

San Bernardino Valley College

Course Outline for NURS 210
NURSING CARE OF THE CRITICALLY ILL

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Nurs 210, Nursing Care of the Critically Ill

1.5 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory = 2.5 units

Advanced medical-surgical nursing with a focus on the physiological, psychological, sociocultural, and developmental variables. Application of the nursing process to assist critically ill adult clients with single or multiple subsystem failure, reestablish equilibrium and attain their optimum level of wellness.

SCHEDULE DESCRIPTION

Advanced medical-surgical nursing of critically ill adult clients with subsystem failure.

PREREQUISITES: NURS 200 and NURS 202, both with a grade of C or better

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. Discuss and apply theoretical concepts/knowledge related to the physiological, psychological, sociocultural, and developmental variables for critically ill adults clients with selected single or multiple subsystem failure.
- B. Independently use the nursing process to assist critically ill adults attain or maintain an optimum level of wellness.
- C. Assess the client's family needs for information and support. Develop and implement individualized, advanced teaching plans for client and family considering their levels of development, knowledge, and adaptive mechanisms.
- D. Independently perform in-depth assessments to identify intra/inter/ and extrapersonal stressors that interfere with the client's lines of defense.
- E. Analyze complex clinical situations and; collect database, formulate nursing diagnoses; develop short and long term goals; and prioritize primary/secondary/tertiary nursing interventions to prevent further disruption and failure and to stabilize existing functional status.
- F. Implement therapeutic modalities and nursing interventions, assuring an internal and external environment conducive to restoration of the client's lines of defense and resistance.
- G. Evaluate client's adaptation to stressors and response to individualized nursing care. Revises and modifies plan as needed.
- H. Use therapeutic interpersonal communication effectively with clients, families, and health care team members.
- I. Assume ethical and legal responsibilities for client care by practicing within personal scope of competence.
- J. Collaborate with other health care team members. Use available resources to assist critically ill adult clients with multiple stressors to strengthen lines of defense and prevent penetration of the basic structure.
- K. Perform all nursing program skills adhering to the underlying principles of client safety, organization, and asepsis.

IV. CONTENT

- A. Introduction to Critical Care
 - 1. Neuroendocrine response to critical illness
 - 2. Psychosocial aspects of critical care
 - 3. Advanced monitoring techniques
 - 4. Sleep physiology/deprivation
- B. Advanced nursing management of Cerebral Peripheral Neurological Innervation alterations
 - 1. In-depth assessment
 - 2. Advanced & invasive neurodiagnostic techniques
 - 3. Advanced nursing management techniques for:
 - a. Increased intracranial pressure
 - b. Spinal cord injury
 - c. Brain trauma
 - d. Arteriovenous malformations
 - e. Cerebral aneurysms
 - f. Intracranial and intraspinal neoplasms
 - g. Cranial nerve disorders
 - h. Guillain-Barre syndrome
 - i. Myasthenia Gravis
 - j. Multiple Sclerosis
- C. Advanced nursing management of oxygenation alterations
 - 1. Mechanical ventilation
 - 2. Respiratory failure
 - 3. Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome
- D. Advanced nursing management of circulation alterations
 - 1. Hypertensive crisis
 - 2. IAPB counterpulsation
 - 3. Arrhythmias
 - 4. Septic Shock
- E. Advanced nursing management of integumentary alterations
 - 1. Hypothermia
- F. Advanced nursing management of multiple subsystem alterations
 - 1. Multiple trauma
 - 2. Multiple system failure

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Demonstration/return demonstration
- C. Discussion
- D. Readings, handouts
- E. Media
- F. Written Assignments
- G. Case analysis
- H. Student-teacher conferences
- I. Supervised laboratory practice in a critical care setting

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Written Nursing Care Plans on assigned clients
- B. Nursing care of assigned critically ill clients in the hospital laboratory
- C. Clinical bedside analysis and discussion of client condition

- D. Participate in group discussion and analysis of presented case studies
- E. In the Emergency Department, assist a staff nurse in the care of assigned clients, perform nursing skills/procedures, and observe the roles of the ED physician & staff nurse.

VII. EVALUATION

- A. Methods of Evaluation
 - 1. Examinations: objective
Typical examination question:
You are notified that a client with a spinal cord injury at the C-4 level will be arriving from the Emergency Dept. Your most important nursing priority would be to:
 - a. Place a “logroll only” sign above the bed
 - b. Have several liters of saline available for IV infusion
 - c. Notify respiratory therapy to set up a ventilator
 - d. Have epinephrine available at the bedside
 - 2. Written report of the Emergency Department Experience
 - 3. Laboratory performance (fourth level hospital laboratory criteria)
- B. Frequency of Evaluation
 - 1. Weekly examination and final exam
 - 2. Emergency Dept report – evaluation according to stated objectives one week following experience.
 - 3. Laboratory performance evaluation at midterm and final

VIII. TYPICAL TEXTS

Cardona, L. et.al., Trauma Nursing, from resuscitation to rehabilitation, 2nd ed., Philadelphia: Saunders, 1997.

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: uniform, stethoscope, bandage scissors