A is ungraded and enables an academic staff member to give you feedback as early as possible in your scholarly inquiry.

Part B

An Academic Paper

Type: Scholarly Paper
Length: 3000-4000 words
Date Due: 15 September 2008

Write a paper that makes a contribution to nursing knowledge by the way it offers a scholarly consideration of a specific clinical or professional question. The paper may combine your own observations from practice with your selected literature. The paper should reflect your in-depth exploration of the topic as demonstrated by well-crafted conceptual linkages, sound critique and synthesis of the literature, and the careful exploration of key ideas, concepts and themes.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY & HEALTH
Record of Special Achievements related to Study at Victoria

At the end of each year the Graduate School reports to the University details of student special achievements (such as awards, grants, presentations, and publications). Please complete this form and **submit with your final assignment for the course**. If you would prefer to complete and submit this form electronically, a copy of the form can be located on Blackboard, our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/nsemid/research/student-achievements.aspx> or you could contact Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz to request a copy.

Student Name: _____

Course Code: _____

Industry sponsorship

Name of Sponsor	Notes in relation to the conditions of sponsorship	Value	Year
eg, C&C DHB	50% Student fees paid on successful completion of the course of study	\$	2008

Special awards, Prizes & Scholarships

Name of Award/ Prize/ Scholarship	Source/Provider	Notes in relation to the prize/award/scholarship	Value/ Form	Year
eg 'Best clinical innovation'	Mental Health College of Nurses	A project that I developed while doing my practicum course resulted in our clinical team changing the way in which we met with and involved families in patient care	\$500 Award Certificate	2008

Professional presentations / Seminars /Conferences

If you gave any professional presentations, seminars or conference papers during the year please provide the details below use APA style for referencing these

Example: Student, A. (2008). New models of nursing documentation and their relevance to orthopaedic practice. Paper presented at the Orthopaedic Nurses study day 'Stepping towards the future' held in Wellington, 14 August 2008.

Publications (Book reviews, editorials, journal articles, chapters, monographs, books etc)

Example: Student, A & Teacher, B. (2008). Mental Health Consumers speak about their Health Education Needs. *Contemporary Nurse*, 5(4), 114-126.

Other Special Achievements

If you have had any other special achievements during the year please provide the details.

Attach and submit with your final assignment thank you