



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND HEALTH

HLTH 501: PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH

30 POINTS
TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24 to 30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Last assessment item due: 12 June 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

SECTION 1: OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Class times and locations

1st School

Dates: Monday 14 – Wednesday 16 March 2016
Times: 09.00 – 17.00 daily
Venue: CS801, Level 8, Clinical Services Building (CSB), Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown, Wellington

2nd School

Dates: Wednesday 18 – Friday 20 May 2016
Times: 09.00 – 17.00 daily
Venue: **Weds & Fri:** CS801 Seminar Room, Level 8, Clinical Services Building (CSB), Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown, Wellington

Please note the different venue for Thursday 19 May 2016 (due to Graduation):

Venue: **Thurs:** Easthope Seminar Room, Level 12, Ward Support Building (WSB), Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown Wellington

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.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator

Professor Annemarie Jutel
Ph: 04 463 6140
Email: annemarie.jutel@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: by appointment

Postgraduate Student Administrator

Caleb Aveling
Ph: 04 463 6647
Email: caleb.aveling@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday – Friday 09.00 – 17.00

Office Hours

The Graduate School office will be open 09.00 – 17.00 weekdays from Tuesday 5 January 2016 and close on Thursday 22 December 2016.

Postal Address

Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health
Victoria University of Wellington

P O Box 7625
Newtown
Wellington 6242

Physical Address

Level 7 & 8, Clinical Services Block (CSB)
Wellington Regional Hospital
Riddiford St, Newtown
Wellington 6021

Communication of additional information

All course information and information on changes that occur during the course will be conveyed to students via Blackboard or student VUW email.

SECTION 2: COURSE INFORMATION

Prescription

Focuses on the research process, concepts and designs. The implementation and critique of research in practice underpins this course.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Locate published research relevant and useful to practice
2. Critically analyse research publications
3. Appraise the potential contribution of research to specific practice decisions

Teaching format

There will be 6 School days held in Wellington which will be delivered in two blocks of 3 days each over the trimester. The days will be a mix of lectures and small group activities. A distance component supported by Blackboard forms part of the course and supports student achieving their learning objectives. Online discussion groups are available to give students ways of continuing discussion about course material outside of the class room. Time is set aside at each school for additional review of topics covered in the course at the request of students.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of at least 50%, students must:

- attend all Schools unless alternative arrangements have been made with the course coordinator for exceptional circumstances.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

In addition to the time that you will physically spend at Victoria, you will need to plan for self-directed learning. As each one of you comes from a very different background, and has different educational experiences, it is impossible to tell you exactly how much time you will need. One student with good research and writing skills may whizz through, while another student who is returning to study after a long break may take more time to do the same amount of work. We recommend, however, that you make sure to arrange at least 300 hours in order to complete this course. That would be a good average. The official word on this follows:

As a guide each 30-point course at the Graduate School requires students to allocate approximately 10 hours per point for self-directed study, research, assessments and attendance at Schools. Consequently 300 hours should be spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and mid-trimester break.

This course comprises approximately 46 hours of course contact time for lectures, group work and on-campus activities. The amount of time you should notionally assign to the completion for each of the assignments is as follows:

1. Assignment Number One: Search Strategy and Design Appraisal (40%): 102 hours
2. Assignment Number Two: Article Appraisal (60%): 152 hours

SECTION 3: ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Search Strategy and Design Appraisal (2500 words)	40%	1, 2, 3	10 April 2016
2	Article Appraisal (3500 words)	60%	1, 2, 3	12 June 2016

Approval is required in writing from the course coordinator if you wish to use work you have submitted from a previous course or have written for your organisation.

Marking criteria for each assessment will be posted on Blackboard.

Assignment Number One

Assignment: **Search strategy and design appraisal**

Due Date: 10 April 2016

Word Limit: 2500 words

Part 1: 500 words + table/diagram

Part 2: 2000 words

This assignment is worth 40% of your final grade

Part 1. Maximum 500 words + table or diagram. 10% of your final grade.

Using a health or practice issue of your choice, develop a search strategy to obtain information that will either help you understand the issue or answer a particular question about it. Provide a brief description of the issue, and the steps you followed to undertake your search, identifying the concepts and synonyms used, the databases accessed, and what Boolean operators you used to combine your search terms. Provide a description of your initial findings and how useful they will be to answering your question.

Use a diagram or a table to describe the concepts incorporated in your search and your use of Boolean operators.

Part 2. Maximum 2000 words. 30% of your final grade.

From the articles thus obtained, look over the abstracts and select three articles which use different research designs to investigate your topic. Describe how each study used the research designs, paying particular attention to describing the design, its underpinning assumptions, its sample and recruitment, the type of data collected, the method of analysis, and ethical considerations of this particular design. -Explain why and how each design was individually suitable for investigating your topic. Your description should demonstrate an understanding of how the different study designs approach topics differently, and reveal diverse aspects of the subject. It should also describe how methods and analysis vary between designs.

