**The University Of Texas at Arlington**

**College of Nursing**

**RN-BSN Program**

**N-4465 Care of Vulnerable Populations across the Lifespan**

**Fall 2012**

**Intentionally blank**

The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing

**N4465-201: RN-BSN Care of Vulnerable Populations across the Lifespan**

**Fall 2012**

**Instructor(s): Denise Cauble**, RN, PhD(c), CWOCN

**Office:** Room 539, Pickard Hall

**Office Phone:** 817-272-2776

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**E-mail:** [dcauble@uta.edu](mailto:dcauble@uta.edu) **Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 11-12 and by appointment

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** Pickard Hall, Room 227

Meets on Thursday, per Master Schedule

**Description of Course Content:** Integrates knowledge from nursing theory and public health science in assessing health care needs of aggregates, communities, and society for the Registered Nurse (4 Credit hours, 60 hours).

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Apply core professional values (health promotion, prevention of illness and injury, partnership, respect for the environment, respect for diversity, and advocacy) and roles within Community/Public Health Nursing (C/PHN).
2. Examine the impact of culture, socioeconomic status, lifestyle, environment, and violence on the health of the community and healthcare access.
3. Perform a community assessment for a target population.
4. Develop a method of evaluation of community nursing interventions.
5. Analyze issues affecting global health, ethics, and social injustice.
6. Describe the components within the public health system used to address disasters, pandemics, bioterrorism, and public emergency.
7. Collaborate/Communicate with community health nurse/interdisciplinary professionals in a community agency that serves a target population.
8. Apply information and referral process to community resources for the selected population.
9. Integrate assessment findings, theory, and evidence-based research in the delivery of safe patient care in a selected target population.
10. Describe basic epidemiological concepts/biostatistics as they affect the community.
11. Utilize information technology to meet the needs of the target population.

**Requirements:** In class hours are approximately 30 hours, including time to conduct Windshield and Agency assessments. As a result, students must plan to spend additional time preparing for class and taking online quizzes as required.

1. Online quizzes

2. Participation in class: required journal articles, and case and simulation activities will be

required regularly. Students who miss or do not submit pop quiz, etc. will be given a 0.00;

no make-ups will be given for missed quizzes, activities.

3. Community Assessment:

- Community Windshield Survey

- Community Statistical Data

- Community Agency Analysis

- Community Grant Proposal

1. 2 FEMA Programs: Proof of completion (certificates) will be required.
2. Attendance:

Students enrolled in the course are expected to attend all class times. Rolls may be taken in class. It is the responsibility of the student to sign the roll by the break time for each class attended.

6. Blackboard:

Refer to CON Handbook. In addition, for this course Blackboard discussion boards will be utilized as follows:

* Student discussion board: for students who would like to communicate with peers. Students are expected to comply with rules as described in the Student Handbook.
* Class Announcement Board: the Lead Instructor will post announcements pertaining to class as needed. **Students are not to post to this board.**
* Assignments will be posted to Blackboard: in the assignment box.
* Graded assignments will be uploaded to Blackboard assignment box, unless otherwise stated by faculty.
* Grades will be posted to Blackboard.

7. Communication:

Students are expected to follow the following chain of communication and command:

* Read the syllabus/text for directions/clarification, etc.
* Discuss with Site Coordinator (if applicable) as needed
* Contact Lead Faculty

TEACHING METHODS:

Case Studies

Demonstration

Discussion

Internet Resources

Lecture

Simulation

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

Stanhope, Marcia, & Lancaster, Jeanette, (2010). *Foundations of Community Health Nursing*

*Community Oriented Practice*. 3rd Edition. St. Louis, MO: Mosby.

Houghton, Peggy M., Houghton, Timothy J., & Peters, Michael F. (2009). *APA: The Easy*

*Way!* Baker College.

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTBOOKS:Texts used in Health Promotion Across the Lifespan; Holistic Health Assessment; Clinical Nursing Foundations, etc.

American Psychological Association, (2009). *Publication Manual of the American*

*Psychological Association*. (6th Edition). Washington, DC: Author.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates (see Master Schedule for due dates):**

Class Participation (i.e. pop quizzes, required articles for class, simulations/cases\*) 25%

Community Assessment Assignments\*\*

- Community Windshield Survey and interview of 3 Key informants 15%

- Community Statistical Data 15%

- Community Health Nursing Intervention 15%

- Community Agency Analysis 15%

2 FEMA Disaster Management Certificates 15%

**\*** **The lowest quiz or class participation grade will be dropped. In the event two quiz or participation grades are the same and the lowest, ONLY one will be dropped**.

