

Doctoral Programme in Nursing Science

LITERATURE REVIEWS IN HEALTH SCIENCES, 3 ECTS

Time:	Lectures (onsite) Mon 29.9.2025 at 9:30–15:30 Tue 30.0.2025 at 9.00-15.30 Wed 1.10.2025 at 9.00-15.00	! All times Finnish time!
	Seminar (onsite) Fri 21.11.2025 at 9.15-15.45	
Venue for lectures and seminar:	University of Turku, Medisiina D, 1 st floor, room Upokas (Kiinamyllynkatu 10, Turku)	
Course leaders:	Docent, PhD, University lecturer Hannakaisa Niela-Vilen, University of Turku, Department of Nursing Science Docent, PhD Sanna Koskinen University of Turku, Department of Nursing Science	
Teachers:	Docent, PhD, University lecturer Hannakaisa Niela-Vilen, University of Turku Docent, PhD, University teacher Sanna Koskinen, University of Turku Information Specialist Leeni Lehtiö, Turku University Library Associate professor Nastasja Robstad, University of Agder, Norway Docent, PhD Ari Voutilainen, University of Eastern Finland PhD, post doc researcher Jaana Lojander, University of Turku MNSc, Doctoral researcher Anna Alanen, University of Turku MNSc, Doctoral researcher Kaile Kubota, University of Turku	
Learning activities and teaching methods:	Lectures, exercises, seminar working and presentation	
Learning outcomes:	After the course the PhD student: - knows different literature review types - can form relevant research questions for literature review - understands the basic principles of the literature search - can name different evaluation criteria for the assessment of research quality - understands how results obtained from the review are interpreted	
Evaluation:	Pass – Fail (participation in lectures and seminar is necessary)	
Registration:	Via Peppi 11.8.–19.9.2025	
Contact:	Hannakaisa Niela-Vilen, hmniel@utu.fi	



Program

Day 1: Monday 29.9.2025

place: Medisiina D, 1st floor, room Upokas (Kiinamyllynkatu 10)

Theme: **Basics of literature reviews in health sciences**

- 9.30-9.45 Welcome and orientation to the course
- 9.45-11.00 Introduction to literature reviews in health sciences
Hannakaisa Niela-Vilen, Docent, PhD, University lecturer, University of Turku
- 11.00-12.00 Lunch break
- 12.00-15.30 Databases and literature search – tips and hints for researcher
Covidence: streamlining the process of a systematic review
(Coffee break included)
Leeni Lehtiö, Information Specialist, Turku University Library

Day 2: Tuesday 30.9.2025

place: Medisiina D, 1st floor, room Upokas (Kiinamyllynkatu 10)

Theme: **Systematic approach to literature review**

- 9.00-9.45 Assessing the relevance of studies to research question
PhD, University lecturer Sanna Koskinen, University of Turku
- 9.45-10.00 Break
- 10.00-10.30 Quality assessment and checklists
Jaana Lojander, PhD, post doc researcher, University of Turku
- 10.30-11.15 Handling the risk of bias
Anna Alanen, MNSc, Doctoral researcher University of Turku
- 11.15-12.15 Lunch break
- 12.15-13.00 Example of a scoping review
Kaile Kubota, MNSc, Doctoral researcher University of Turku
- 13.00-15.30 Meta-analysis - Details and examples
(Coffee break included)
Ari Voutilainen, Docent, PhD, University of Eastern Finland

Day 3: Wednesday 1.10.2025

place: Medisiina D, 1st floor, room Upokas (Kiinamyllynkatu 10)

Theme: **Perspectives to qualitative review methodology**

- 9.00-14.00 Qualitative systematic review methodology
Associate professor Nastasja Robstad, University of Agder, Norway
(Coffee and lunch breaks included)
- 14.00-15.00 Introduction to seminar work, reflective discussion about the lectures and feedback
Hannakaisa Niela-Vilen & Sanna Koskinen, University of Turku



PREPARATORY WORK BEFORE LECTURES

Familiarize yourself with the following four articles. Especially focus on concepts used in the research methodology.

