Syllabus: Introduction to Professional Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON SCHOOL OF NURSING

N1300 Introduction to Professional Nursing **Instructor**

Instructor
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Course Description
Designed to introduce and transition the freshman and transfer pre-nursing student to the language of nursing, critical thinking, the essential academic skills for incoming students and the interpersonal skills required for success in nursing school and the nursing profession. Selected concepts and processes for professional nursing will be included in the course, including an introduction to nursing's theoretical, philosophical, ethical, and legal dimensions.

Textbook and Reading Materials
Masters, K. (2009). *Role development in professional nursing practice (2nd ed.)*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. ISBN: 978-0-7637-5603-1

University of Texas at Arlington (2010). *No Limits: Foundation and Strategies for College Succe*ss. Hayden-McNeil Publishing. ISBN: 978-0-7380-3724-0

Course Credit Hours
3 Credit Hours

Placement in Curriculum
Freshman level or transfer students with nursing major

Prerequisites
None

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
- Develop self-management and academic skills necessary for academic and professional success.
- Describe University and School of Nursing policies and procedures that impact progression to acquire a degree.
- Use personal assessment information to identify how learning and personality style affect academic, interpersonal, and professional success.
- Identify and apply the principles of self care related to body, mind, and spirit
- Describe the role of the nurse as provider of patient-centered care, provider of patient-centered care, member of a profession, patient safety advocate, and member of the healthcare team.
- Identify the benefits of networking, mentoring, and participating in University and School of Nursing organizations and activities.
- Discuss the components of clinical reasoning, decision making, communication, and evidence-based practice and how a nurse uses these tools to provide comprehensive, efficient, safe, high quality care for patients.

- Explain the importance of accountability for optimal nursing care, legal and ethical standards, lifelong learning, cultural competence, professional development, promoting the nursing profession and participating as a citizen in our society.

Grading Policy

In undergraduate nursing courses, all grade calculations will be carried out to two decimal places (i.e. 85.679 = 85.68) and there will be **no rounding of final grades**. Letter grades for assignments and end-of-course grades shall be:

A - 90% - 100%
B - 80% - 89.99%
C - 70% - 79.99%
D - 60% - 69.99%

No extra credit projects are available to raise individual grades or final grade.

Assignments

Must be completed on time and submitted through the gocourse gradebook. Pay attention to due dates since the course will not accept assignments after the due date and time. Assignments will NOT be accepted by email.

Late Assignments

During the first week there will not be any deductions of points for late assignments; however, week 1 assignments must be turned in by Saturday of week 2. **This applies to assignments only, not quizzes. See below for quiz policy**. After the first week, there will be 5 points deducted for each day an assignment is late up until day 5 at which time the assignment will be a 0 UNLESS you have approval PRIOR to the due date from your coach for an extension. The official time for assignments will be determined by the submission time. During the final week no late assignments will be accepted!

Policy on Making up Missed Quizzes and Final Examination:

Quizzes and the final exam can only be made up if the student has documentation (can show proof/evidence) of an emergency. **No exceptions will be made**. The student must contact the faculty before the quiz, or if unable to do so, at least 24 hours after a missed quiz in order for a makeup to be considered.

Final week assignments, discussions, quizzes, etc. due

Due to the short nature of this course, all course work must be completed and/or submitted no later than the last day of the course which is Saturday at 8:00 a.m. of week 5. During the final week no late assignments will be accepted!

Computer Problems

If you have any computer issues or technological issues, please contact tech support immediately - 1-866-489-2810 or http://uta.academicpartnership.com/support.asp

Course Questions

Please contact the **course coach** for questions regarding the course. Course coaches and faculty communicate regularly to resolve issues. If issues are not resolved by the course coach then you may contact the course faculty.

Emailing Coaches/Faculty

When emailing course coach or faculty, **only UTA email** will be accepted and responded to for communication. In emails **under Subject include course name and number and the section number you are in**; otherwise, your coach and/or faculty will not respond. It is your responsibility to check your school email account daily.

Electronic Communication Policy
The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. **Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at helpdesk@uta.edu

Student Code of Ethics
The University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing supports the Student Code of Ethics Policy. Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the Code. The Code can be found in the Student Handbook.

Academic Integrity
It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.
"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2). For additional information please refer to the Student Handbook.

PLAGIARISM
Copying another student's paper or any portion of it is plagiarism. Additionally, copying a portion of published material (e.g., books or journals) without adequately documenting the source is plagiarism. If five or more words in sequence are taken from a source, those words must be placed in quotes and the source referenced with author's name, date of publication, and page number of publication. If the author's ideas are rephrased, by transposing words or expressing the same idea using different words, the idea must be attributed to the author by proper referencing, giving the author's name and date of publication. If a single author's ideas are discussed in more than one paragraph, the author must be referenced at the end of each paragraph. Authors whose words or ideas have been used in the preparation of a paper must be listed in the references cited at the end of the paper. Students are encouraged to review the plagiarism module from the UT Arlington Central Library via http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/. Papers are checked for plagiarism using special software.

