

March 24, 2020

Instructor:

Nancy Clark, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor, School of Nursing

Course

Professional Practice VI: Nursing Research (NURS 360)
Cornett, B111
Monday, February 24, 2020, 14:30-17:20

RE: Peer Review

To whom it may concern,

It was a pleasure to observe Dr. Nancy Clark teach a class about quantitative research design. We collaborated on the NURS 360 course syllabus so I was very familiar with the course description and student learning outcomes. We joined our sections for a shared class which meant there were about 55 students present. In conducting this peer review I paid special attention to:

- The engagement of the students in learning
- The style of teaching (e.g. clear examples, variety of teaching strategies)

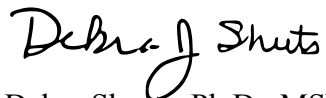
Dr. Clark is an interactive and supportive teacher who uses a variety of student-centered pedagogies. For example, she began the class by asking students to complete a pre-test about quantitative design. Her well-organized powerpoint provided structure to the class and covered challenging content that included hypothesis testing, the 3 major types of experimental research designs and threats to internal and external validity. She did not read her powerpoints but rather explained the key points and gave clear examples.

It is not easy to engage nursing students in research courses--the content often seems tangential to nursing practice. Dr. Clark encouraged active learning by asking questions, breaking students into smaller groups to discuss quantitative designs, and had the groups summarize their learning. She had rapport with student and it was evident they were comfortable.

Dr. Clark is clearly committed to student learning and kept the content at an appropriate level with meaningful examples. She demonstrates expert knowledge and her strong explanatory skills facilitates understanding. Towards the end of the class she had students complete a post-test to illustrate how quantitative designs work which provided a wonderful segue into a discussion about the type of experimental design represented by a pre-post test.

In short, Dr. Clark is an excellent and confident educator. She creates a supportive teaching environment where students clearly feel comfortable. She is at ease in the classroom (e.g., using the board, walking around) and has good rapport with students (even my students were engaged). She knew the names of students and responded to questions as they came up. In addition, she has a calm, clear and easily heard voice. She uses relevant examples to clarify challenging and abstract statistical concepts. Rather than the class being stressful, it was obvious that students were enjoying learning—no easy feat when teaching such abstract concepts. I am fortunate to be her colleague in the School of Nursing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra J. Sheets". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Debra Sheets, Ph.D., MSN, RN, FAAN
Professor, School of Nursing