**\*\*Written assignments (**Windshield Survey, Community Statistical Data, Community Health Nursing Intervention, and Community Agency Analysis) **pass this course. Any student who does NOT make > or = to 70.00% weighted average on these assignments shall NOT successfully complete the course.**

**Grading Policy**:

In order to successfully complete an undergraduate nursing course at UTA, the following minimum criteria must be met:

* 70% weighted average on proctored exams- N/A for this course
* **70 % weighted average on major written assignments (i.e. non-proctored written, computerized assignments, etc.)**
* 90% on math test (if applicable)- N/A for this course
* 90% on medication test and practicum check off (if applicable)- N/A for this course

In undergraduate nursing courses, all grade calculations will be carried out to two decimal places and there will be no rounding of final grades. Letter grades for tests, written assignments, and end of course grades, etc. shall be:

A = 90.00 – 100.00

B = 80.00 – 89.99

C = 70.00 – 79.99

D = 60.00 – 69.99

The existing rule of C or better to progress remains in effect; therefore to successfully complete a nursing course, students shall have a course grade of 70.00 or greater.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**:

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend **at least an additional 9 hours per week** of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Drop Policy:**

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

As in the past, the last date to drop the course for clinical reasons is adjusted. The adjusted date will now reflect a point two-thirds of the way through the course or clinical rotation.

A**djusted drop dates in the Fall 2012 semester for Senior RN-BSN courses are as follows:**

**N4325 – Nursing Research – DROP DATE: September 13, 2012**

**N4465 –Vulnerable Populations across the Lifespan – DROP DATE: November 8, 2012**

**N4455 – Nursing Leadership & Mgmt. – DROP DATE: September 27, 2012**

**N4585 – Capstone Seminar – DROP DATE: November 15, 2012**

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall, #102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:**

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**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/tutorials/Plagiarism>

**Student Support Services**:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**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 Feedback Survey:**

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**LIBRARY INFORMATION: Helen Hough**, Nursing Librarian

(817) 272-7429, Email: [hough@uta.edu](mailto:hough@uta.edu)

Research Information on Nursing:

<http://www.uta.edu/library/research/rt-nursing.html>

**RN-BSN PROGRAM**

**SUPPORT STAFF: Pamela Smith, *Administrative Assistant I***

657 Pickard Hall, 6th floor

(817) 272-2776 ext. 4814

Email: [pamsmith@uta.edu](mailto:pamsmith@uta.edu)

**Grade Grievance Policy:** Refer to College of Nursing Student Handbook.

# COLLEGE OF NURSING INFORMATION:

**UTA College of Nursing Policy:**

Effective for students entering the nursing program Fall 2009 (Jr I) and forward, the following policy applies:

Students within the program, enrolled in an upper division NURS course are permitted to drop the course one time. Upon attempting the course for the second time, the earned grade is retained. Students may drop no more than three upper division NURS courses during their undergraduate career. Elective and pre-nursing courses are exempt from this policy.

**APA FORMAT:**

*APA* style manual will be used by the UTACON with some specific requirements for the undergraduate courses. The sample title page & instructions, as well as a Manuscript Preparation document can be found at: [www.uta.edu/nursing/handbook/bsn\_policies.php#apa](http://www.uta.edu/nursing/handbook/bsn_policies.php#apa)

**STUDENT CODE OF ETHICS:**

The University of Texas at Arlington College 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.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT GUIDELINES:**

The Faculty of the BSN Program believes that classroom teaching has two goals: the provision of content pertinent to the discipline of nursing and the socialization of students into the professional role. We are committed to providing the curriculum in an atmosphere conducive to student learning and in a manner that will prepare graduates to be successful in the health care workplace. Refer to the Student Handbook for more information.

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT ON BLACKBOARD AND SOCIAL MEDIA SITES:**

The Blackboard Discussion Board is to be viewed as a professional forum for student discussions. Students are free to discuss academic matters and consult one another regarding academic resources. The tone of postings on the Blackboard Discussion Board is to remain professional in nature at all times.  It is not appropriate to post statements of a personal or political nature, or statements criticizing classmates or faculty. Statements considered inappropriate will be deleted by course faculty.  Announcements from student organizations may be posted to the designated level discussion board (not associated with this course).

