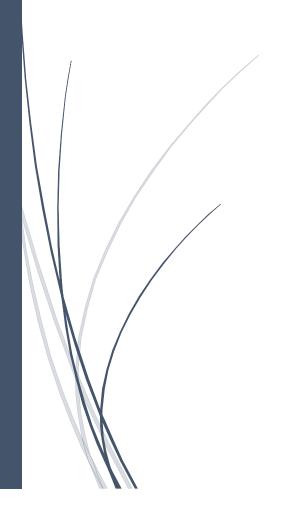# MN8000

Course

Syllabus

Ryerson University
Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing
Master of Nursing

MN8000
THESIS

Faculty: [INSERT NAME OF SUPERVISOR HERE]

Student Consultation Hours: Available by phone or email. Consultation appointments to be determined by supervisor/committee and student.

Course Description:

Students will develop, with guidance from their thesis supervisor and committee members, a methodologically sound study, in the form of a Master of Nursing thesis, which they will defend at a department level oral examination. Throughout the thesis process, students will have the opportunity to continue to develop and incorporate their learning of advanced nursing theory, research, education, leadership and practice into their scholarly work.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to:

1. MEET at least once a semester with the faculty supervisor to review reading material, discuss student insight and critical analysis of the material, and receive guidance throughout the research process

2. SUBMIT drafts of a thesis proposal to the faculty supervisor (including: introduction, literature review, theoretical framework, research design, intended analyses)

3. WORK with supervisor and/or committee members to establish and achieve timelines for completion of thesis

4. ETHICS REVIEW APPLICATION: (if conducting research involving humans) submit an Application for Ethics Approval to both Ryerson University and (if applicable) additional institutional ethics review boards

5. PRESENTATIONS: Students will engage in a final thesis defense

6. THESIS: Submit a final revised draft of the thesis to the supervisor and the graduate program administrator following the oral defense

METHODOLOGY: Self-directed teaching-learning approach with guidance from supervisor/committee.

REQUIRED HOURS: While there is not a fixed number of hours assigned to this course, students' satisfactory standing is assessed based on the progress of their thesis.

Milestones to guide thesis students to complete their thesis in a timely manner include:

End of second term: completed research question and literature review
End of fourth term: research thesis proposal & REB submitted and approved
End of sixth term: completed data collection
End of eighth term: completed data analysis, interpretation and writing; preparation for defense
End of ninth term: successfully defended thesis, preparing for graduation

EVALUATION: Progress reports, MN Thesis Approval Form (on page 8 of the Thesis Guidelines document), final written thesis, oral thesis defense.

Note: All forms are posted on the MN Website: (http://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/nursing/current-students/by-program/mn-thesis-stream.html)

Learning Outcomes:

The course aims to assist students develop the skills needed to design a research study, conduct the study, and disseminate the findings. Upon completion of the course, students will have:

1. Identified a researchable problem of relevance to their professional practice
2. Completed a critical review of the empirical and/or theoretical literature
3. Selected appropriate research methods to address the research problem
4. Submitted and received academic and ethics approvals of their research proposal
5. Conducted a methodologically and ethically sound research study
6. Produced a coherent, accurate, well documented, and persuasive Master of Nursing thesis that meets YSGS standards
7. Developed oral presentation skills for delivery of a conference paper and a persuasive defense of the thesis with clear and sufficient visual and oral explanations of the research
8. Acquired oral and written communication skills necessary to communicate their research to individuals outside of their area of specialty.

Course Materials:

Required Textbooks

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

Bui, Y. N. (2013). *How to write a master's thesis*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Grove, S., Burns, N., & Gray, J. R. (2013). *The practice of nursing research: Appraisal, synthesis and generation of evidence* (7th ed.) St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Saunders.

McEwen, M., & Wills, E. M. (2014). *Theoretical basis for nursing* (4th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

Nelson, S., & Gordon, S. (2006). *Complexities of care: Nursing reconsidered*. New York, NY: Cornell University Press.

Electronic References/Resources:

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Guide to knowledge translation planning at CIHR: Integrated and end- of grant approaches.
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45321.html

Health and Psychosocial Instruments (HaPI) Data base. Available through the Ryerson Library under articles and indexes. Choose "indexes by title" and then select OVID.

