Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
School of Nursing and Health Science
Nurs 4324.W01 The Nurse as Caregiver
Fall Semester, 2008

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Credits: Three semester hours (3.0)

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Emphasis is on caring as an essential dimension of professional nursing. Theories are presented to explain the relationship between human behavior and health and illness and the impact of interpersonal relationship skills to effect positive changes in individuals. Application of theory as a basis for understanding human behavior in health and illness and as basis for critical thinking in nursing practice in clinical settings.

Theory Course Objectives With Specific Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Analyze factors related to professional role.
   1.1 Identify characteristics of a profession.
   1.2 Evaluate nursing's current status as a profession
   1.3 Describe models of professional socialization
   1.4 Discuss factors that influence professional socialization
   1.5 Discuss the theoretical foundations of personal and professional roles.
   1.6 Discuss the impact of the multiple roles experienced by the professional nurse
   1.7 Analyze common role stressors as they relate to the role of the nurse
   1.8 Describe selected roles commonly assumed by the professional nurse and the responsibilities associated with each.
1.9 Discuss the importance of actively participating in professional nursing associations.

2. Describe the relevance of a specific theory for practice, education, and research.

   2.1 Describe the relevance of a specific theory for practice, education, and research.
   2.2 Distinguish between a concept, theory, conceptual framework, and model.
   2.3 Identify and define the four central concepts of nursing theories.
   2.4 Compare and contrast the main precepts of selected theories of nursing.
   2.5 Identify and discuss a specific theory and how it relates to practice, education, and research.

3. Utilize interpersonal communication theory to influence positive health changes in IFACS.

   3.1 Identify and describe the components of the communication process.
   3.2 Discuss the characteristics of each of the four phases of the nurse-client relationship.
   3.3 Analyze interpersonal relationships by applying theories of communication.
   3.4 Evaluates the quality of professional communication in the workplace.
   3.5 Identifies the stages of empathy (identification, incorporation, reverberation, and detachment)
   3.6 Differentiate between effective and ineffective caring responses

4. Design and implement nursing interventions reflecting theories of caring for clients with health problems.

   4.1 Discusses how a balance of sensitivity, knowledge, and skills allows nurses to manage diversity effectively.
   4.2 Describes how selected nursing theories guide the nursing process.
   4.3 Distinguish between human care and professional care.
   4.4 Explain care as a context for nursing intervention.
   4.5 Relate one of the theories of caring (Watson, Benner, etc…) to your portfolio.

5. Integrate selected adult learning principles and processes into the learning experience.

   5.1 Discusses the relationship of critical thinking to problem solving and decision-making.
   5.2 Distinguishes between child-centered and adult-centered teaching and learning.
   5.3 Participates in the creation of a positive learning environment.
   5.4 Evaluates own progress toward achievement of long term goals within the nursing profession.
   5.5 Compares and contrasts the different approaches to nursing research and how they can be used to answer different nursing questions.
   5.6 Utilizes information technology to communicate with peers and faculty.
Textbook: Required


American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses

Learning Experiences and Teaching Methods:

Course objectives may be met through individual and/or group study using suggested resources, formal and informal exchange of ideas with classmates and colleagues regarding specific topics as well as utilizing critical thinking skills. Teaching-learning methods include individual study, small group work, independent study of the internet discussions with faculty, and without faculty, appointments with faculty member during office hours and other scheduled times, and independent study of texts and library resources.

Web CT will focus on application, utilization, and evaluation of the concepts covered in the assigned readings and activities. ALWAYS meet the assignments by the end of each module (unless approved by faculty), or 5 points will be taken off of that modules grade.

Evaluation is ongoing to enhance experiential learning, providing the student with feedback about performance in meeting course objectives. Conferences with the faculty provide opportunities to discuss progress toward course objectives. A variety of evaluation methods are used providing the student opportunities to meet course objectives.

Grading is a process of measuring the outcome of learning against standards and assigning a symbol to the level of performance achieved. The final determination of the grade, therefore, rests with the professor.