Students are to refrain from discussing this course, including clinical situations, written assignments, peers, or faculty on all social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Failure to comply with these expectations may result in further action including, but not limited to, removal from the discussion board.

**NO GIFT POLICY:**

In accordance with Regents’ Rules and Regulations and the UTA Standards of Conduct, the College of Nursing has a “no gift” policy. A donation to the UTA College 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.

**CLINICAL PASS/FAIL:**

Clinical Failing Behaviors

Clinical failing behaviors are linked to the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners’ Standards of Professional Practice. Issues related to professional conduct, management of stress, clarification of course, clinical assignment, and/or professional role expectations, may warrant clinical warnings, contracts for remediation, or course failure.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Clinical Failing Behaviors | Matched to NPA |
| 1. Performance is unsafe. | 1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,15 |
| 2. Questionable decisions are often made. | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15 |
| 3. Lacks insight into own behaviors and that of others. | 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15 |
| 4. Difficulty in adapting to new ideas/functions. | 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15 |
| 5. Continues to need additional guidance and direction. | 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,14,15 |

**Standards of Professional Nursing Practice (BNE 213.27, 217.11, 217.12)**

1. Knows rationale for side effects of medications and treatments, and correctly administers same (217.11.3).
2. Documents nursing care accurately and completely, including signs and symptoms, nursing care rendered medication administration. Contacts health care team concerning significant events in patient health (217.11.4).
3. Implements a safe environment for patients and/or others, i.e., bed rails up, universal precautions (217.11.5).
4. Respects client confidentiality (217.11.6).
5. Accepts assignments commensurate with educational level, preparation, experience and knowledge (217.11.12).
6. Obtains instruction and supervision as necessary when implementing nursing procedures or practices (217.11.13).
7. Notifies the appropriate supervisor when leaving an assignment (217.11.14).
8. Recognizes and maintains professional boundaries of the nurse/patient relationship (217.11.15).
9. Clarifies orders, treatments, that nurse has reason to believe are inaccurate, non-effective or contraindicated (217.11.19).
10. Documents and reports completely and accurately. (217.11.4).
11. Able to distinguish right from wrong (213.27.2a).
12. Able to think and act rationally (213.27.2b).
13. Able to keep promises and honor obligations (213.27.2c).
14. Accountable for own behavior (213.27.2d).
15. Able to promptly and fully self-disclose facts, circumstances, events, errors and omissions when these disclosures will enhance health status of patients or protect patients from unnecessary risk or harm (213.27.2g).

Please refer to the Board of Nurse Examiners at [www.bne.state.tx.us](http://www.bne.state.tx.us) for any additional information regarding the Texas Nursing Practice Act.

**HOME AND COMMUNITY VISIT SAFETY POLICY:**

**A. Overview:**

The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing (UTACON) faculty wants you to have a safe and effective home/community visit. Personal safety is of vital concern for all involved. Safety issues are rarely a concern and should NOT interfere with a successful home/community visit. Usually, common sense is the overriding principle of self-protection and behavior. Constant awareness of your surroundings and access to emergency and faculty contact numbers will assist you in avoiding unsafe and potentially unsafe conditions and circumstances.

**B. Purpose:**

The purpose of the following guidelines is to direct you toward safe behaviors and activities to be conducted before, during, and after a home/community visit. These visits may occur in a variety of settings such as the home, agency, clinic, etc. Please read each item carefully and clarify any issues with your clinical faculty. Each item has been developed from experienced nurses who have successfully avoided unsafe situations and circumstances. Some student nurses find that they have fears about all aspects of the environment because they are in surroundings entirely different from those they have previously experienced. If this is the case, student nurses will find it helpful to discuss their fears with a faculty member who can help the student to objectively analyze the situation.

**C. Guidelines:**

1. Accountability

a. The visitation schedule for the semester will be planned by the student and clinical faculty/advisor prior to making the first visit.

b. Students are expected to be punctual, professionally dressed (see #4) and to maintain client confidentiality/ethical rights.

c. If the student must be absent or will be delayed for a family/ agency visit, it is the responsibility of the student to contact family members and clinical faculty/advisor (as agreed upon) prior to the scheduled visit.

d. Students ignoring punctuality, or failing to arrive at the designated time will be considered as demonstrating unprofessional conduct. Adjustments may be made after the initial family/ agency visit and should be determined with the designated clinical faculty/advisor.