Articles are available from the Moodle platform:

Grant MJ & Booth A. 2009. A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies. *Health Info Libr J*, 26, 91–108.

Leucht S, Kissling W, Davis JM. 2009. How to read and understand and use systematic reviews and meta-analyses. *Acta Psychiatr Scand* 119, 443–450.

Parekh-Bhurke S, Kwok CS, Pang C, Hooper L, Loke YK, Ryder JJ, Sutton AJ, Hing CB, Harvey I, Song F. 2011. Uptake of methods to deal with publication bias in systematic reviews has increased over time, but there is still much scope for improvement. *J Clin Epidemiol* 64(4), 349-57.

Tricco AC, Antony J, Zarin W, Striffler L, Ghassemi M, Ivory J, Perrier L, Hutton B, Moher D, Straus SE. 2015. A scoping review of rapid review methods. *BMC Med*. 13:224. doi: 10.1186/s12916-015-0465-6.

SEMINAR WORK

Day: Friday 21.11.2025

Time: 9.15–15.45

Place: Medisiina D, 1st floor, room Upokas

1. Prepare a power point presentation about your own review study

Length of the presentation max. 12 slides, presentation time 15-30 min. Time schedule for the presentations will be confirmed during the lecture days.

Supporting literature

Barnett-Page, E., Thomas, J. 2009. Methods for the synthesis of qualitative research: a critical review. *BMC Med Res Methodol* 9;59. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2288-9-59>

Borenstein, M., Hedges, L. V., Higgins, J. P. T., & Rothstein, H. R. *Introduction to Meta-Analysis*, 2nd ed., 2021. Wiley, Oxford, UK.

Harden A & Thomas J. 2005. Methodological issues in combining diverse study types in systematic reviews. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 8(3), 257-271.

Green, B. N., Johnson, C. D., & Adams, A. (2006). Writing narrative literature reviews for peer-reviewed journals: secrets of the trade. *Journal of Chiropractic Medicine*, 5(3): 101-117. DOI: 10.1016/S0899-3467(07)60142-6

Harris JD, Quatman CE, Manring MM, Siston RA & Flanigan DC. 2014. How to write a systematic review. *American Journal of Sports Medicine*, 42(11), 2761-2768.

Higgins J, Thomas J (editors). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* Version 6.3, 2022. Cochrane Training. Available at <https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current>

Joanna Briggs Institute. 2023. <https://jbi.global/>

Leucht S, Kissling W & Davis JM. 2009. How to read and understand and use systematic reviews and meta-analyses. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 119(6), 443–450.

Liberati A, Altman DG, Tetzlaff J, Mulrow C, Gøtzsche PC, Ioannidis JP, Clarke M, Devereaux PJ, Kleijnen J & Moher D. 2009. The PRISMA statement for reporting systematic reviews and meta-analyses of studies that evaluate health care interventions: explanation and elaboration. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 62(10), e1-34.

Munn Z, Peters MDJ, Stern C, Tufanaru C, McArthur A, Aromataris E. 2018. Systematic review or scoping review? Guidance for authors when choosing between a systematic or scoping review approach. *BMC Med Res Methodol*. 18(1):143. doi: 10.1186/s12874-018-0611-x. PMID: 30453902; PMCID: PMC6245623.

Murad MH, Montori VM, Ioannidis JP, Jaeschke R, Devereaux PJ, Prasad K, Neumann I, Carrasco-Labra A, Agoritsas T, Hatala R, Meade MO, Wyer P, Cook DJ & Guyatt G. 2014. How to read a systematic review and meta-analysis and apply the results to patient care users' guides to the medical literature. *JAMA*, 312(2), 171-179

Walsh D & Downe S. 2005. Meta-synthesis method for qualitative research: a literature review. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 50(2), 204–211.