Course Syllabus

Jump to Today   ✎ **Edit**

Course Code: MW 400
Course Title: Introduction to Midwifery Research Methodologies
Course Credit: 4.0

Course Description: This course is an introduction to scientific research methods as they apply to midwifery and health sciences. The course gives a detailed description of the key concepts of both qualitative and quantitative approaches to research. All of the core concepts for designing a research proposal are covered in this course. This course aims to give the midwife an entry-level understanding of skills that apply to research development.

Course Objectives: In addition to the **BSM Degree Learning Objectives** upon completing this course the student will be able to:

- Understand the importance of research to midwifery practice
- Detail the process of writing a research proposal
- Consider the ethical and legal considerations for undertaking research
- Discuss the power dynamics that are at play between researchers and their subjects
- List a variety of different approaches to qualitative and quantitative research design
- Consider the principles of mixed methods research
- Review the principles of population selection and sampling
- Detail data collection approaches to qualitative and quantitative research
- Discuss data analysis techniques for qualitative and quantitative research
- Explain the principles of disseminating research

Learning Activities

Read, listen to, watch assigned lesson materials.
Complete oral and/or written formative didactic assessments with a final summative submission.
Identify and cite high-quality sources.
Conduct an Interview.
Develop and conduct a survey.
Practice the process of writing research proposals while critically considering various legal/ethical issues regarding research.
Write research papers
Utilize statistical methods required for evaluating research.

Portfolio Requirement

In order to complete the BSM program, the student must upload select assignments that have been completed and graded by the preceptor onto a dropbox.com account for final review by College staff. The required assignments for this course are saved in dropbox under the file name as bolded below:

1. **Lesson 1-1 Reflection paper**,
2. **Lesson 2-1 Reflection paper**,
3. **Lesson 5-1 Reflection paper**,
4. **Lesson 11-16a Survey**, and
5. **Lesson 12-10 Research interview**.

Learning Materials / Resources

1. (Textbook) Jirojwong, S et al. Research Methods in Nursing and Midwifery: Pathways to evidence-based practice. Oxford University Press. 2014.
2. Green, J. M. (2012), **IntegratingWomen's Views into Maternity Care Research and Practice** . Birth, 39: 291–295. doi: 10.1111/birt.12003

A note about the textbook: As is made obvious by the title of the main text used for this course, it is based in a perspective of hospital-based midwifery and references the field of nurse extensively. Unfortunately, the field of direct-entry midwifery research in the US is still in the early stages of development, therefore we have no academic texts that reflect the principles and values of our own profession within the field of research. This text was chosen because it is accessible, and written for teachers and learners. Please bear in mind that although it may not always speak directly to midwifery practice the concepts provided can, in most cases, be applied to research in the field of midwifery.

Evaluation Tools / Methods

The minimum passing grade for all courses is a cumulative 80% / B-. Grades are not recorded until both the student and preceptor submit end of trimester evaluations and in the case of general education courses supervision is completed.

All assignments for this course are evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Responses to each didactic assessment are evaluated utilizing the NCM rubrics and degree level profile.
2. Answers should reflect a thorough review of the current literature regarding best current practices in midwifery care.
3. Non-plagiarized paraphrased answers from the text which demonstrate appropriate comprehension of the learning objective. (Formative Assessment) Students and preceptors are encouraged to work together until the student masters the information. (Summative Assessment)
4. Random evaluation of cited sources and page numbers for each written assignment.

Course credit: One Academic credit equals approximately 15 hours of formal time plus 30 hours of additional study or homework. Formal time is defined as the amount of time taken to answer the Learning Objectives to the level of 80% for midwifery courses and 70% for general education courses and to complete any learning activities to the preceptor's satisfaction, including any time spent face to face with the preceptor. Informal time includes any time spent actively reading relevant sources and textbook/s, researching Learning Objectives, and studying for examinations.