2. Safety

a. Visiting during daylight hours Monday through Friday, and Saturday for graduate students is strongly recommended. Visits during evening and weekend hours **must** be approved by your clinical faculty/advisor.

b. **Undergraduate students may not under any conditions administer medication to their assigned client or family members. Graduate students may administer medication according to physician orders.**

c. Lock any personal items in your trunk before leaving the parking lot.

d. Always inform a significant other regarding the address you are visiting and the anticipated length of time you will be there. When possible, travel with a partner.

e. Alert the client/agency (when possible) that you are coming and have them watch for you.

f. Have accurate directions to the street, building, or apartment.

g. If the area is unfamiliar to you, check with your clinical faculty/advisor for more detailed information. Obtain clear directions to the client’s home. Use a map to identify the location to which you are traveling.

h. Drive with the windows closed and all car doors locked. Keep your purse or wallet in the trunk.

i. As you approach your destination, carefully observe your surroundings. Note: location and activity of the people; types and locations of cars; conditions of buildings (abandoned or heavily congested buildings).

j. Before getting out of the car, once again thoroughly check the surroundings. If you feel uneasy, do not get out of the car. Return to school or home and notify your clinical faculty/advisor.

k. Park your car in a well-lit, heavily traveled area of the street, and lock your car.

l. Do not enter the home if the situation seems questionable (e.g. drunk family members, family quarrel, combativeness, unleashed pets, etc.). Students should have an alternative plan such as postponing visit or meeting client/agency in another designated place. If students need to leave the setting quickly, they may want to say, “I’m leaving now, I must meet my instructor, or I forgot I have an appointment at school.” Students should call 911 if in danger or a medical emergency presents. **Never try to take care of this situation on your own!**

m. Students should remain cautious when approaching pets within the home/community setting. They may be territorial and protective of their owners. It may be necessary to ask a family member to confine them briefly while you are completing your assessment and/ or visit.

3. Transportation

a. **Undergraduate and graduate students should not transport clients in any vehicle**.

b. Before leaving your home, know how to change a tire and take emergency supplies with you. Always use reliable transportation that is well fueled.

4. Professional Attire

Professional attire (nursing uniform or dress slacks/skirt with shirt/ blouse, lab coat, nametag and nursing badge) as required for the agency, or assignment. Your clinical faculty/advisor will inform you of the requirements for the assigned visits.

5. Confidentiality

a. Client confidentiality must be maintained at all times (e.g. not discussing family/ agency situation with another family member without permission, etc.). If questions or concerns arise, contact your clinical faculty for advice.

b. Violation of confidentiality is considered as unprofessional conduct.

6. Communication

Students conducting home or community visits should carry a list of emergency phone numbers and a cellular phone with them, if at all possible. Students should know how to contact their designated clinical faculty member in case of any emergency. Refer to specific course guidelines for further information regarding this issue. Some courses may utilize a Decision Tree to assist students with this process.

**CLINICAL DRESS CODE:**

The clinical dress code applies to all graduate and undergraduate students of The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing (UTACON), and has two primary purposes: to insure that, whenever in the clinical setting, students of the UTACON: 1) represent the nursing profession and UTACON in a professional and appropriate manner, and 2) are readily identifiable as students.

Students are to adhere to the dress code any time they present themselves to a clinical agency in the role of nursing student. This includes going to the agency prior to clinical to select a patient, arriving at the agency in street clothes to change into hospital scrubs, and attending post-conference or classroom time at the agency, as well as when attending clinical. Clinical faculty has final judgment on the appropriateness of student attire. Refer to the Student Handbook for more information.

**Award for Student Excellence in Clinical Nursing**

This award is for an exceptional student who consistently exceeds the clinical expectations of the course.  The student will be honored at an awards ceremony at the end of the semester.  Clinical faculty will further discuss the award during the clinical rotation.

Criteria for selection:

* Consistently exceeds clinical performance standards in the application of theoretical concepts, evidence-based practice, and communication (written and verbal).
* Demonstrates exemplary performance in the use of critical thinking and problem solving skills.
* Demonstrates exemplary performance in the application of leadership principles and professionalism.

## EMERGENCY COVERAGE FOR NEEDLE-STICK INJURIES & POLICY ON INVASIVE PROCEDURES

These policies may be found on the College of Nursing Website under the Student Handbook.

***The Student Handbook can be found by going to the following link:*** <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/handbook/toc.php> or by going to the nursing website [www.uta.edu/nursing](http://www.uta.edu/nursing) and using the link provided under Current Students.