Statement for Americans with Disabilities Act
The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.
As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide **"reasonable accommodation"** to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with **informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing *authorized* documentation through designated administrative channels.** Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Student Support
The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

UTA 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog Policy for Adding and Dropping Courses or Withdrawals
Effective Fall 2006, adds and drops may be made through late registration either on the Web at MyMav or in person in the academic department offering the course. Drops may continue in person until a point in time two-thirds of the way through the course.
Exceptions to this policy may be entertained because of extraordinary non-academic circumstances. Under such circumstances, approval must be received from the instructor, department chair, dean, and the Office of the Provost.
Students wanting to drop all courses for which they are enrolled must withdraw from the University for that semester/term. (Students should follow the procedure in the Withdrawal section of the UG Catalog.)

Online Etiquette Policies
E-Culture Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.
All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.
Online Conduct: The discussion board should be viewed as a public and professional forum for course related resources. The tone of postings should be professional in nature.
It is not appropriate to post statements of a personal or political nature, or statements criticizing classmates or faculty. Inappropriate statements/language will be deleted by the course faculty and may result in denied access to the Main Discussion board. Refer to UTASON Student Handbook for more information.

School of Nursing Information
APA Format - <u>All work submitted requires APA format</u>
APA style manual will be referenced by the UTACON with some specific requirements for the undergraduate nursing courses (refer to handout in week one and http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx)

No Gift Policy
In accordance with Regents Rules and Regulations and the UTA Standards of Conduct, the School of Nursing has a "no gift" policy. A donation to the UTA School of Nursing Scholarship Fund would be an appropriate way to recognize a faculty member's contribution to your learning. For information regarding the Scholarship Fund, please contact the Dean's office.

The Student Handbook can be found by going to the following link:
http://www.uta.edu/nursing/bsn-program/ and click on BSN student handbook.

Evaluation:
- Discussions: 20%
- Reflective Journal Entries: 20%
- Assignments: 28%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Final Exam: 12%

Course Planning Calendar Assignment

	Assignment	Due Date
Week 1: **Essential Academic Skills**	Activities – VARK and Myers-Briggs Questionnaires	**N/A**
	Discussion – Personal Strengths	**First post WED 0800** **Week 1** **Replies MON 0800** **Week 2**
	Reflective Journal – Learning	**MON 0800** **Week 2**
	Assignment – Personal Profile, Resume, & Goals	**MON 0800** **Week 2**
	Quiz	**MON 0800** **Week 2**
Week 2: **Interpersonal Skills**	Discussion – Burnout	**First post WED 0800** **Week 2** **Replies MON 0800** **Week 3**
	Reflective Journal – Coping Mechanisms	**MON 0800** **Week 3**
	Quiz	**MON 0800** **Week 3**
	Discussion – Perception of Nurses	**First post WED 0800** **Week 3** **Replies MON 0800** **Week 4**

Week 3: **Role of the Professional Nurse**	Assignment – Math for Nurses (**Note**: In order to have feedback prior to the quiz, this assignment is due earlier than when assignments are normally due)	**WED 2000** **Week 3**
	Reflective Journal – Stereotypes	**MON 0800** **Week 4**
	Quiz	**MON 0800** **Week 4**
	Assignment – Applying Critical Thinking to the Nursing Process	**MON 0800** **Week 5**
Week 4: **Critical Thinking in Nursing Practice**	Discussion – Evidence-Based Practice	**First post WED 0800** **Week 4** **Replies MON 0800** **Week 5**
	Reflective Journal – Critical Thinking	**MON 0800** **Week 5**
	Quiz	**MON 0800** **Week 5**
	Reflective Journal – Board of Nursing	**SAT 0800** **Week 5**
Week 5: **History, Theory, and Nursing Practice**	Assignment – Philosophy of Nursing	**SAT 0800** **Week 5**
	Discussion – Patient Safety	**First post WED 0800** **Week 5** **Replies SAT 0800** **Week 5**
	Final Exam	**SAT 0800** **Week 5**

Required Assignments
Discussions (20%)
Another requirement of this course is completion of weekly discussion entries. You must submit an entry and reply to at least two of your online peers' post with reflective questions, substantive comments and/or relevant personal experiences.
Weekly Reflective Journal Entries (20%) <u>**ALL entries require APA format**</u>
One of the requirements of this course is completion of weekly reflective journal entries. Reflective journaling will help you focus upon your course and career goals, and enhance and reinforce your learning.
Some entries will be completed prior to instructional activities and others afterward. For each, you should write your reflective comments, making connections to your prior experiences, this course, and beyond.
Assignments (28%) <u>**All assignments submitted require APA format**</u>
- **Personal Profile, Resume, & Goals (7%)**
   As you prepare for UTA Nursing School, it is important to "take inventory" of your skills, experiences, and goals. This assignment will help you utilize what you learned from the VARK and Meyers-Briggs activities to outline the strategies you should use in studying and the strengths you will bring to the nursing profession. You will also follow a given format to create a simple professional resume. Finally, you will use the "SMART" criteria to establish two S.M.A.R.T. goals.
- **Math for Nurses (7%)**
   Begin to explore and develop math skills necessary for nursing medication administration and care.
- **Critical Thinking (7%)**
   For this assignment, you will read a real-world nursing scenario, analyze the situation, and devise a solution based upon what you have learned so far.
- **Philosophy of Nursing (7%)**
   In this assignment, you will write your philosophy of nursing, Use the guide on page 81 of the Master's textbook to guide the writing of your philosophy.

Quizzes (20%)
Each week you will take a quiz to determine your progress.
Final (12%)
The final is a cumulative exam to evaluate your knowledge and understanding of the outcomes of this course.