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools http://www.nccmt.ca/

Tri-Council Policy Statement: "Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans"
http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/

Pre and Co-requisites

To successfully complete the MN thesis stream degree, students must complete ten course credits or equivalent. This includes: **5** required **CORE** Courses, **1** required **FIELD** Course AND a Thesis (equivalent to 10 course credits).

Required Core Courses Credits

Students must complete all 5 Required Courses AND a Thesis

MN8901* Quantitative Research Methods 1
MN8902* Qualitative Research Methods 1
MN8903* Nature & Development of Nursing Knowledge 1
MN8904** Seminar in Professional Nursing Advancement 1
MN8905** Practicum in Professional Nursing Advancement 1
MN8000 Thesis

* Students taking the thesis stream are required to have completed (or be taking concurrently) the following three courses **before** enrolling in the thesis:
  ➢ **MN8901** Quantitative Research Methods: Design and Critical Appraisal
  ➢ **MN8902** Qualitative Research Methods: Design and Critical Appraisal
  ➢ **MN8903** Nature and Development of Nursing Knowledge.

** The Required Core Course: **MN 8905:** Practicum in Professional Nursing Advancement is an intensive practice experience where a student is in a practice setting for 16 hours per week over the 12 week term (192 hours). This practicum course is taken concurrently with the course entitled "**MN 8904**: Seminar in Professional Nursing Advancement" which requires attendance at seminar 3 hours per week, over the same 12 weeks. Enrolment in these courses is only allowed after the student has successfully completed all other REQUIRED CORE courses and one REQUIRED FIELD course.

Required Field Courses

Thesis students must complete 1 REQUIRED FIELD Course from their Field of Study

Field I: Leadership in Health Care Policy and Education

MN8920 Health Policy: Comparative Analysis
Or
MN8921 Leadership in Education
Or
MN8934 Inter-Professional Health Education

Field II: Health and Illness of Individuals and Communities

MN8910 Health & Illness: Theoretical Perspectives
Or
MN8911 Population Health & Health Promotion
Or
MN8931 Diversity & Globalization: Urban Health

Student's thesis supervisor is also their faculty advisor.

Progress Report

Students are expected to review their progress with their supervisor regularly throughout the semester. At the completion of **EACH** semester, the student must complete a progress report which reviews the student's academic progress in that semester. The progress report relates to the successful completion of milestones related to each semester, as identified above, as well as specific goals identified by the student and supervisor related to expected progress in a given term. It is the responsibility of the student to have their Progress Reports reviewed and signed by

their Thesis Supervisor each term they are enrolled. The Progress Reports are to be submitted to the Graduate Program Director at least 2 weeks before the end of term, so that in-term grade can be processed. In-term grade will reflects the successful completion of milestones identified each semester. The Graduate Program Director is responsible for submitting in-term grade for all thesis students.

For exact dates please see the YSGS Significant Dates.

The final evaluation of the thesis course is graded on a pass/fail basis. Progress is evaluated each term by the supervisor and graded as satisfactory/unsatisfactory. An unsatisfactory evaluation indicates that the student has not progressed towards his/her thesis according to the timelines/milestones agreed upon between the student and supervisor. The assignment of two unsatisfactory progress reports will result in a failing grade for the thesis.

Progress report forms are available on the Master of Nursing page of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies website. It is the responsibility of the student to download and complete the Progress Report (student sections) and to download a copy of their complete grade report form from RAMSS before meeting with their Thesis Supervisor. During the meeting with the Thesis Supervisor each term, the student's progress and grades are discussed. The Progress Report must be signed by both the student and Thesis Supervisor before it is submitted to the Program Administrator. The student is responsible for contacting the Thesis Advisor in a timely manner each term to meet the Yeates School of Graduate Studies deadline for submission. In addition, the student must ensure that the signed form is received by the MN Program Administrator. If the Yeates School of Graduate Studies does not receive a student Progress Report, it may result in the student being withdrawn automatically from their courses.

Supervising and Advising

Developing productive relationships with your research supervisor and committee members is one of the most important and rewarding aspects of being a graduate student in the Master of Nursing Thesis Stream program. The Yeates School of Graduate Studies has produced a guide to help Ryerson's graduate community of students, supervisors, program directors and others involved in graduate supervision understand their roles and responsibilities.