Course Summary:

Date	Details

Knowledge and Technology Update
(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13214)

MW400-001 - (Upload to Portfolio)Write a reflection paper on how you think "women's views" might be integrated into midwifery practice through advances in research about out-of-hospital birth. Address the following question in your discussion:
(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13215)

MW400-002 - (Upload to Portfolio)Write a two-page reflection based on your personal experiences.
(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13216)

MW400-003 - 1. Create an outline for a research proposal. List all of the steps necessary to complete the proposal.
(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13217)

MW400-004 - 2. Discuss the ways in which many practitioners develop a research topic or problem.
(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13218)

MW400-005 - 3. Discuss the importance of a literature review in understanding a prospective research topic.
(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13219)

MW400-006 - 4. Discuss how a frame of reference is developed within a research study. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13220)

MW400-007 - 5. What does 'defining the significance and outcomes of research' mean? Why is this important when identifying a research topic?
(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13221)

MW400-008 - 6. Discuss some important questions that the midwife-researcher must ask in order to generate a research question that is suitable for research. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13222)

MW400-009 - 7. Create a budget for the research proposal outline in question 1. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13223)

MW400-010 - 8. Create a timeline for the research proposal outline in question 1. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13224)

MW400-011 - 9. Access your local library or online database and select a research article that you find interesting and easy to understand.
(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13225)

MW400-012 - 10. Read the proposals at the end of the chapter and apply b-d of question 9. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13226)

MW400-013 - 1. Discuss a historical event that has lead to the ethical evaluation of human subjects research.
(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13227)

MW400-014 - 2. What role does a human research ethics committee (HREC) play in evaluating a research proposal?

Date	Details
	(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13228)

MW400-015 - 3. Explain the difference between confidentiality and anonymity. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13229)

MW400-016 - 4. Discuss why data management is important to the quality of a research project. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13230)

MW400-017 - 5. Describe the power relationship between researcher and participant. What influence might this have on research outcomes? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13231)

MW400-018 - 6. Discuss how recruitment of clients within a midwife's own practice might pose an ethical issue. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13232)

MW400-019 - 7. Discuss the principles of informed consent and how they apply to midwifery and midwifery research. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13233)

MW400-020 - 8. Discuss why a plain language statement is necessary. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13234)

MW400-021 - 9. Review the MANAstats informed consent document. Does it use plain language? Does it fully explain what is being requested of the participant? Are there ways that this informed consent could be improved? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13235)

MW400-022 - 1. (Upload to Portfolio) As a midwifery student you are interested in carrying out a small community health project. Discuss the populations that comprise your community, are any of these populations "vulnerable" as discussed in the chapter. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13236)

MW400-023 - 2. What is the meaning of vulnerable in the context of midwifery research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13237)

MW400-024 - 3. Under what circumstances, as a midwife, would you most often encounter a "vulnerable" population? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13238)

MW400-025 - 4. What type of research will elicit the most accurate information about the lives and needs of these populations? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13239)

MW400-026 - 5. Discuss compensation and incentives in recruitment of research populations. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13240)

MW400-027 - 1. Discuss how grounded theory could be a useful research method for investigating the following areas of midwifery practice: (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13241)

MW400-028 - 2. Discuss the central concepts that underpin ethnographic research. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13242)

MW400-029 - 3. In what ways could ethnography be used in midwifery

Date	Details
	research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13243)
	MW400-030 - 4. Find an ethnographic study that explores the culture of midwifery, read it and share it with your preceptor. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13244)
	MW400-031 - 5. What aspect of midwifery could benefit from using a critical social theory or feminist research approach? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13245)
	MW400-032 - 6. Formulate a research question and rationale based on your answer to #5. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13246)
	MW400-033 - 7. What are some issues of inequality that face midwives today in the United States? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13247)
	MW400-034 - 8. Discuss an area of midwifery that could benefit from an action research project. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13248)
	MW400-035 - 9. Describe two areas in which action research might be an appropriate tool for initiating change in your practice setting. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13249)
	MW400-036 - 10. Discuss what is meant by "qualitative research" (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13250)
	MW400-037 - 11. What are the main features of qualitative research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13251)
	MW400-038 - 12. What type of questions would be best suited to a qualitative research design? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13252)
	MW400-039 - 13. What do you see as the relationship between qualitative research and midwifery practice? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13253)
	MW400-040 - 1. Read through the chapter summary and "implications for evidence based nursing and midwifery". (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13254)
	MW400-041 - 2. What are the characteristics of quantitative research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13255)
	MW400-042 - 3. Discuss the placebo effect. How might this effect a quantitative research study? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13256)
	MW400-043 - 4. Discuss the concept of causality as it relates to quantitative research. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13257)
	MW400-044 - 5. Discuss the difference between quasi-experimental and experimental research design. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13258)
	MW400-045 - 6. Perform Problem Solving 6.1 on page 160. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13259)

