

## School of Nursing and Midwifery

### NURS4302: Reviewing and Critiquing Literature

Callaghan, Ourimbah and Gosford

Semester 1- 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## OVERVIEW

<b>Course Description</b>	The main component of the Honours program is an original research project on a topic relevant to nursing/midwifery practice, conducted under the close supervision of an academic staff member. In this course the student will be required to develop and justify search strategies and undertake a search of the academic and professional literature relevant to the research project they are undertaking. They will be required to read, understand and critically evaluate literature
<b>Requisites</b>	This course is only available to students enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) [10954], Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours) [12330] or the Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) [11691] programs.
<b>Assumed Knowledge</b>	A completed Bachelor of Nursing/Midwifery or equivalent degree with evidence of high academic achievement.
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>Individual Supervision</b> Face to Face Off Campus 26 hour(s) per Term Full Term To be arranged via appointment with the course coordinator and/or supervisor  <b>Lecture</b> Online 1 hour(s) per Term Full Term  <b>Self-Directed Learning</b> Self-Directed 20 hour(s) per Week for 13 weeks starting week One.
<b>Unit Weighting</b>	20
<b>Workload</b>	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

**Course Coordinator**      **Callaghan, Ourimbah and Gosford**

Dr Muhammad Alqudah  
[muhammad.alqudah@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:muhammad.alqudah@newcastle.edu.au)

**Consultation:**

Contact via email to arrange a suitable time. Consultation will occur in person or via Zoom

**NOTE:** Responses to emails can be expected within three (3) working days unless the tutor or Course Coordinator is off campus.

General Course Questions should be posted to Canvas, where the answer may be of benefit to other students. Students are required to check their UON (University of Newcastle) email account regularly and to use their student-mail accounts for all email correspondence with the University.

**Teaching Staff**

Teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

**School Office**

**School of Nursing and Midwifery**

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**Web:** <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/nursing-midwifery>

**General Enquiries**

[AskUoN@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:AskUoN@newcastle.edu.au)  
(+61) 2 4921 5000

**Program &  
Enrolment Advice**

[ProgramAdvice@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:ProgramAdvice@newcastle.edu.au)

**Student Support**

For academic and personal support services for students, visit  
<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support>

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# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	In this course the specific focus will be on acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary for the conduct and justification of literature searches, and the development of literature reviews. Students may be directed to undertake relevant short courses including the use of Endnote, offered through Library Services.
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Formulate an operational research question which enables the framing of the literature research.</li><li>2. Develop a search &amp; extraction strategy that includes search terms, &amp; data bases</li><li>3. Implement a literature search with data extraction &amp; critique of included studies.</li><li>4. Synthesis and presentation of a comprehensive literature review to guide a research thesis.</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	Available via Canvas

## COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

To pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

### Course Assessment Requirements:

- Assessment 1 - Written Assignment: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
- Assessment 2 - Written Assignment: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
- Assessment 3 - Written Assignment: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.

To pass this course students **must attain an overall grade of 50% or higher**. Progressive marks on Canvas do not necessarily indicate final grades.

## SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Module 1: Course introduction	Self-directed learning course materials	–
2	4 Mar	Module 2: Constructing a research question	Self-directed learning course materials	–
3	11 Mar	Module 3: Types of literature reviews	Self-directed learning course materials	–
4	18 Mar	Module 3: Types of literature reviews	Self-directed learning course materials	–
5	25 Mar	Module 4: Searching the literature	Self-directed learning course materials	–
6	1 Apr	Module 5: Organising the literature	Self-directed learning course materials	–
7	8 Apr	Module 5: Organising the literature	Self-directed learning course materials	–
8	15 Apr	Module 6: Critical appraisal	Self-directed learning course materials	–
9	22 Apr	Module 7: Synthesising the literature	Self-directed learning course materials	–
10	29 Apr	Module 8: Limitations and conclusions	Self-directed learning course materials	–
<b>Mid Term Break</b>				
<b>Mid Term Break</b>				
11	20 May	Module 9: Pulling it all together	Self-directed learning course materials	–
12	27 May	Module 10: Dissemination	Self-directed learning course materials	–
13	3 Jun			–
<b>Examination Period</b>				

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Assessment One: Operational research question*	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar at 2300 hours (AEDT)	Individual	20%	1, 3
2	Assessment Two: Literature review part A*	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Apr at 2300 hours (AEST)	Individual	30%	1, 3
3	Assessment Three: Literature review part B*	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jun at 2300 hours (AEST)	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3, 4

\* This assessment has a compulsory requirement.

