



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

College of

Nursing and Health Professions



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## Philadelphia center city campus





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# Half the Sky: Use of literature to teach undergraduate nursing students about global health equity

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## Nursing 303 Women's Health

10 week mid-level nursing course for traditional and accelerated BSN students

Drexel Learning Priorities: Global Competence, Research, Leadership

Upon graduation students will demonstrate an improved ability to ....

Engage in, reflect upon and demonstrate open-mindedness toward all issues of diversity at the local, national and international level [Global Competence]

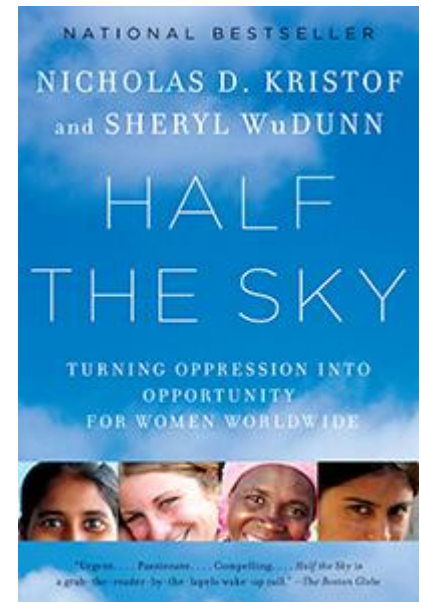
Make meaningful contributions in their chosen field participating in use-inspired (e.g. inspired by and applied to real world problems), research, scholarship or creative activity as an individual or in a collaborative effort [Research, scholarship and creative expression]

Develop a vision, translate that vision into shared goals and effectively work with others to achieve these goals [Leadership]



# Research Questions

1. *What are students' perceptions after reading selected chapters from Half the Sky?*
2. *What did the students learn from the assignment?*





Research Design: Qualitative Description

Naturalistic Inquiry

Prolonged engagement as faculty participant observers (10 years)

Participants: BSN students, ages early 20's to 40

Data: 3-4 page student reflection papers from the past 5 years.

Using constant comparison faculty researchers dialogued until consensus was reached

Saturation achieved at 23 papers



## Findings

Three themes, transformative process

*Overcoming resistance – Eyes opened*

*Growth of compassion*

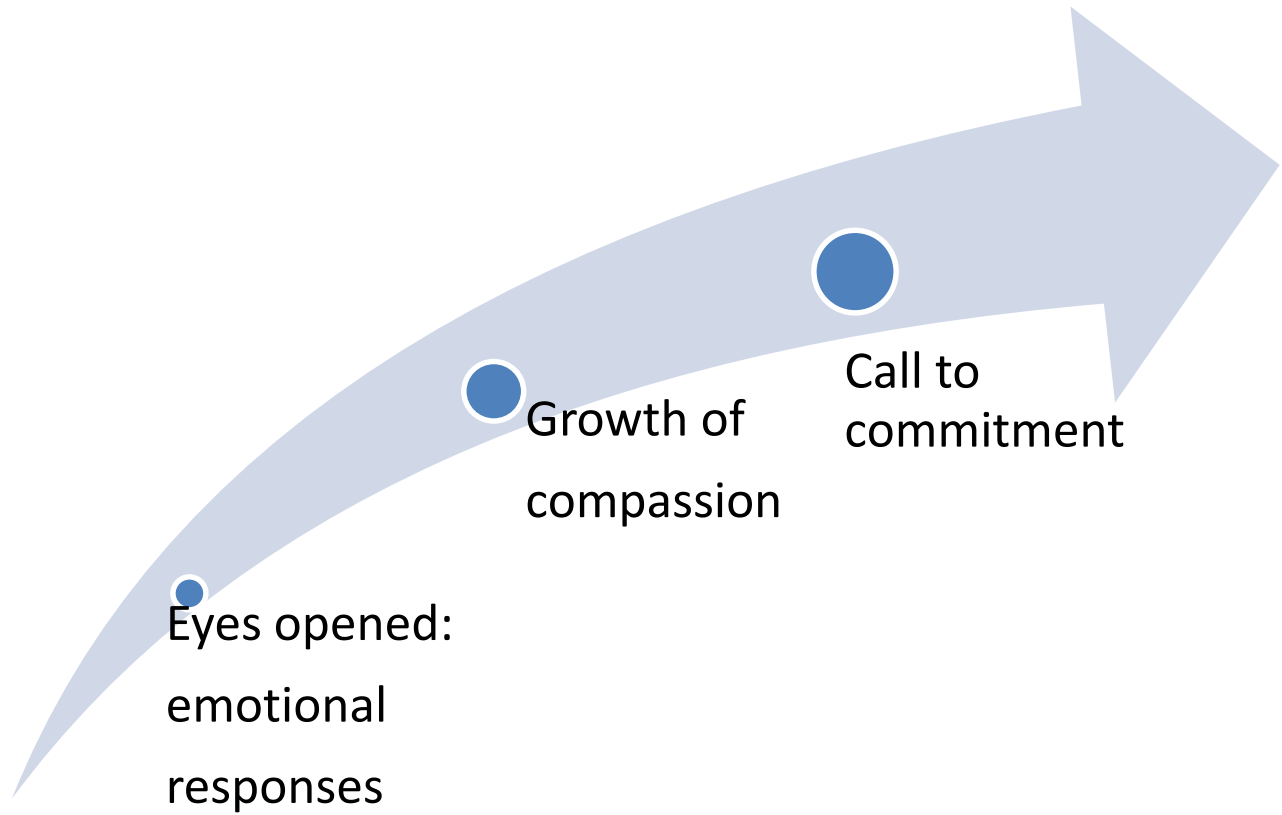
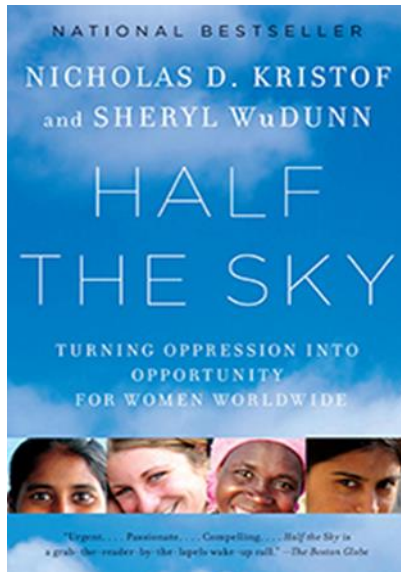
*Call to commitment*



