The purpose of this course is to introduce you to a wide variety of research methods. You will learn about the strengths and limitations of various methods, how to conduct research and how to evaluate existing research. As a student, you have already been exposed to a significant amount of research. Your acquired knowledge rests upon extensive research in various disciplines. This research based knowledge also affects many work places, for example, practicing nurses continue to learn the results of research through on-going nursing education provided by their employer or acquired through their own reading. Thus, learning about research methods prepares nurses to critically appraise research relevant to their work. You will learn to evaluate, respect and conduct research.

**Required Readings:**

Nursing Research in Canada: Methods and Critical Appraisal for Evidence-Based Practice. By Geri Logiondo-Wood and Judith Haber with optional study guide.

Additional Readings on RESERVE and available electronically through St. FX Library (on St.FX home page) also readings in appendix of Nursing Research in Canada.

**Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment Paper (DUE: March 10, 2010)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (Summaries, in class discussion &amp; assignments, Attendance*)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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**Participation:** You will be required to attend classes regularly. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to consult a classmate to find out what you missed. You will also be required to do class participation assignments (graded +/-), and to submit summaries of the assigned RESERVE and electronic readings – due dates will be announced in class.

**Note Taking:** To do well in this course you will need to take class notes in addition to knowing the material from the assigned chapters and readings. While most of the material discussed in class will come from the assigned readings, I will also supplement my lectures with other relevant material that may not be available in your text or readings.

**Email Policy:** Use only in urgent situations. Please use office hours, or wait until after classes, for questions or concerns that need to be addressed outside the classroom.

*Occasionally, I must miss office hours for departmental & committee meetings. If this occurs, I will make every effort to inform you in advance.*
**First Term: September 21-December 2**  *topics may not be covered on the exact dates outlined in the syllabus however the topics covered will be sequential in the order they are presented on the syllabus.*

Week I: Sept 21-23  
Introduction to course  
Chapter 1: The role of research in nursing

Week II & III: Sept 28 – Oct 7  
Chapter 2: Theoretical Framework  
Chapter 3: Critical Research Strategies

Week IV & V: (No class – Oct 12) Oct -19  
Chapter 4: Developing research questions

Week V: Oct 21  
Chapter 5: Literature Review

Week VI & VII: Oct 26-Nov 4  
Chapter 6: Legal and Ethical Issues  
- Tri-Council policy [Internet]  
- Student form Sociology Webpage  
- Film: The Pill

**Bias in Research**  
- *Uncovering Racial Bias in nursing fundamentals textbooks* by Michelle M. Byrne in Nursing and healthcare perspectives; Nov/Dec 2001;22,6; ProQuest nursing journals.

Week VIII – X Nov 9 – Nov 30  
Chapter 7: Introduction to Qualitative Research  
Chapter 8: Qualitative approaches to Research  
Chapter 15: Qualitative data analysis  
- *A different place to birth: A Material Rhetoric Analysis of Baby Haven, a free standing birth center* by Mary Lay Schuster in Women’s Studies in communication  
- *Waiting: the experience of persons in a critical care waiting room* by Debra A. Bournes & Gail J. Mitchell in Research in Nursing & Health, 2002  
- Film: “What does it mean to be white?” (Discourse example)

Week XI: Dec 2 Chapter 18 & 19 overview

**Second Term – Jan 4- Apr 7**

Week XII: Jan 4-6  
Chapter 9: Introduction to Quantitative research

Week XIII: Jan 11-13  
Chapter 10: Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs

Week XIV: Jan 18-20
Chapter 11: Non-experimental Designs

Week XV: Jan 25-27
Chapter 12: Sampling

Week XVI: Feb 1-3
Chapter 13: Data Collection Methods

Week XVII: Feb 8-10
Chapter 14: Rigour in Research

Week XVIII-XXI: Feb 15 - Mar 17
Chapter 16: Quantitative data analysis

Week XXII: Mar 22-24
Chapter 17: Presenting the findings

Week XXIII-XXIV: Mar 29-Apr 7
Chapter 20: Use of Research in Practice