NUR 420
Senior Practicum in Nursing
Course Syllabus

Course Chairperson:
Mary Jo Arndt, R.N., Ed.D

Spring, 2002
COURSE NUMBER:  NUR 420

COURSE TITLE:  Senior Practicum in Nursing

COURSE PLACEMENT:  Level III -- Fall, Spring, senior year

PREREQUISITES:  NUR courses offered in sophomore and junior years

INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL:  4 credits (1-9).  The course includes:  21 hours of theory which includes three one-hour exams, 130 hours of clinical (includes 15 hours for assignments/conferences, 18 hours seminar, 15 hours for development of a business plan, 15 hours flex time and 75 hours with Clinical Faculty or activities associated with the role).  The clinical component is consolidated into a pre-determined time frame in the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This senior level course identifies basic leadership, organizational, management theories and process and examines their impact upon nursing practice and the delivery of health care within organizations.  The clinical component provides an opportunity for the student to further develop the leadership/management skills necessary for the beginning practitioner role.  It also facilitates synthesis of the nursing knowledge and skills acquired in previous program courses in the provision of nursing care to individuals, families, and aggregates.

Faculty in collaboration with the nursing administrators in community health care agencies identify agency nurses who will assist students to achieve course/individual objectives in the agency.  A Campus Faculty member and the selected agency nurse, i.e., Clinical Faculty, who is matched with the student assist the student to develop a Personal Objective Plan. The Plan is a set of individualized specific measurable objectives which guide the student's clinical learning experience while meeting course objectives. The Clinical Faculty, the student and Campus Faculty form a three person team which facilitates the implementation of the student's plan.  

Campus Faculty assume responsibility for the final evaluation of student performance and award the course grade.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe how the system influences the application of the nursing process with individuals, families, and aggregate clients.

2. Examine leadership, organizational and management theories affecting the delivery of nursing care in health care systems.
3. Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge from nursing, natural and
behavioral sciences and the humanities in the management of delivery care
settings.
4. Review research in terms of its applicability to leadership and management issues.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of personal accountability involved in the
management of groups.
6. Analyze leadership, management and organizational behaviors which influence
coordination, consultative and collaborative activities in health care systems.
7. Coordinate, consult, and collaborate with peers, colleagues and citizens to
promote the health and welfare of individuals, families and aggregates.
8. Recognize ethical, legal, social, cultural, political, economic, and quality issues
which impact on the health care delivery and nursing care in health care
organizations.
9. Identify own learning needs, participate in planning appropriate learning
experiences, develop specific, attainable, and measurable objectives, and evaluate
the attainment of the goals.
10. Examine the past, present, and emerging roles of the professional nurse in
developing effective relationships with others in the health care system.
11. Utilize an understanding of the uniqueness of self and others in nursing practice
relationships.

COURSEPACK- Yes, required
READING PACK- Yes- required

St. Louis: Mosby-Year Book, Inc.

DRESS CODE: Dress is in accordance with agency policy and the role of nurse.

SAFETY: In order to successfully complete the clinical requirements, the student must
demonstrate the nursing competencies at the same level of safety as appropriate to
the role of their Clinical Faculty. A student who does not meet this expectation,
i.e., inappropriate client care or supervision of others providing the care;
inappropriate or poorly performed psychomotor skills; inappropriate, inaccurate,
or inadequate theoretical base for care; or inaccurate or misrepresented
documentation, may be dismissed from the course and receive a grade of 0.0.
SITUATIONS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE CONTACT BY CLINICAL FACULTY TO COLLEGE FACULTY:

1. Accident/injury involving client or student.
2. Back-up plan for clinical faculty replacement non-operational.
3. Unsuccessful resolution of conflict between clinical faculty and student.

EVALUATION METHODS: The student completes the "Grade Contract" (p. 26, Course Pack) to reflect the grade the student elects to pursue. The "Grade Contract" identifies the parameters related to the grade selected. Specific evaluation criteria is included on the appropriate evaluation forms.

Clinical Component

Formal self and clinical faculty evaluations (pp. 31-32 in Course Pack).

Quality of written work in journals, critical incidents, related clinical objectives. Written work is expected to reflect analysis and synthesis of ideas and insights. A mere listing of activities is unacceptable. If your written work is not at an acceptable level for the grade for which you have contracted, the faculty will make note of this on the Student Progress Record (p. 34-35 in Course Pack), which is kept in your student folder for this course.

EXAMS

70% average for a contracted grade of 2.0 to 2.5.
80% average for a contracted grade of 3.0 to 3.5.
90% average for a contracted grade of 4.0.

WRITTEN MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER

No written paper is required for a contracted grade of 2.0 to 2.5.

For grade contracts of 3.0 or higher, a written paper is required. Grading criteria are spelled out on pp. 28-30 in the syllabus.

A draft of the paper is due on February 27th. If a draft is not turned in on that date, the student automatically forfeits the right to complete a paper and will need to contract for a grade of 2.5 or lower.

Students who have contracted for a 4.0 MUST earn at least a 3.5 on their paper in order to meet the contracted grade. Students who wish to improve or have difficulty with their writing skills should seek assistance at the Writing Center 300 Bessie Hall.
ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required at all theory, seminar, and clinical components of the course. A pattern of absences may result in a lowering of the course grade. Attendance means that the student is present for the ENTIRE class; leaving at break or other times after signing the attendance sheet is unacceptable just as one wouldn’t leave work in the middle of the day without giving the manager some explanation. If there are unusual circumstances which may warrant consideration by faculty, students are expected to give that information IN WRITING to their faculty who then will make the decision regarding exceptions.

Any absences from clinical or seminar MUST be made up. Indicate any changes on your clinical calendar that are the result of illness and make up hours.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: It is expected that assignments will be turned in on the due date. A pattern of late assignments may result in a lowering of the course grade. The formal paper, if chosen by the student to complete, must be turned in on time. Failure to do so will result in an automatic lowering of 0.5 points on the paper.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES:

All make up exams will be given the week of final exams at a time mutually convenient to faculty and student. Questions on make up exams will be different from those questions given on scheduled exam dates and may also use a different format (multiple choice or long essay, for example).

Students are expected to take the final exam on the date scheduled.

Students who are absent from class need to notify Mary Jo Arndt by e-mail or phone in advance.

Students who are absent from class are responsible for class content and obtaining handouts.

The syllabus is a tool to help you plan your time and not an irrevocable contract. Information presented in the syllabus is subject to change. The instructor will announce any deviations from this syllabus in class or via Blackboard. The student is held accountable for all materials covered in class and for any changes in the syllabus that are announced in class or in Blackboard.