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## Eyes opened – Emotional responses

Shocked

I was unaware and ashamed

Anger

Frustration

Disbelief

Ignorance

Took  
maternal care  
we have for  
granted

empathy

completely blown away

eyes opened

Appalled

Inspiring

Intrigued



## Growth of Compassion

*There was a woman in obstructed labor, the doctor wouldn't help her [because they couldn't pay], he essentially let her die. It's not fair to label him as a bad person, I have never been in a situation that is remotely comparable. Hospitals don't even have supplies, this is so different from the United States that it is almost hard to imagine.*

*I had never thought about how hard it must be to get doctors to stay in poor rural areas, being the only one means people are overworked and underpaid. This is why we need to help.*



# Call to commitment

*We need severe reform in education, the general public and more importantly, financial aid to prevent maternal mortality. This is another form of genocide against the pregnant population where the people who can help the most don't.*

*Coming from a family of immigrants who often relay their horror stories of their healthcare interactions within the rural communities of Jamaica this assignment has helped to reinforce my desire to become a community health nurse practitioner.*

*Nurses can use their platform to educate patients and also advocate on their behalf to help bring an awareness to this problem.*

*I cannot wait to use my education to make a difference*



Students' suggestions for how nursing leaders can influence education, practice, policy and research



### Education:

*A class based specifically on these issues could help to make future nurses more aware of global issues*

### Practice:

*The ANA holds conferences with both nursing professionals and students. This kind of organization has the numbers as well as the credibility to raise awareness.*

*Provide incentives for RNs to volunteer and work on issues women face everyday in developing countries.*

*Spreading the word about serious global issues in women's health is the only way to help the women affected*

*Every healthcare facility should be required to incorporate cultural competency, education, funding and training into their operating plan as a way to demonstrate to their staff a willingness to show the pillars of respecting diversity and patient dignity.*



## Policy:

*If more people know about this suffering [education] the cause will receive more funding [policy] then some progress will be made.*

*Funding from [professional] organizations could be used to supply, fund medical brigades to countries to provide care for women who cannot afford it or have been neglected or ostracized.*

## Research:

*I have a duty to investigate the injustices experienced globally and to find a way to courageously act*



*This [assignment] has definitely sparked a new interest for me and hopefully one day I will be able to use the nursing skills that I learned here at Drexel to give back and help end the brutalities against women.*



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Thank you so much !

Questions?





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