Please use the following link to download the Graduate Supervision document

http://ryerson.ca/graduate/currentstudents/academicmatters/supervisionandadvising.html

NOTE: that this document was developed by the Admissions and Studies Committee of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies to provide a guide to the roles and responsibilities of graduate students, supervisors, program directors, and others involved in graduate supervision at Ryerson University. It is modeled on policies and guidelines in use at many other Canadian universities, and draws in particular on the policies and procedures of other Ontario universities. The

underlying principle is one of mutual respect for students, faculty, and staff in a university environment governed by traditional standards of research and academic integrity, without prejudice or discrimination. Within this context, the graduate student, the supervisor, and members of the supervisory committee (where appropriate) assume certain responsibilities and obligations.

The policy is neither exhaustive nor exclusive and should be viewed in the context of normal circumstance in the Master of Nursing program. These guidelines should be viewed as complementary to the policies that pertain to rights and responsibilities of members of the Ryerson community, including the Student Code of Conduct, the Graduate Appeals Policy, the Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Policy, the Policy on Ownership in Student Work in Research and the Faculty and Staff Ownership of Research Results Policy.

Thesis Performance Assessment

The Thesis is deemed to be a course, and when completed, shall be assigned a grade or designated Pass/Fail. A student with satisfactory performance (as recorded on the Progress Report) will continue in these courses with "INP" (in progress) on the grade report in every term until completion. A student with unsatisfactory performance during a term will be assigned a grade of "UNS". A second unsatisfactory term during\enrolment in any of these courses will result in a performance designation of "F" and the student will be withdrawn from the program.

Please see: Yeates School of Graduate Studies website for information related to thesis preparation and submission guidelines:
(http://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/currentstudents/academicmatters/dissertations.html)

Students are expected to access their Ryerson e-mail account on a regular basis for important messages, updates, etc.

Important Websites and links to bookmark and review
• **RAMSS** refers to *Ryerson's Administrative Management Self Service*. Although you cannot register yourself in classes, you can view your enrolled courses, class schedules, grades and fees account online.
• **The Yeates School of Graduate Studies (YSGS)** - all graduate students should be familiar with the policies, procedures, information and resources found on the YSGS website at
http://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/

Research Ethics
All research conducted in a University setting (whether by faculty, staff or students) is guided by policies and procedures designed to protect study participants, the researcher, the University and the public. Ryerson's policies and guidelines for ethical conduct of research involving humans can be found at: http://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol51.pdf. These policies are in accordance with Canadian guidelines known as the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans established by the Canadian Institutes of Health

Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. In order to ensure that research is consistent with these policies, all research with human subjects must be reviewed and approved by the Ryerson University Research Ethics Board (REB).

As per Ryerson's policies, all graduate students must complete the TCPS tutorial. Upon completion of the TCPS tutorial, you will receive a certificate of completion which must be submitted to the supervisor prior to starting data collection.

All thesis students must conform to the Ryerson REB policies related to ethical conduct of research and must obtain REB approval, in consultation with their supervisor, prior to conducting any thesis related research.

Ryerson has established guidelines for undergraduate students conducting research for class assignments that include data collection involving human participants. Although these guidelines are established for "undergraduate students", **graduate students** who are conducting research as part of their class assignments (not Thesis work) must follow the same guidelines and principles outlined for undergraduate students.

These guidelines can be found at:
http://www.ryerson.ca/research/services/ethics/human/student.html

Intellectual Property Guidelines

Ryerson recognizes and is committed to preserving the principles of academic and intellectual freedom and ensuring that all creators of intellectual property — graduate students, faculty, staff and other contributors — have their rights protected, have their contributions acknowledged appropriately, and receive appropriate economic return for their contributions in creating intellectual property when it results in commercialization.

The Ryerson Intellectual Property Policy is posted at the Office of Research Services (ORS) website, www.research.ryerson.ca. It applies to all faculty, staff and student employees, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, as well as to non-employees who participate in or intend to participate in teaching and /or research, scholarship or creative activities at the University. The policy can be found on the Yeates School of Graduate Studies website at
http://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/policies/documents/IP_Guidelines.pdf

These guidelines are intended to help you understand your rights to intellectual property that may result from your educational and research activities at Ryerson.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism in any assignment is considered a form of academic dishonesty and includes the lack of referencing for ideas or knowledge that are not your own. Referencing is required for papers, presentations, presentation notes, and for visual aids such as overhead transparencies and

PowerPoint presentations. There is a zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in any form. Any academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be investigated to the fullest extent following the policies of the university.