**Late Submissions:** The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days

**Note:** No more than 10% of any assessment item may consist of material directly quoted from another source.

**Assistance with academic literacies is available at the following hyperlinks:**

1. APA 7<sup>th</sup> Referencing: <http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/referencing>
2. Academic Learning Support: <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/learning/study-skills>

## Assessment 1 - Operational research question

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	To develop an operational research question with an 800-word argument (significance).
<b>Description</b>	Students are required to submit an operational research question an 800-word argument. Please include the following: Background and significance that informs the research question. Research question Relevance of the research question and study to the student's experience and/or clinical practice. In your discussion, please consider the relevant literature that informs.
<b>Weighting</b>	20%
<b>Length</b>	800 words (+/- 10% allowance)
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
<b>Due Date</b>	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar at 2300 hours (AEDT)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Appendix A
<b>Return Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Via Canvas 15 University working days after submission
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students may be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment if a 50% pass mark is not achieved. Re-attempt only if all other course requirements have been successfully met.

## Assessment 2 - Literature review Part A

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	To form the first half of your literature review (the framework of your review) and build on discussion in assessment task one.
<b>Description</b>	<p>This assessment task forms the first half of your literature review (the framework of review) and builds on your discussion in assessment task one. In this task you will be required to commence your literature review and provide the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction/background of your review</li><li>• Aim/significance of your review</li><li>• Methods (search terms; databases; inclusion and exclusion criteria; synthesis approach)</li><li>• Tables and figures (PRISMA flow diagram; tables of included/excluded studies)</li></ul> <p>The process of conducting a literature review takes time. By submitting these components, you are able to receive feedback on your progress.</p> <p>The completed draft of the literature review (part A) will be returned within 2-3 weeks so that students can see what they need to do to improve their literature review.</p>
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
<b>Length</b>	2000-3000 words (+/-10% allowance)
<b>Due Date</b>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Apr at 2300 hours (AEST)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Appendix B
<b>Return Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students may be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment if a 50% pass mark not achieved. Re-attempt only if all other course requirements have been successfully met.

## Assessment 3 - Literature review Part B

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	This assignment represents the final completed literature review that will form the substantial content of this chapter in the completed thesis/journal article.
<b>Description</b>	<p>This assignment represents the final completed literature review that will form the substantial content of this chapter in the completed thesis/journal article.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes the components from literature review part A that you have revised – incorporate any revisions.</li><li>• Introduction/background of your review</li><li>• Aim/significance of your review</li><li>• Methods (search terms; databases; inclusion and exclusion criteria; synthesis approach)</li><li>• Tables and figures: PRISMA flow diagram; tables of included/excluded studies.</li></ul> <p>Then include the following components of your literature review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quality appraisal of included articles</li><li>• Synthesised findings (results)</li><li>• Discussion of your synthesized findings in relation to the aims of the research and literature informing your review.</li><li>• Limitations/Strengths/Weaknesses (if applicable)</li><li>• Conclusion</li></ul> <p>These combined components then form your literature review.</p>

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<b>Weighting</b>	50%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
<b>Length</b>	3000-4000 words (+/-10% allowance)
<b>Due Date</b>	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jun at 2300 hours (AEST)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Appendix C
<b>Return Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online 15 University working days after submission
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students may be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment if a 50% pass mark not achieved. Re-attempt only if all other course requirements have been successfully met.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

## Withdrawal from course

You can withdraw from a course without financial penalty on or before the census date **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**. If you withdraw after this date, it is considered you have been enrolled in the course and will be liable for HECS-HELP payment or degree fee.

## Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Announcements
- Canvas Discussion Forum
- Regular course coordination drop-in Q&A sessions via zoom
- Consultation time with course coordinator as required

## Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement. No changes were made.

## Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

## Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system



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**Important Policy  
Information**

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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