CONCEPTS AND THEORY FRAMEWORK
NUR 803
3 Credits
On line Course
Fall 2008

Catalog Course Description: Conceptual and theoretical frameworks and their applicability to advanced nursing practice, teaching, and research.

Additional Course Description: This course presents core conceptual and theoretical frameworks for all masters' nursing students. Basic philosophical tenets are used to examine the applicability of the frameworks for advanced nursing in multiple roles, such as education, practice, and administration. Selected frameworks, models and theories congruent with masters prepared nursing and drawn from nursing and other disciplines are used as exemplars. These theories will enable the student to examine personal practice assumptions currently used, and identify others consistent with practice, education, and research as a masters' prepared nurse.

Course Objectives: At the end of this course, students will:
1. Articulate the language, use and function of conceptual and theoretical frameworks for utilization in advanced nursing practice, education, and research.
2. Evaluate selected conceptual frameworks, models and theories using appropriate criteria.
3. Compare and contrast the major concepts, assumptions, utility and relevance to advanced nursing practice, education, and research.
4. Formulate an initial conceptual/theoretical framework for personal practice, teaching, and/or research as a Master’s prepared nurse

Additional Course Objectives: This course is open to graduate students in the MSN nursing major. Graduate level writing ability is expected.

Prerequisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Professional Standards & Guidelines: The curriculum is guided by the following documents:

Faculty: Mildred Horodynski, PhD., RN, WHCNP

Contact Information:
Office: B515G West Fee Hall
Nursing Research Center
Phone: 517-355-8360
FAX: 517-355-5002
Office Hours: By appointment only
Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

Faculty: Gwen Wyatt, PhD., MSN, RN

Contact Information:
Office: B515 West Fee Hall
Nursing Research Center
Phone: 517-432-5511
FAX: 517-355-5002
Office Hours: By appointment to fit student’s schedule.
Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

Instruction:

a. Methodology: A variety of methods will be used, e.g., lecture, group discussion, readings, and exams.

Required Texts: All required materials can be obtained from Spartan Bookstore located in the basement of Fee hall on campus.(http://www.msu.edu/dig/msumap/fee.html). On the web at http://www.spartanbook.com. By phone at 517.353.9560; By fax at 517.353.9827; By Email at casecarol@hotmail.com.


Course Required Reading Packet

On-line materials that are hot linked

b. Optional Texts:


c. Required Resources, References, Supplies:

ANGEL Help Line
1.800.500.1544 (24 hrs, 7 days/week)
517.355.2345 (24 hrs, 7 days/week)
www.angel.msu.edu (ANGEL Help link in upper right corner)
Always check with the ANGEL Help Line first!

Class Availability:
Each week's class opens as of 12:01 AM Thursday. You will be unable to access course content before this time. However once a class is open, it will remain open for the semester. This will allow you to know that you are on target each week and also to review any material that you would like to, prior to exams.

Faculty Availability:
Once we get class up and rolling, we will respond to your questions within 72 hours between 8 am & 5 pm, as a general rule. Please feel free to post your questions to your team also, since they may have just figured out what you are still wondering about. Please avoid sending your questions to the entire class. We are a big class, and it tends to annoy your peers when they see a long list of emails to sort through. Email selectively to the person or persons you wish to talk with. Faculty are not available for questions on weekends or holidays.

Evaluation:

a. Learning Assessments and Grading:

MIDTERM EXAMINATION:

- Will be a two-hour exam covering material to-date.
Exams may include short essay, short answer, true/false, and/or multiple choice. The exam will be open for 24 hours (12:01am to 11:59pm). You may take it for any continuous 3 hour time period during that day. This is not an open-book exam. You are not allowed to download or print the exam. It is very clear in angel if anyone has done either. This activity falls under the heading of "academic dishonesty."

