

San Bernardino Valley College

Course Outline for NURS 203

APPLICATION OF CRITICAL THINKING TO FOURTH LEVEL NURSING PRACTICE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

NURS 203, Application of Critical Thinking to Fourth Level Nursing Practice

0.5 hours lecture, and 1.5 hours laboratory = 1 unit

Designed to facilitate development of critical thinking and the application of fourth level medical-surgical, psychiatric, and critical care theory. Includes analysis of complex clinical situations, NCLEX style test taking practice, complex mathematical nursing problems, and use of the nursing process. Graded on Credit/No Credit basis only.

SCHEDULE DESCRIPTION: Same

PREREQUISITE/COREQUISITE: NURS 210 or NURS 211 or NURS 212

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- A. Identify and discuss the effect of fourth level physiological alterations on the psychological, sociocultural, and developmental variables.
- B. Analyze complex simulated clinical situations common to medical-surgical, or psychiatric, or critically ill clients with fourth level alterations.
- C. Construct written nursing care plans for clients with fourth level alterations.
- D. Comprehend, accurately, and rapidly calculate medication dosages and intravenous calculations common to fourth level clients.
- E. State correct scientific rationale and review critical elements of all nursing program skills/procedures.
- F. Demonstrate correct advanced physical assessment techniques.

IV. CONTENT

- A. Nursing Process/Nursing Care Plans
 - 1. Advanced assessment techniques, data collection
 - 2. Writing and prioritizing nursing diagnoses
 - 3. Setting goals/expected outcomes
 - 4. Planning nursing interventions
 - 5. Evaluation
- B. Mathematics related to nursing care of clients with fourth level alterations
 - 1. Drug dosage calculations
 - 2. IV calculations
- C. Clinical simulations
 - 1. Models, equipment
 - 2. CAI
- D. NCLEX testing practice
 - 1. CAI
 - 2. Printed practice tests
 - 3. Audio tapes

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Seminars
- B. Discussion
- C. Simulated clinical situations
- D. Nursing skills/procedures
- E. Audio-visual media
- F. Computer Assisted Instruction
- G. Peer tutoring

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Prepare a written nursing care plan using hospital format
- B. Discuss underlying scientific rationale, review and practice critical elements of all nursing program skills/procedures.
- C. For simulated situations, calculate drug dosages & solve intravenous problems
- D. For simulated situations, make critical decisions regarding nursing care of clients with fourth level alterations.

VII. EVALUATIONS

- A. Methods of Evaluation
 - 1. Quality of written nursing care plan according to criteria
 - 2. Advanced math competency examination
 - 3. Judgment in simulated situation
- B. Frequency of Evaluation
 - 1. Math competency exam, prior to critical care laboratory
 - 2. Audio-visual as assigned

VIII. TYPICAL TEXTS

Alfaro-Lefevre, R., Critical Thinking in Nursing, Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co., 1995.

Copstead, L., Perspectives on Pathophysiology, Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co., 1995.

Curren and Monday, Math for Meds, Dosage and Solutions, San Diego: W.I. Publishing., 1995

Ignatavicius, D, et. al., Medical-Surgical Nursing Across the Health Care Continuum, 3rd ed., Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co., 1999.

Thelan, Lynne, Critical Care Nursing, 3rd ed., St. Louis: C.V. Mosby Co., 1998.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: stethoscope