

NS3110 (A3/B3): Evidence Informed Nursing Practice

3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours/15 Weeks

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2026

DEPARTMENT of NURSING EDUCATION & HEALTH STUDIES

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land, and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Teresa Evans, RN, PhD, CCNE	PHONE:	(780) 539-2805
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OFFICE HOURS:	Email for Appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

The course provides a hands-on approach to evidence-informed nursing practice. This includes formulating clinical questions, systematic searching of electronic databases, reading, interpreting and critically appraising health research. Emphasis is on developing thinking and information literacy skills necessary to be an astute research consumer and using evidence to inform clinical decision making.

Note: Available only to nursing students in the University of Alberta Collaborative Nursing Program.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: NS 2115 or Statistics

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

1. Jolley, J. (2020). *Introducing research and evidence- based practice for nursing and healthcare professionals*. Routledge.
<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=45d2d73f-6113-3a8e-bf09-3df7375909b1>
2. Required readings will be posted on My Class

**SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES:**

1. Refer to MyClass for additional materials
2. Students will need to bring a laptop, writing utensils, and paper to every class.

COURSE MATERIAL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Students are expected to access and become familiar with their MyClass site at the beginning of each course and to access their myClass site on a regular basis throughout the course. Failure to do so may result in students missing important course-related information, resources, instructor feedback, and announcements. Course announcements will be made on myClass.

DELIVERY MODE(S): All components of this course are delivered in person at the GPRH HEC campus. Lecture will be in the classroom as indicated on the student schedule/section.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Describe the nature and sources of knowledge that inform nursing practice.
2. Demonstrate understanding of research ethics and the nurse's role in relation to research ethics.
3. Demonstrate information literacy skills (for example, formulation of searchable clinical questions and conducting searches of relevant databases).
4. Demonstrate understanding of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research design.
5. Critically appraise primary research and research syntheses.
6. Explain how evidence is used to inform clinical decision-making.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

The final grade is based on the following assessments; there are no additional assignments or marks provided in the course.

All Assignments, examinations, and quizzes weighted 10% or greater must be completed to obtain credit in the course and be permitted to write the final examination. Students are expected to make every effort to complete assignments on time. Assignment submissions are expected on the date determined by faculty. If extensions are necessary, they may be requested up to 48 hours prior to the assignment due date and should be submitted in writing to the faculty member involved. Not all extensions will be granted. In exceptional situations, extension requests within the 48-hour period may be considered. Late assignments will have 5% of total marks (or one letter grade) for the assignment deducted for each day/partial day (including weekend days) beyond the due time. For example, a paper marked at B+ would receive an adjusted grade of B if handed in one day late. After 5 days, a grade of 0 will be awarded to the assignment. If the late penalty places the grade below the necessary pass grade, students will be unsuccessful in the course. When submitting assignments electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure the assignment has been received. Papers/assignments may not be rewritten for a higher grade. Concerns regarding grading are to be discussed with the faculty member involved.

As part of NWP's commitment to academic integrity, all written assignments submitted by students will be reviewed using Turnitin software, an online plagiarism detection tool, to verify originality and ensure academic integrity. Turnitin compares student work to a vast database of academic sources, publications, and previously submitted assignments to identify potential instances of plagiarism or improper citation(s). By enrolling in this course, students acknowledge and consent to the use of Turnitin for assignment submissions.

All in class activities require students to be in attendance. If a student is not in attendance without a reasonable and previously notified reason, they will receive a zero on that assignment.

EVALUATIONS

Evaluation	Related Course Objective(s)	Weight	Due Date
1. In-Class Learning Activity: Exploring Best Practice Guidelines	1, 5, & 6	5%	In Class January 26 th or 28 th
2. Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2) Course on Research Ethics Completion Certificate Due	1	5%	February 1 st at 11:59 p.m.
3. Midterm Exam	1,2,3,4,5, 6	20%	Week of February 23-25 in class
4. In-Class Group Research Critiques	1, 2, 4, 5	10%	March 24-28 th in class
5. Evidence-Informed Poster Presentation	1, 3, 5, 6	30%	March 23 or 25 th in class
6. In-Class Group Review Activity	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	5%	April 6-8 in class
7. Final Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	25%	Final Exam Week
Total		100%	

EVALUATION DESCRIPTIONS

1. In-Class Learning Activity: Exploring Best Practice Guidelines

Students will participate in an in-class, guided learning activity focused on understanding best practice guidelines used in nursing practice. Working in small groups with printed Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) Best Practice Guidelines, students will explore the structure, purpose, and key components of a guideline, including recommendations and the forms of evidence used to support them.

Through guided questions and group discussion, students will identify how research, clinical expertise, and patient perspectives are integrated into guidelines and will begin to develop foundational skills in judging the quality and applicability of evidence for nursing practice.

2. Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2) Course on Research Ethics Completion Certificate Due

Students will complete a 4-hour online Course on Research Ethics and submit the completion certificate as proof of completion. To obtain a CORE-2022 Certificate of Completion, students will need to correctly respond to 20 questions (80%). Those who do not correctly respond to at least 20 questions will not obtain a Certificate of Completion. However, they will have the opportunity to retake the knowledge consolidation exercise.

