

Chapter 2 – The Evolution of Nursing Science

1. Historically, nursing preparation was referred to as “training,” and many nurses educated through the 1970s still use this term to refer to their education. Why is this terminology particularly problematic in light of the advances made in nursing science in the last 30 years?

- A. On-the-job apprenticeships are no longer as prevalent as they were up through the late 1970s and early 1980s.
- B. It places emphasis on nurses’ abilities to perform tasks rather than reason through and understand the purpose of their actions.
- C. Most modern nurses pursue Master’s level education beyond their practice-based Bachelor’s education.
- D. The last 30 years have seen nursing education move away from physician-taught courses in hospitals to professor-taught courses at universities.

Ans: B

2. During the 1960s, why did nursing scholars heavily emphasize a focus on the theoretical development of nursing as its own, independent discipline?

- A. To support doctoral education for nurses that was discipline specific
- B. To prove that the logical positivist approach was a poor fit for the discipline
- C. To encourage and enhance the continued development of nursing science
- D. To promote research by nurses in all fields, not merely nursing science

Ans: C

3. Which argument best supports the idea of nursing as a professional discipline rather than an academic discipline?

- A. “Nursing is an applied science. Its practice component places an emphasis on the delivery of service by nurses rather than the development of academic knowledge.”
- B. “Nursing is a discipline with unique substance. It borrows very little from other disciplines and, as a result, is beyond the realm of most academic programs in the sciences that acknowledge idea sharing across disciplines.”
- C. “Nursing is a concept with a lengthy unofficial history. Individuals have been providing nursing care to others since the Crusades, and this professional provision of services predates formal education in the field.”
- D. “Nursing is a relative newcomer to advanced education. For many years, nurses were educated or trained only at a Bachelor’s level, and advanced practice therefore has its roots in the profession itself rather than in academia.”

Ans: A

4. Which statement best describes the role that logical positivism plays in modern philosophical thought about nursing science and science in general?

- A. It remains at the forefront of the understanding of science and dictates the ways in which scientific research is performed.
- B. It works in concert with humanistic philosophies of science, with the opposing ideologies functioning as a system of philosophical checks and balances.
- C. It no longer holds sway over the sciences, but its influence is so deeply ingrained in the field that it continues to impact modern ideas about science.
- D. It has been completely discredited by postmodern philosophers and is regarded as a flawed relic of past scientific thinking.

Ans: C

5. During the 1960s and 1970s, the theory movement in nursing sought to “prove” that nursing was a science by applying strict logical positivist philosophy to the discipline. Why was this application problematic from a philosophical standpoint?

- A. It placed too great an emphasis on the art of nursing and left itself open to criticism by the postmodern school of philosophy.
- B. It ignored the humanistic and social aspects of providing quality care and focused on the hard science involved.
- C. It took too long to develop and by the time it came to fruition the logical positivist perspective had fallen out of favor with most scientific disciplines.
- D. It was later disproved by feminist philosophers who unequivocally demonstrated that the logical positivist view was heavily biased against women and minorities.

Ans: B

6. Which statement most accurately encapsulates Thomas Kuhn’s proposed philosophy of science?

- A. Science philosophy should address both the conceptual and empirical problems of science and serve as merely a problem-solving activity.
- B. Science philosophy should focus on concept clarification and concept analysis based on theory development and synthesis.
- C. Science philosophy should resolve conceptual problems in science without being limited to the development of theories.
- D. Science philosophy should examine the process of science, rather than the product of science, according to a disciplinary matrix known as a paradigm.

Ans: D

7. Which philosophy is not part of the larger philosophical tradition known as postmodernism?

- A. Historicism
- B. Hermeneutics
- C. Critical social theory
- D. Feminism

Ans: A

8. Which statement best describes the theoretical basis behind the postmodern understanding of knowledge?

- A. Knowledge is a series of classical “truths” that are colored by gender biases, and it gives rise to the theory of masculine superiority.
- B. Knowledge in any field is determined through the discovery of a universal truth, and that truth is applicable to all questions that arise.
- C. Knowledge and the knower are inseparable, and class and gender have significant influence on what is considered knowledge.
- D. Knowledge is developed through observation of the natural world, and can be best applied to hard science.

