

## **Nursing/Interdisciplinary**

### **Where's the Evidence? Using Research to Examine End-of-Life Care on Both Sides of the Pond ~ Sherill Cronin**

*Nursing: UD (Upper Division 300-500)/G (Graduate 500 and above);*

*Interdisciplinary: UD only*

*3 credit hours*

This course will introduce students to the process of evidence-based practice (EBP), then apply this approach in the identification of best practices in end-of-life care. Critical analysis of health care research studies will be emphasized, along with the analysis of issues related to achieving quality end-of-life care across all clinical settings. Course objectives will include: ? Discuss the current emphasis on evidence-based practice in healthcare in the US and Great Britain. ? Describe the process of evidence-based practice ? Following a visit to the Cochrane Collaboration, conduct a search of appropriate databases to identify relevant evidence regarding an aspect of end-of-life care. ? Analyze strengths, weaknesses, and potential applicability of available evidence to end-of-life care ? Synthesize available evidence to determine the current state of knowledge regarding one of the following issues in end-of-life care: o Pain and symptom management interventions o Effective communication with patients and families at end of life o Grief assessment and interventions ? Examine cultural considerations in end-of-life care; specifically, compare and contrast approaches used in Great Britain and the US. Topics to be covered include: ? History and background for evidence-based practice in healthcare ? The evolution of healthcare provided at the end of life ? Overview of the evidence-based practice process ? Fundamentals of research design and methods ? Formulation of searchable clinical questions using the PICO (Population-Intervention-Comparison-Outcome) method ? Evaluating research evidence ? Synthesizing evidence to develop best practices ? Spiritual and ethical issues in end-of-life care Possible Textbooks: ? Brown (2014). Evidence-based nursing: The research-practice connection. Jones & Bartlett. ? Melnyk & Fineout-Overholt (2011). Evidence-based practice in nursing and healthcare: A guide to best practice. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. ? Schmidt & Brown (2011). Evidence-based practice for nurses: Appraisal and application of research. Jones & Bartlett.

Can the course be taken to fulfill major and minor requirements? YES

Can the course be taken to fulfill general elective credits? YES

Are there prerequisites for this course?

Undergraduate level statistics

#### Assessment Methods:

- Participation 10%
- Evidence appraisal paper 15%
- Debate on issues related to end-of-life care, from US and British perspectives 15%
- Book Club discussion of popular US/British literature on end of life 15%

- Final Evidence synthesis paper on an aspect of end-of-life care 45%

Three of the assignments will not vary by credit level. These include class participation, the issues debate, and the Book Club discussion.

The evidence appraisal guide used for the appraisal assignment will differ by credit level. Graduate students will be asked to use a guide that requires a higher level of critique skills than that used by undergraduate students.

The scope and depth of the synthesis paper will also vary by credit level. Undergraduate students will be required to include two research articles in the synthesis paper, with a 3-4 page expectation. Graduate students will include a minimum of four studies in the synthesis, with a 8-10 page expectation.