Date   **Details**

MW400-046 - 7. From the following list, which is likely to be the most precise measure of hand washing? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13260)

MW400-047 - 8. Identify a research design from the following research objectives or questions: (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13261)

MW400-048 - 9. Discuss how important you think quantitative research is for the development of midwifery practice in the US today. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13262)

MW400-049 - 1. Discuss the purpose of conducting mixed methods research (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13263)

MW400-050 - 2. What are some of the differences between qualitative and quantitative research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13264)

MW400-051 - 3. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13265)

MW400-052 - 4. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of quantitative research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13266)

MW400-053 - 5. What are the characteristics of mixed-methods research design? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13267)

MW400-054 - 6. How is sampling performed in mixed-methods research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13268)

MW400-055 - 7. What are some of the validity issues associated with mixed-methods research design? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13269)

MW400-056 - 8. A midwife-researcher wants to explore identity and self-perception among direct-entry midwives in the United States. ... (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13270)

MW400-057 - 1. Why is sampling important to a research design? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13271)

MW400-058 - 2. Describe the difference between probability sampling and non-probability sampling. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13272)

MW400-059 - 3. Explain how probability sampling is related to generalizability. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13273)

MW400-060 - 4. Discuss some of the probability sampling approaches used in a quantitative study. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13274)

MW400-061 - 5. Give an example of a research design that might use cluster random sampling. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13275)

MW400-062 - 6. Discuss simple random sampling vs. systematic random

Date	Details

sampling. What are the pros and cons of each method of sampling? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13276)

MW400-063 - 7. Discuss the aspects of sampling that are important for surveys. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13277)

MW400-064 - 8. Briefly describe the difference between random allocation and random selection in experimental studies. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13278)

MW400-065 - 9. Discuss some of the non-probability sampling approaches used in quantitative studies. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13279)

MW400-066 - 10.Give examples of the type of qualitative study designs that might utilize each of the following sampling methods: (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13280)

MW400-067 - 11.Discuss the sampling approaches that might be used in a mixed methods research study. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13281)

MW400-068 - 12.How can a researcher make reliable estimates about population characteristics within a given sample? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13282)

MW400-069 - 13.What information does a researcher need to calculate a sample size for a study that is seeking to measure the effect of an intervention on difference groups? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13283)

MW400-070 - 14.What are some situations in which a larger sample size is often indicate? Why? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13284)

MW400-071 - 15.A midwife-led gestational diabetes risk assessment tool is being trialed in a large birth center practice. ... (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13285)

MW400-072 - 16.A purposive study of 20 women with endometriosis was chosen based on the number of years of experiencing the disease, the range of medications taken including complementary medicines, and the use of other healing modalities. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13286)

MW400-073 - 1. Describe how a literature review is important to selecting an appropriate method of data collection for qualitative research. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13287)

MW400-074 - 2. Compare and contrast the unstructured interview and the phenomenological interview approaches. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13288)

MW400-075 - 3. Give an example of the kind of question that might be asked in a dialogical engagement approach. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13289)

Date	Details
	MW400-076 - 4. Discuss the use of a structured interview. When is this approach most appropriate? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13290)
	MW400-077 - 5. Discuss how a focus group interview is facilitated. What are some of the benefits and challenges of this approach to data collection? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13291)
	MW400-078 - 6. Discuss what is meant by emic and etic views. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13292)
	MW400-079 - 7. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks to overt vs. covert observation. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13293)
	MW400-080 - 8. Discuss what constitutes the case study method of data collection. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13294)
	MW400-081 - 9. What is the rationale behind using triangulation in data collection? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13295)
	MW400-082 - 10.Describe three forms of triangulation used in qualitative research. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13296)
	MW400-083 - 11.Discuss what is meant by "rigor" in data collection approaches. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13297)
	MW400-084 - 12.What are the factors that affect the trustworthiness of data collection in qualitative research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13298)
	MW400-085 - 13.Give an example of a research question that would suitable for each of the following methods of data collection: (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13299)
	MW400-086 - 1. Describe the data that is best collected with a questionnaire. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13300)
	MW400-087 - 2. Give an example of each of the following types of questions: (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13301)
	MW400-088 - 3. Discuss some of the "best practices" when writing questions. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13302)
	MW400-089 - 4. Discuss some of the "best practices" when formatting a questionnaire. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13303)
	MW400-090 - 5. Discuss the purpose of pilot-testing your questionnaire. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13304)
	MW400-091 - 6. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a postal questionnaire. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13305)
	MW400-092 - 7. Describe the ways that the Internet can be utilized for collecting quantitative data. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13306)
	MW400-093 - 8. What are some of the principles that guide internet-based