Ans: C

9. A nurse who adopts a pluralistic view of nursing science would most likely perform which action?

- A. Follow the espoused values and overall worldview of the nursing discipline even it conflicted with his or her personal beliefs
- B. Utilize a problem-solving approach based on Laudan’s philosophy while applying the latest disciplinary trends to his or her practice
- C. Rely on research-proven nursing diagnoses and taxonomies and focus on universal, rather than individual, trends observed in his or her patients
- D. Draw upon a variety of perspectives from the many eras of nursing development to guide his or her personal practice

Ans: D

10. The consensus statement crafted at the Knowledge Consensus Conference in Boston in 1998 addressed the following areas except:

- A. The nature of the human person
- B. The role of nursing theory
- C. The nature of the nurse as an individual
- D. The links of each area of understanding to nursing practice

Ans: C

11. In which area is there a need for increased attention?

- A. Acceptance of pluralism
- B. Linking feminism to modern trends
- C. Increasing empirical orientation in conceptual work
- D. Theory development

Ans: D

Chapter 3 – The Essentials of the Doctor of Nursing Practice: A Philosophical Perspective

1. How did the first nursing doctorate offered by Columbia University in 1924 differ from the various practice-based degrees that were developed during the 1970s?

- A. It was a PhD degree focused heavily on nursing theory rather than nursing practice.
- B. It was practice-focused but did not have a well-defined curricula that was widely accepted.
- C. It was a nursing-related EdD degree intended to prepare nurses to teach at the college level.
- D. It was a PhD degree based in maternal-child nursing that emphasized the importance of clinical research.

Ans: C

2. Which event or series of events led to the eventual replacement of the DNS degree by the ND degree as the practice-focused nursing doctorate?

- A. The shift in curricula from a practice focus to a theory focus that made the DNS similar to a traditional PhD.
- B. The introduction of the “nurse as social engineer” philosophy that created a rift between academia and the AACN.
- C. The failure to establish uniform curricula for the DNS that led to widely divergent programs around the country.
- D. The creation of the AACN task force to evaluate the current status of practice doctorates in nursing.

Ans: A

3. Which aspect of the AACN’s *Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate* has impacted nursing education the most?

- A. The provision for the establishment of the University of Kentucky’s DNP program under the direction of the AACN president.
- B. The proposal of a curriculum model based on eight essentials of advanced nursing practice.
- C. The recommendation that the DNP become the terminal practice-focused degree for nursing by 2015.
- D. The requirement that all DNP, ND, and DNS programs seek accreditation by the AACN in order to ensure uniform curricula.

Ans: C

4. Which documents outline the curriculum standards for all DNP programs?

- A. *Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* and *Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate*
- B. *Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* and *Practice Doctorate Nurse Practitioner Entry-Level Competencies*
- C. *Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate* and *Practice Doctorate Nurse Practitioner Entry-Level Competencies*
- D. *Practice Doctorate Nurse Practitioner Entry-Level Competencies* and *Middle-Range Theory in Principle and Practice*

Ans: B

5. Which “*essential*” is primarily concerned with the scientific foundations of nursing practice?

- A. *Essential I*
- B. *Essential III*
- C. *Essential IV*
- D. *Essential VI*

Ans: A

6. How does *Essential V* pertain to advanced practice nurses?

- A. Interprofessional collaboration in a multitiered healthcare environment
- B. Evaluation, integration, translation, and application of evidence-based practice
- C. Analysis of environmental data in the evaluation of population health
- D. Involvement in healthcare policy and advocacy

Ans: D

7. *Essential II* describes preparation of the DNP nurse in organizational and systems leadership. Which two other *Essentials* involve utilization of the leadership concepts presented in *Essential II*?

- A. *Essential III* and *Essential IV*
- B. *Essential III* and *Essential V*
- C. *Essential V* and *Essential VI*
- D. *Essential V* and *Essential VIII*

Ans: C

8. How is focusing on the scientific underpinnings of nursing practice paradoxical in terms of discipline development?

- A. It requires practitioners to adopt practice values of other disciplines rather than the unique knowledge of their specialty.

- B. It requires nursing to emerge from other academic disciplines rather than from its own professional discipline.
- C. It requires nurses to adopt the logical positivist viewpoint in their study even though they must adopt a humanistic viewpoint in their practice.
- D. It requires collaboration with professionals in other disciplines rather than relationship building within nursing itself.