FINAL EXAMINATION:

- Will be a two-hour comprehensive exam.
Exams may include short essay, short answer, true/false, and/or multiple choice. The exam will be open for 24 hours. You may take it for any continuous 3 hour time period during that day. This is not an open-book exam. You are not allowed to download or print the exam. It is very clear in angel if anyone has done either. This activity falls under the heading of "academic dishonesty."
b. Course Grading Scale: **Evaluation/Grading Scale**

Grades will be determined by adding all of the course points together and arriving at a specific number (point total). The MSU 4.0 grading system will be utilized to report final course grades.

Points will be rounded to whole numbers using the 0.5 rules. Points at $\geq 0.5$ will be rounded up while those $< 0.5$ will be rounded down to the nearest whole number.

**Student grades for the course will be based on the following:**

POSSIBLE COURSE POINTS = 600

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>561-600</td>
<td>94 – 100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>531-560</td>
<td>87 – 93</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501-530</td>
<td>80 – 86</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Minimum passing grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>477-500</td>
<td>75 – 79</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>447-476</td>
<td>70 – 74</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>417-446</td>
<td>65 – 69</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>387-416</td>
<td>60 – 64</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;386</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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b. **Writing Requirements: Assignments:**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

- Because group work is an integral part of graduate study, you will be working in an assigned team during this course. For each assigned activity, an individual response is due Tuesdays by 10pm. Based on individual responses and the effort of the assigned team leader for that week, a synthesis of individual responses will be submitted by 10pm on Wednesdays. A grade of zero may be assigned for failure to submit a response by the due date and time.

- Group work via the discussion forum or the chat room is strongly encouraged to provide ample discussion for the group activities. All readings should be completed prior to this on-line chat.

- In the "Activities" section of each Class, each class will have two activities worth 10 points each. These points are earned only if assignments are submitted on time. (Final Team answer due by 10 pm on Wednesday of the week assigned).

- Points will be allocated so long as it is clear that each team member has submitted a comprehensive answer for each assignment, and the team response is submitted on time. Individual responses may earn maximum points with a comprehensive response. Grading will be based on the integration of reading and slideshow content, comprehensive responses, and rationale supporting responses.

- Each team must designate a member (team leader) to submit your team response by the due date and time each week.
• Each team member must have submitted their individual answer 24 hours before the final team answer is submitted. This means that individual answers need to be submitted in a complete and accurate manner and on time, so as to be included by the team leader in the Final Answer.

• Faculty responses will open by the end of each week, so you can check your team answers against the suggested response.

• The new class will open each week at 12:01am Thursday. This will give you the weekend to get a start on the next assignment.


  1. Demonstrates excellence in grasping key concepts; critiques work of others; stimulates discussion’ provides ample citations for support of opinions; readily offers new interpretations of discussion materials. Ideas are expressed clearly, concisely; uses appropriate vocabulary. (Best=10)

  2. Shows evidence of understanding most major concepts; will offer an occasional divergent viewpoint or challenge; shows some skill in support for opinions. Some signs of disorganization with expression; transition wording may be faulty (Better=9).

  3. Has mostly shallow grasp of the material; rarely takes a stand on issues; offers inadequate levels of support. Poor language use garbles much of the message; only an occasional idea surfaces clearly; expression seems disjointed; overuse of the simple sentence and redundancy with works and commentary; paragraphs often appear unrelated to each other. This student requires constant prompting for contributions (Good=8).

  4. Minimal posting of material. Shows no significant understanding of material. Language is mostly incoherent. Does not respond readily to prompting (Not so good, try again=0-7)

*University & College Policies:

The College of Nursing expects that students will demonstrate professional behavior in all situations. Specific expectations for clinical and other professional venues can be found in the appropriate handbook. You are responsible for reviewing and acting in accordance with the policies and procedures found in the following sources, including the following topics: Professionalism, Academic Integrity, Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, Disruptive Behavior, Attendance, Compliance, and Progression.

• CON Student handbook http://nursing.msu.edu/handbooks.asp
• Information for Current Students—including Rights, Responsibilities and Regulations for Students http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html
• Academic Programs http://www.reg.msu.edu/UCC/AcademicPrograms.asp

Course Calendar: Will be posted in the course and on the ANGEL WEB Site.