The grading scale for this course is

A= 90 to 100
B=83 to 89
C=75 to 82
D=74 to 67
F=66 and below
Course Grade Components 100 points

Presentation of Theorist (group) 15 points
Essay of Concept of Caring (individual) 20 points
Communication Film Analysis (group) 20 points
Philosophy of Professionalism Paper (individual) 25 points
Web Discussion 20 points

Course Policies:

1. This is an online-web based course; therefore will be no in class meetings. The student is expected to read and complete the work either independently or in groups as assigned utilizing the study guides, required texts, recommended texts, and/or articles.
2. Papers and assignments will be turned in on the day assigned, for each day late, five (5) points will be deducted from the assignment’s total points.
3. All communication will be within the Web CT system for the course. A drop box will be created for assignments.
4. Discussion and active communication is an integral part of adult learning. Because face-to-face communication is difficult, if not impossible within an electronic environment, discussion must be created within the course itself. This entails working within your assigned group. It is the responsibility of the group members to work cooperatively and complete assignments as instructed. Individuals within a group will receive the same grade for that group assignment.
5. Plagiarism or misrepresentation of references will result in failure of the work in question without opportunity to redo the work. Any amount of plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the work.

Academic Honesty: The highest standards of academic honesty are expected of all students. The faculty adheres to the University Policy regarding academic honesty as published in the University Catalog and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook.

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you need disability accommodations in the class, please send a letter requesting your accommodations to TAMU-CC Services for Students with Disabilities.
Assignment Descriptions:  Note: Grading Criteria found within Assignment ICON

1. Presentation of a Nurse Theorist (group assignment) 15 points

This assignment is to be presented in power point format and downloaded to the faculty in the assignment drop box. Each group will be randomly assigned a nurse theorist to discuss. Presentation should provide information about the theorist and the theory; why the theory is important to the profession of nursing; contributions of the theorist or theory to the practice of nursing; and one particular thought or idea you learned about the relationship between the theory(or theorist) and the profession of nursing that you did not know before. Cite references (minimum of 5) within the presentation and then at end of presentation.

2. Concept of Caring Essay (individual assignment) 25 points

This paper focuses on the discussion of caring and the question: What is caring and does caring belong exclusively to nursing? Articles, online searches, books, etc. can all be used as resources. The essay should include a detailed definition of the concept of caring, along with its application to the profession of nursing. A minimum of five (5) references are to be used and cited within the text as well as on the reference page (APA format 5th ed). Maximum length (excluding cover page and reference page) is 3 pages-double spaced.

3. Communication: Film Analysis (group project) 20 points

This module offers the opportunity to view and analyze a film that portrays the experience of communication within health care. Students will work within their group to view a film and participate in a directed online discussion with their group members within the created discussion site. One of the following films will be chosen by each group to analyze:

Wit with Emma Thompson,
The Doctor with William Hurt,
Patch Adams with Robin Williams,
One Flew Over the Coo Coo’s Nest with Jack Nicholson.
An episode of ER may also be used (group must view same episode and must inform instructor of episode date and time).

4. Philosophy of Professionalism in Nursing (Individual Assignment) 25 points

The goal of this assignment is for each student to explore their feelings (personal philosophy) of nursing using the ANA’s Code of Ethics for Nurses as a guide. Identify characteristics of what you want to be and don’t want to be as a nurse and compare them with the values in the Code. The finished paper is to be an essay with a maximum of three (3) pages that includes reflection on personal or professional experiences which may have influenced your career choice and your beliefs about being a professional nurse. Describe your nursing role model and briefly explain why you have selected that nurse. How did this role model influence your nursing practice? What, if any, impact did this role model have on your decision to return to school for further nursing education?

5. Web Discussions
Participation in the discussion board is essential for this online course. Each student is expected to post a minimum of one (1) relevant in-depth discussion for each of the four units.
This equates to four (4) postings worth five (5) points each. See appropriate posting criteria under Unit 1.