George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form
Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  ___X__ NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit:  College of Nursing and Health Science

Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation:  HSCI /NURS  Course Number:  725

Full Course Title: Hermeneutic Research Methodologies in Healthcare

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Hermen Res Method in Health

Credit hours: 3  Program of Record: MSN

Repeatable for Credit?  ___ D=Yes, not within same term  ___ T=Yes, within the same term  ___ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Up to hours

Activity Code (please indicate):  ___ Lecture (LEC)  ___ Lab (LAB)  ___ Recitation (RCT)

___ Studio (STU)  ___ Internship (INT)  ___ Independent Study (IND)

_X__ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format : : Course Level:  GF(500-600)  ___

GA(700+)  ___

Maximum Enrollment:  20  For NEW courses, first term to be offered: Summer 2005

Prerequisites or corequisites:  Graduate level qualitative research course

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses:

Seminar on interpretive phenomenology and hermeneutics as method in the context of research in healthcare. Readings from philosophers such as Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty and Gadamer are used to situate hermeneutical methodologies in a philosophy of science.
For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:

Last term offered:  Previous Course Abbreviation:  Previous number:

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

Submitted by:  ________________________________  email: jsorrell@gmu.edu
Department/Program: College of Nursing and Health Science  Date:  4/5/05
College Committee:  ____________________________  Date: 
Graduate Council Representative:  ___________________  Date: 

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Course Coordination Form

Approval from other units:

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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Graduate Council approval: __________________________ Date: ___________
Graduate Council representative: ______________________ Date: ____________
Provost Office representative: ________________________ Date: ____________
Proposal for New Elective

**Course Number:** HSCI/NURS 725

**Course Title:** Hermeneutic Research Methodologies in Healthcare (3:3:0)

**Placement in Curriculum:** Elective

**Prerequisite:** Graduate level qualitative research course

**Catalog Description:**

Seminar on interpretive phenomenology and hermeneutics as method in the context of research in healthcare. Readings from philosophers such as Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty and Gadamer are used to situate hermeneutical methodologies in a philosophy of science.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Analyze primary and secondary philosophical texts that provide a context for hermeneutic methodologies and interpretive phenomenology in healthcare.
2. Discuss how hermeneutic methodologies are related to philosophy of science.
3. Formulate appropriate questions for a hermeneutic study in healthcare.
4. Describe criteria for a review of literature for a hermeneutics study.
5. Demonstrate hermeneutical interviewing.
6. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of analysis of hermeneutic texts with or without computer software.
7. Analyze data for interpretation of hermeneutic texts.
8. Describe how to extend hermeneutic interpretations through application of critical social theory, feminism, and postmodern theories.
9. Critique the use of interpretive phenomenological research in healthcare.
**Topical Outline:**

- Philosophical foundations of interpretive phenomenology
- Context of interpretive phenomenology in a philosophy of science
- Hermeneutics as method
- Hermeneutic studies in healthcare
- Conducting Heideggerian hermeneutical studies
- Assessing scholarship in hermeneutic methodologies
- Critical, feminist, and postmodern interactions with hermeneutics and interpretive phenomenology
- Questioning interpretive methodologies in the human sciences

**Rationale for Proposed Course:**

This course was developed to provide a credit option for participants in the Summer Institute for Heideggerian Hermeneutical Methodologies, which is moving from the University of Wisconsin to George Mason in Summer 2005. The course advances understanding of basic research methodologies to focus on qualitative research, specifically hermeneutical research approaches. The target audience for the course is doctoral students attending the Institute, but master’s students with preparation in graduate research could also enroll. Since there is no other comparable course at George Mason, students in other doctoral programs at George Mason and other universities in the region may also want to enroll. Dr. Pamela Ironside will be teaching the didactic part of the course; Jeanne Sorrell will be collaborating with Dr. Ironside and will be the instructor of record for summer 2005.