

**UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
MASTER OF NURSING PROGRAM
NURSING 5850 – Special Topics
COURSE OUTLINE – Summer 2017**

Instructor:	Dr. Monique Sedgwick, RN
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Preferred Contact Method:	Please contact the instructor by email. Every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours excluding weekends and/or holidays. Please ask questions about assignments in the designated Moodle discussion forum.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is intended to support students in their thesis proposal development and to facilitate the transition from course work to a masters-level research study. Students will engage in student-led dialogue with their colleagues, supervisor, and course instructor with the intent of refining and solidifying the components of their proposal. Key issues that will be discussed using a blended learning format include thesis format standards, psychological and time management demands, project management, and knowledge to action strategies. Students will participate in a thesis colloquium as well as complete and submit a human subject research ethics application.

GRADE DETERMINATION:

This is a pass/fail course.

Signing the 'Thesis Proposal Colloquium Approval' form by the students' supervisory committee will constitute a passing grade for this portion of the course.

Submission of an ethics application will constitute a passing grade for this portion of the course. Although receiving ethics approval may not be possible during the course, students cannot begin recruitment of participants, obtaining consent or data generation/collection until they are notified that their research project has been approved. Students seeking approval from the University of Lethbridge Human Subject Research Committee will receive an approval certificate.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

1. Integrate feedback from course instructor(s), colleagues, reviewers, and supervisory committee members in order to refine the thesis proposal and set the stage for starting the research process.
2. Demonstrate professional leadership by engaging in an oral presentation of the proposed research project.
3. Uphold ethical standards related to conducting research by submitting an ethics application to a relevant ethics review committee(s).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

No textbook is required.

TOPICAL OUTLINE & COURSE FORMAT:

Class Schedule	Topic	Format
May 8-12	Orientation (review of feedback on the research proposal completed as part of the research course from course instructor & thesis supervisor; colloquium expectations)	Face-to-face (May 8 at 0830-1200 in M3023)
May 15-19	Review of proposal revisions; revised proposal sent to thesis supervisor for dissemination to supervisory committee	Online
May 23-26	Preparation for the colloquium (submit your PowerPoint presentation for feedback from colleagues & instructor); begin ethics application	Skype
May 29- June 2	Ethics application preparation	Online
June 7	Colloquium Ethics submission (will require consultation with thesis supervisor)	Face-to-face (June 7 at 0900-1400 in M3088) On-line
June 12-16	Thesis format standards; Project management (discussion of research activities; strategies for making progress; setting milestones; identifying resources to access to support your success)	On-line
June 19	Ethics application revisions (if applicable); KTA; Grants	On-line

COURSE MILESTONES:

- 1). Colloquium: In order to move forward with their thesis work, students will have to successfully complete the colloquium.
- 2). Ethics application at the University of Lethbridge: Prior to starting the research process, students must receive ethics approval from the University of Lethbridge. Students may also have to apply for ethics approval from other relevant jurisdictions (for example if accessing patients, patient records, or staff employed by AHS, an ethics application must be completed the University of Alberta REMO system). This component will be discussed with the course instructor and supervisor.

DESCRITONS OF KEY COURSE ACTIVITIES:

Colloquium

The purpose of the colloquium presentation is to provide the student with an opportunity to present his or her Thesis Proposal to the entire Supervisory Committee.

The colloquium is not a defense. Rather, it is intended to be a constructive discussion where the student can receive helpful suggestions and feedback on his or her Thesis Proposal from the Supervisory Committee, prior to seeking research ethics approval and commencing his or her Thesis research.

Colloquium process:

Once the thesis supervisor is satisfied with the student's Thesis Proposal (normally a research proposal is developed in a research course and serves as the initial draft for the thesis proposal), the supervisor will contact and send the student's Thesis Proposal to the supervisory committee. At that time, in consultation with the course instructor, the supervisor will notify the supervisory committee of the date, time, and location for the colloquium (normally during the week of May 29-June 2).

The colloquium is a public event. Consequently, other members of the university community (e.g., other graduate students) may attend if they wish. The course instructor will notify the university community of the date and time for the colloquium.

Generally, a colloquium is scheduled for approximately one hour but may, in some circumstances, last longer (no longer than two hours).

The student presents the proposal in about 15 to 20 minutes (maximum) being certain to include the following information (in a maximum of 10 slides):

- The title of the proposed Thesis research project
- Background to the research problem and rationale for the study
- Brief review of the related research literature
- Philosophical underpinnings (if appropriate)
- The research question
- The methodology
- Ethical considerations
- Dissemination and potential research uptake/knowledge translation opportunities

Following the presentation, the thesis supervisor facilitates a discussion that includes questions and feedback for the student.

At the end of the colloquium, the student should have a clear idea of changes they may need to make to their Thesis Proposal and how to proceed with their Thesis research.

At the end of the colloquium, the Supervisory Committee completes the Post Admission Thesis Proposal form (www.ulethbridge.ca/graduate-studies/forms) which indicates the Supervisory Committee approves of the student's Thesis Proposal and any changes they would like in the Thesis Proposal, if any. The signed form is then forwarded to the Chair of the Master of Nursing Program Committee.

Ethics application

Any study involving human subjects must receive approval from the appropriate research ethics board/committee (www.ulethbridge.ca/research-services/research-ethics/human-subjects). Although most students' Thesis Proposal will require ethical review, consult the Master of Nursing Program Policy & Procedure Manual, the course instructor, thesis supervisor and the Research Office at the University of Lethbridge if it is unclear if the proposed thesis research project requires ethical review.

The second assignment for this course will be to develop a research ethics application, using the Application for Ethical Review of Human Subject Research form (www.ulethbridge.ca/research-services/research-ethics/human-subjects) for the University.

Following successful completion of the Colloquium, in consultation with the course instructor and colleagues, students will complete the ethics application form. They will submit the form to their supervisor for feedback and will meet (in person or by other means) with their supervisor to make any changes to their research ethics application.

Once the supervisor is satisfied with the ethics application, with the assistance of the supervisor, the student will submit the application to the Human Subjects Research Committee and/or appropriate research ethics board/committee.

After the ethics committee has reviewed the application, the student will attend to any required revisions. Once the supervisor has signed off on the revisions, the application will be resubmitted.

POLICIES:

There are policies that guide students and instructors. Students are encouraged to access through Moodle, Master of Nursing Program – Support site for more extensive discussion of various policies as well as the Master of Nursing Handbook.