Ans: A

9. Middle-range theories in nursing can best be described as:

- A. simplistic and general in focus.
- B. abstract and broad in type.
- C. concrete and narrow in scope.
- D. didactic and restrictive in practice.

Ans: C

10. Why is the application and integration of interdisciplinary theories by advanced practice nurses problematic for the discipline from a philosophical standpoint?

- A. It promotes a pluralistic view of the discipline that does not necessarily align with the accepted worldview of the profession.
- B. It dilutes nursing's uniqueness and makes it difficult to differentiate as its own discipline.
- C. It leads to an overemphasis on logical positivist-based science at the expense of postmodern ideals.
- D. It lessens the importance of nursing's human and social focus by introducing other ideological focuses.

Ans: B

Chapter 4 – Theory as Practice

1. Which statement about a theory is false?

- A. Theory is multifaceted, complex, and dynamic.
- B. There is one widely accepted definition of what theory is and is not.
- C. Theory falls into two broad categories--commonsense and scientific.
- D. The overarching goal of theory is to explain phenomenon.

Ans: B

2. Which statement most likely does not describe a commonsense theory?

- A. The other students in your class have more free time because they study less than you do.
- B. All of your professors are involved in a plot to overthrow the president of your university.
- C. You haven't heard from your sister lately because she is busy studying for her final exams.
- D. The number of hours spent studying for exams, a student's willingness to ask questions, and completion of course homework are directly related to the final grade.

Ans: D

3. Which phrase does not describe one of the three main goals of scientific theory?

- A. Separation of theory from practice
- B. Description of a phenomenon being studied
- C. Prediction about future relationships
- D. Explanation that "makes sense" of observed events

Ans: A

4. Which analogy most accurately defines scientific theory?

- A. Scientific theory definitively describes practice in much the same way that a dictionary definitively describes the meanings of different words.
- B. Scientific theory components are combined in different ways to produce different theories in much the same way that beads are strung together in different ways to produce different necklaces.
- C. Scientific theory represents only the thought-based aspects of a discipline (rather than the action-based aspects) in much the same way that a flag represents the physical entity of a country (rather than its individual people).
- D. Scientific theory components are specific to only one particular theory in much the same way that a key is specific to one particular lock.

Ans: B

5. Which question would be least appropriate to ask if you were interested in examining health promotion from a scientific theory perspective as opposed to another type of perspective?

- A. What influences health behavior among older adults?
- B. Why is education level associated with certain outcomes?
- C. What is the ultimate end of health promotion?
- D. Do attitudes lead to behavior change among adolescents?

Ans: C

6. What is the common element of both commonsense and scientific theories?

- A. Cause-and-effect questioning
- B. Universal law development
- C. Meaning attribution
- D. Personal sense-making with daily applications

Ans: C

7. Which phrase is not one of the four steps upon which theory and practice is built by healthcare professionals?

- A. Questioning the status quo
- B. Seeking plausible and meaningful answers
- C. Applying a pluralistic approach to theory understanding
- D. Building narrative structure for questions and answers

Ans: C

8. You are having a discussion about individual responsibility for wellness with a friend who is a behavioral science major. As the discussion proceeds, you find that he is having a hard time understanding the basic components of the theory you are presenting. Which statement represents the most likely explanation for his misunderstanding?

- A. He is approaching the theory from a different context than the one in which it was created.
- B. The narrative you have developed for the theory is not fully developed and is confusing as a result.
- C. He does not have the background in the basic sciences necessary for understanding the more technical components of the theory.
- D. Your understanding of the theory is incomplete and you are unable to provide a coherent explanation of it.

Ans: A

9. Which theoretical context would be most likely to be concerned with healthy community living?

- A. Western ethics theory
- B. Public policy theory
- C. Nursing theory
- D. Behavioral science theory

Ans: B

10. Freire's proposed relationship between theory and practice most closely aligns with which Aristotelian experience-knowledge pairs?

- A. *Theoria* and *epistme*
- B. *Praxis* and *phronesis*
- C. *Epistme* and *phronesis*
- D. *Theoria* and *praxis*

Ans: B