You should include at least one quantitative and one qualitative design. If you did not find studies from both of these paradigms, you will need to describe a hypothetical study using a design from the missing paradigm and explain how it would provide a different perspective on the subject.

Please submit this assignment as one MSWord file via Blackboard.

Assignment Number Two

Assignment: **Article appraisal**

Due Date: 12 June 2016

Word Limit: 3500 words

This assignment is worth 60% of your final grade

You will be provided with three research articles addressing a specific health subject. Critically appraise the articles. Indicate what critical appraisal tool you have used to guide you in your appraisal, and why you have chosen it. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each study, their relevance to your area of practice in specific, or to your profession in general, and explain how they advance your thinking on your practice.

Please submit this assignment as one Microsoft Word file via Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

For submission details, please see individual assessment items. Student coursework assignments submitted by the due date will normally be returned with feedback within three weeks of the due date.

Extensions

If something unexpected prevents, or looks like it is going to prevent, you from getting your assignment in on time, you must contact the coordinator immediately (email or phone) to see if an extension is possible. These are granted when there are extenuating circumstances. You will need then to request this extension in writing/email as soon as possible before the due date. When writing, please include the following information:

- name, student number and contact details
- course code
- date of submission and request date for new submission
- reason for extension request
- proof of circumstances if requested

Upon receipt of your request, course coordinators may grant an extension of up to 2 weeks. Any further request for an extension may require Head of School approval.

Penalties

If you do not have an extension and you turn in an assignment after the deadline, the coordinator will impose a progressive penalty (ex: 1 week late = 2 grade penalty; 2 weeks late = 4 grade penalty).

But, if anything at all is interfering with your study, you are encouraged to give the coordinator a call and talk about it.

SECTION 4: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Set texts

Please obtain the recommended text book before class and start looking through it. The book is: Liamputtong, P. (ed.) (2013) *Research methods in health: Foundations for evidence-based practice, 2nd ed.* Oxford University Press: Melbourne.

You may obtain this text book at Vic Books: www.vicbooks.co.nz.

Other readings will be made available on Blackboard over the course of the trimester. If you have never used Blackboard before, don't worry: this will be covered when you arrive on campus.

Ethical conduct

Students are expected to adhere to ethical principles in all aspects of their coursework. This applies to academic integrity and also to the way information about, or from, individuals in the practice setting is managed. Good ethical practice must be maintained in all learning activities. The Human Ethics Committee at Victoria University of Wellington has granted approval for the incorporation of data or observations from patient/client/individuals into coursework from the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, and expects adherence to the instructions below.

Students are expected to adhere to their professional codes of conduct and standards, relevant legislative frameworks and contractual obligations to any employing organisation at all times. In addition, all students in classes where assignments might include observations, reports, images, photographs or descriptions of individuals (patients or colleagues) with whom they have worked in a clinical or practice setting as part of an assignment, must:

1. Read and sign the "Information for using individual data in an assignment: Student agreement statement"
2. Determine whether verbal or written informed consent is required, according to the guidelines provided in the student agreement statement and in consultation with their course coordinator if they are unsure;
3. Provide the patient/client/individual, or the parent/guardian of the child, whose data they intend to use with full information about how they intend to obtain and use the data;
4. Provide written information and obtain written informed consent if required.

Should students have any concerns about ethical aspects of their course requirements they should discuss them with the course coordinator.

Your Course Coordinator will discuss the ethical implications and special requirements (if any) for this particular course.

Student feedback

There have been no requests from previous students for significant change to the course, however, I will give you an opportunity to provide daily written feedback so that that I can make adjustments to suit your needs as we go along.

I will also request formal feedback at the end of the trimester. You can see previous student feedback on University courses at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Blackboard Information

Students enrolling for this course will need access to the Victoria flexible learning system (Blackboard) via the Internet.

Blackboard is an online environment that supports teaching and learning at Victoria by making course information, materials and learning activities available online via the internet. Blackboard provides web-based access to course content, assessment, communication and collaboration tools. Instructions for using this will be provided as part of timetable during the 1st School. Students will need to be able to access the Internet on a regular basis.

How to log onto Blackboard

- Open a web browser and go to myVictoria.ac.nz
- Enter your account username which you can find in your *Confirmation of Study* sheet
- It is usually made up of 6 letters of your last name and 4 letters of your first name
- Enter your password. If you have never used Victoria computer facilities your initial password is your student ID number
- Click on the Blackboard icon
- Alternatively, if you want to access Blackboard without going through the myVictoria portal, just log on at <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>

Off Campus access

Blackboard is available from any location where you can access the Internet. This may be your home, work or an Internet café.

Problems with access? Contact ITS service desk **04 463 5050**