Date	Details

survey design? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13307)

MW400-094 - 9. What are the advantages and disadvantages of utilizing the Internet for collecting quantitative data? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13308)

MW400-095 - 10.How can structured interview be used to collect quantitative data? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13309)

MW400-096 - 11.How can structured observation be used to collect quantitative data? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13310)

MW400-097 - 12.What are the advantages and disadvantages of using structured observation in quantitative research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13311)

MW400-098 - 13.Discuss the rationale behind using an existing tool to collect data. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13312)

MW400-099 - 14.Discuss the qualities of an existing tool that must be considered before selecting that tool for use in data collection. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13313)

MW400-100 - 15.Discuss what is meant by the validity of an existing data collection tool. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13314)

MW400-101 - 16.Create a surveymonkey survey: (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13315)

MW400-102 - 1. Discuss the three broad approaches to qualitative data analysis and the stages of the analysis process. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13316)

MW400-103 - 2. Discuss the process of thematic analysis and how it is undertaken. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13317)

MW400-104 - 3. Discuss the process of data analysis for grounded theory research. What stages are undertaken and how is the analysis unique to this type of research approach? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13318)

MW400-105 - 4. Discuss the most commonly used approach to analyzing data in a phenomenological study (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13319)

MW400-106 - 5. Discuss data analysis for ethnographic studies. What are the common ways that the outcomes of ethnographic research are presented? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13320)

MW400-107 - 6. What are two ways that visual data can be analyzed? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13321)

MW400-108 - 7. Describe the ways in which a researcher can build the trustworthiness of their qualitative data analysis. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13322)

MW400-109 - 8. Discuss how computer software can be used to analyze

Date	Details

qualitative data. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13323)

MW400-110 - 9. Many women experience postpartum depression after birth and have difficulty managing the stress of life with a newborn. ... (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13324)

MW400-111 - 10.(Upload to Portfolio)Conduct a research interview: (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13325)

MW400-112 - 1. Why is statistics important to the analysis of quantitative research? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13326)

MW400-113 - 2. Describe the difference between categorical and numerical variables. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13327)

MW400-114 - 3. What is the purpose of using descriptive statistics to describe quantitative data? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13328)

MW400-115 - 4. Discuss the purpose of graphical displays for quantitative data. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13329)

MW400-116 - 5. Describe a scenario in which a scatter graph would be the most useful display of data. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13330)

MW400-117 - 6. Describe the use of inferential statistics in health sciences data. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13331)

MW400-118 - 7. Discuss what is meant by a confidence interval. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13332)

MW400-119 - 8. Describe how statistics could be used to test a hypothesis in the midwifery. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13333)

MW400-120 - 9. Discuss how the appropriate bivariate test can be identified for analyzing quantitative data. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13334)

MW400-121 - 10.Give an example of one and two-sided scientific questions. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13335)

MW400-122 - 11.What is the difference between a paired and unpaired test. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13336)

MW400-123 - 12.When is it necessary to use a multivariate statistical analysis? (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13337)

MW400-124 - 13.Discuss the steps involved in a multivariate analysis (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13338)

MW400-125 - 14.A midwife-researcher is investigating the difference in perceived pain of contractions during labor for women who use aquatherapy during labor and those that use massage. (https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13339)

MW400-126 - 1. What is a poster presentation?

Date	Details
	[(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13340)](https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13340)
	MW400-127 - 2. How is a poster presentation used to share results of research? [(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13341)](https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13341)
	MW400-128 - 3. Discuss how peer review is used in journal publication? [(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13342)](https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13342)
	MW400-129 - 4. What are some of the barriers faced by direct-entry midwives in the United States to publishing? [(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13343)](https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13343)
	MW400-130 - 5. Why is it important for midwives to engage in publishing research despite some of the barriers? [(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13344)](https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13344)
	MW400-131 - 6. Identify 2 journals that are relevant to midwifery practice. Answer the following questions: [(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13345)](https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13345)
	Student Evaluation of Course and Instructor [(https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13347)](https://ncm.instructure.com/courses/324/assignments/13347)