Information addressing academic integrity and resources to support academic integrity for graduate students can be found at:

http://www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity/Students/Graduate/index.html

All students are expected to attend the workshops on quoting, paraphrasing and avoiding plagiarism offered by the academic integrity office. Information about dates, times and registration is available at:

http://www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity/workshops.html

Originality Check, an electronic plagiarism detection service, will be used in this course. Students who do not want their work submitted to this plagiarism detection service must, by the end of the second week of class, consult with the professor to make alternate arrangements. When a professor has reason to suspect that an individual piece of work has been plagiarized, the professor shall be permitted to submit that work to any plagiarism detection service.

Academic Considerations and Appeals

Ryerson University is committed to supporting students in all aspects of their academic experience, and provides a broad network of advising, counseling and support services to assist students in fulfilling their personal and academic goals. Among the most important aims of these services, and of the University as a whole, is to promote academic success, to protect academic integrity, and to ensure that a student's transcript will ultimately reflect his/her academic abilities and accomplishments.

Please go to the following website of "Student Learning Support Department" for a wide range of support services http://www.ryerson.ca/studentlearningsupport/graduate-student-support/index.html

Students who need academic accommodation support based on disability should register with Academic Accommodation Support (AAS). Once registered, the student must activate the sending of an accommodation letter via the online system used by AAS to each of their instructors outlining their approved accommodation(s) for each course. This should be done as early as possible, prior to a graded assignment, test or exam.

Students are not required to provide their personal health information or seek accommodation directly from their professors, course instructors or teaching assistants as it pertains to academic accommodation for disabilities. . Information about accessing academic accommodation for

students with disabilities go to http://www.ryerson.ca/studentlearningsupport/academic-accommodation-support/index.html

These support systems notwithstanding, situations or events beyond a student's control may affect academic performance. The University recognizes this through the granting of academic consideration, where appropriate, in order to support students who face personal difficulties or unforeseen events.

Academic consideration is administered under the auspices of Senate. Pertinent documents and procedural information are available from the Yeates School of Graduate Studies website. Students are responsible for reviewing all such information prior to the submission of a formal request for academic consideration or an appeal

The specific definitions related to academic consideration/appeals and the process for submitting an appeal or requesting a grade reassessment, please go the Ryerson Yeates School of Graduate Studies website at http://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/currentstudents/academicmatters/policies.html

Please note: Employment commitments do not constitute grounds for academic accommodations and/or extensions for assignments.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:

Policies:

Students are required to adhere to all relevant University and Graduate Studies policies. Students are expected to be familiar with all Ryerson University and School of Nursing policies concerning academic performance (e.g., academic misconduct, submission of late assignments, grading grid etc.). Please refer to the University Calendar and to the Master of Nursing Student Handbook for detailed information
(http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/nursing/current_students/index.html)

All policies can be found at:

http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/

All Ryerson University Yeates School of Graduate Studies (YSGS) policies can be found at:

http://ryerson.ca/graduate/policies/ .

The Ryerson Student Codes of Academic and Non Academic Conduct are available at

http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol60.pdf   and

http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol61.pdf

Communication:

All students are required to activate and maintain a Ryerson Matrix email account. Please refer to: **Policy 157** - Establishment of Student E-Mail Accounts for Official University Communication. http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol157.pdf

Students must not record in the form of picture, audio, or video any class lecture or course material without the consent of the instructor. Students **must not** post, publish, sell, or otherwise distribute course materials. Such materials include, but are not limited to, the following: lecture notes, lecture slides, class/lab activities, prepared video, or audio recordings, evaluation materials, case studies, et cetera. **Students who violate this policy will be subject to academic penalty as outlined in the Academic Misconduct policy of the University**.

Significant Dates:

All MN Students must adhere to the Ryerson University School of Graduate Studies significant dates for 2016-2017. These can be found at:

http://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/currentstudents/calendarsanddates/current.html