Students can complete this course anytime prior to the completion date. Students will need to create a CORE account that is free of charge. Go to: <https://tcps2core.ca/welcome>

When creating an account, the user type will be “Researcher: Undergraduate Student” and use Grande Prairie Regional College or Northwestern Polytechnic as the affiliation.

3. Midterm and Final Exams

Content covered in both exams is cumulative and includes all preparatory work and in-class activities. Exams will be in-person and closed-book.

Final exam will occur during exam week at the end of the course. Please refer to the final exam policy located on the NWP website for further information.

4. In-Class Group Research Critiques

To apply what has been learned in previous classes related to the different types of research, students will be assigned 2 articles and in assigned groups of 2-3 critique the components of the study. Questions to answer for the critique will be provided. Students will utilize their readings and online resources. Aspects of the critique will focus on methodology, sample, setting, data collection procedures, analysis, findings, rigor, and discussion.

5. Evidence-Informed Group Poster Project

Following the assignment guidelines on MyClass, groups will develop a PICO question, find and critique the evidence that supports their PICO question, and present this in the form of a poster to their fellow classmates. Grades for group participation and peer feedback on the poster will also be determined in the final project grade. Groups will complete and hand in worksheets to assist with the creation of the project throughout the semester.

Students will be required to print their poster to present to their fellow classmates. Kat Ormay is available in the library to provide assistance on the poster project.

For NWP support on creating the poster go to: <https://libguides.nwpolytech.ca/posters/home>

Students are not permitted to use AI to complete any part of this activity except to brainstorm the PICO question. If the students used AI, they will need to include this information as an appendix including what search questions were used as well as the results.

6. In Class Group Review Activity

In assigned groups, students will be responsible for delivering a short review activity highlighting specific content previously discussed in the course. Students will be graded on the content and presentation of the material.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

Assignments are marked as raw scores according to the percentage weight assigned to each. The marks on course assignments will contribute to the overall letter grade according to the percentage that each assignment is weighted in the course.

At the end of the course, all assignment scores are totaled for a term summary mark in the course based on the grading scale above. The Final course grade is based on the cumulative total of student's weighted assignment marks. Final course grade must be a C- to pass the course.

SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS AND DUTY TO ACCOMMODATE

Specialized Support and Duty to Accommodate are aligned with the office of Disability Support Services: Learner Assistance Program (LAP) guided by federal and provincial human rights legislation and defined by a number of NWP Policies. NWP is obligated by legislation to provide disability-related accommodations to students with identified disabilities to the point of undue hardship.

If you have a documented disability or you think that you would benefit from some assistance from a disability's counselor, please call or visit the Disability Supports Office (780) 539-2722 to book an appointment. Services and accommodations are intended to assist you in your program of study, while maintaining the academic standards of NWP. We can be of assistance to you in disclosing your disability to your instructor, providing accommodations, and supporting your overall success at Northwestern Polytechnic.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES:

Students are to refer to the 2025-2026 Northwestern Polytechnic Academic Calendar regarding important dates. <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/leadership/registrar/important-dates>

NURSING PROGRAM POLICIES:

Students are to refer to the 2025-2026 Northwestern Polytechnic Academic Calendar at and the University of Alberta Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program with Northwestern Polytechnic Student Handbook for specific nursing program policies that may pertain to the course.

Academic Calendar – Program Requirements: <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/admission/getting-started/academic-calendar#/programs/HJSes6Ahs?>

Nursing Handbook:

<https://www.nwpolytech.ca/departments/nursing>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a student at NWP, you have rights and responsibilities. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the information contained in this Course Outline and the BScN student handbook and to clarify any areas of concern with the instructor. It is also your responsibility to be familiar with NWP Policies specifically the NWP Student Rights and Responsibilities.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the policy available at

<https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=69>

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Dates	Topic
1	January 5-7	No Classes –Review Course Outline & Assigned Readings for Week 2
2	January 12-14	Orientation to the Course Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing
3	January 19-21	Asking the Clinical Question Finding and Reviewing the Literature Forms of Evidence
4	January 26-28	Systematic Reviews & Clinical Practice Guidelines In Class Activity – Unpacking a Clinical or Best Practice Guideline Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2) Course on Research Ethics Completion Certificate Due
5	February 2-5	Research Ethics
6	February 9-11	Research Designs (Qualitative/Quantitative/Mixed Methods)
7	February 16-18	Winter Break
8	February 23-25	Midterm Exam
9	March 2-4	Sampling & Data Collection for Qualitative & Quantitative/Rigour
10	March 9-11	Analyzing Data & Determining Significance to Practice
11	March 16-18	Critiquing Research – In Class Activity
12	March 23-25	In class poster presentations
13	March 30-April 1	Using Evidence to Support Practice Dissemination of Findings
14	April 6-8	In-Class Review Activity
15	April 16-23	Final Exam Week