Metasynthesis-Research Course in Advanced Qualitative Methods

The course plan is approved at University of Nordland, Faculty of Professional Studies

**Faculty responsible:**
University of Nordland, Faculty of Professional Studies in collaboration with University College of Narvik, Norway

**ECTS credits** 7,5 ECTS

**Level of course:**
Doctoral students and researchers in nursing and caring sciences, other health sciences, and fields of professional studies.

**Offered as a free-standing course:** Yes. Maximum 20 participants. Participants are chosen upon application. Applicants who uses metasynthesis in their research will be preferred. Please use the attached application form.

**Language of instruction:** English

**Course evaluation:**
The study programme is evaluated by students by way of course evaluation studies (mid-term evaluation and final evaluation). These evaluations are included in the university’s quality assurance system.

**Course responsibility, examination and lecturers:**
Professor Terese Bondas, PhD, RN, University of Nordland (Course responsible person)

**Guest Professor**
Professor Cheryl Tatano Beck, DNSc, RN, RM, University of Connecticut, USA
Associate Professor Lena Wiklund-Gustin, PhD, RN, University College of Narvik, Norway

**Study place:**
Part 1: University of Nordland, Faculty of Professional Studies, Bodø, Norway, April 9-11, 2013
Part 2: University College of Narvik, Norway, November 18-19, 2013

**The scientific contents of the course:**
Metasynthesis is research on qualitative research and several methods have been developed to synthesize qualitative studies in various fields and disciplines. Metasynthesis research has the
potential to benefit human and societal development, and they may contribute to the use of qualitative research findings in decision-making. Metasynthesis research studies may advance the critical philosophical, theoretical and methodological knowledge and discussion that is relevant to the development of qualitative research.

Learning outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Knowledge:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the arguments for a metasynthesis research design
- Demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics of different types of metasynthesis approaches and methods
- Demonstrate understanding of validity in metasynthesis research designs

Skills:

- Be able to create aims and research questions in metasynthesis research designs
- Demonstrate skills to apply metasynthesis designs in research
- Be able to critically assess and evaluate qualitative studies for inclusion in metasynthesis studies

General competence:

- Reflect on the use of Metasynthesis in evidence-based practice
- Integrate a critical attitude to validity in metasynthesis research designs
- Reflect on ethical, gender and ethnic issues in metasynthesis studies

Prerequisites: Qualitative methods at advanced level

Recommended previous knowledge: Master in nursing or caring science, other health sciences, or professional studies

Contents:
* Metasynthesis-what, why, and how
* Metaethnography
* Qualitative metasynthesis and metasummary
* Metastudy: Metadata-analysis, meta-theory and meta-method
* Comparisons of metasynthesis to systematic reviews, meta-analysis and secondary analysis
* Primary research appraisal

Mode of delivery: Face-to-face in two sessions during two semesters
Learning activities and teaching methods:
Part 1: Lectures, exercises and discussions
University of Nordland, Faculty of Professional Studies, Bodø, Norway, April 9-11, 2013

Part 2: Examination (7.5 ECTS):
Assignments to be presented at the second part of the course. The choice and design is discussed and planned during part 1. Evaluation of the learning experience. University College of Narvik, Norway, November 18-19, 2013

Assessment methods and criteria: regular Norwegian grading system (A-F)

Recommended or required reading:
Wiklund, L. 2010. Metaphors-a path to narrative understanding. International Journal for Human Caring, 14,2,60-68

and literature chosen by the student for the home assignment

Schedule:

April, 9th, 2013 – University of Nordland - Seminar-room 2447

9.00-9.30 Introduction to the course and presentation of the participants
Professor Terese Bondas

09.30.-11.30 What is metasynthesis? Why choose a metasynthesis approach?
Professor Terese Bondas
12.30-14.30 Synthesis and metaphors
*Associate Professor Lena Wiklund-Gustin*

14.45-16.00 Comparisons of metasynthesis to systematic reviews, meta-analysis and secondary analysis *Professor Terese Bondas*

**April 10th, 2013 - University of Nordland - Seminar-room 2444**

9.00-16.00 Metaethnography—an interpretative metasynthesis approach
Primary research appraisal
*Professor Cheryl Tatano Beck*

**April 11th, 2013 - University of Nordland - Seminar-room 2445**

9.00-11.00 Meta-study: Metadata-analysis, meta-theory and meta-method
Qualitative metasynthesis and metasummary
*Professor Terese Bondas*

12.00-16.00 Workshop on metasynthesis
Planning the individual course assignments with the students
*Professor Cheryl Tatano Beck, Professor Terese Bondas, Associate Professor Lena Wiklund-Gustin*

**PART II**

Examination seminars, Narvik University College, November 17-18th, 2013.
*Professor Terese Bondas*
*Associate Professor Lena Wiklund-Gustin*
Metasynthesis-Research Course in Advanced Qualitative Methods

Application form

Please return applications to professor Terese Bondas; Terese.Bondas@uin.no and advisor Fredrik Boksasp; fnb@uin.no, no later than February 15th.

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