MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

NUR 415 Core Competencies in Nursing III
Fall, 2005 and Spring, 2006
Section 001

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and

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A206 Life Sciences
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1. Course Description

NUR 415, Core Competencies in Nursing III, is a one-credit (1-0) senior-level seminar course that will meet throughout the senior year as part of the BSN nursing curriculum. The purpose of this course is to enable senior students to enhance their critical thinking and test-taking skills as they apply their nursing program content to prospective patient care processes.

The organizing focus of the course will be the “Core Competencies of Nursing Practice” as defined by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing within the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) examination. Specific elements of the NCLEX examination will be discussed as to they relate to the core competencies.

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized during the two semesters for this course including group discussions, focused seminars, clinical exams, and a standardized Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) exam similar to the NCLEX-RN. Each of the course exams have been created by the Educational Resources Incorporated (ERI) Corporation, and customized according to the specific content and texts selected by the MSU College of Nursing. In general, the NUR 415 activities and materials related to critical thinking, content tests, and test-taking strategies will be presented during the first semester. The self-assessment tests which more closely resemble the NCLEX-RN are scheduled during second semester.

2. Course Objectives

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

1. Synthesize information from the natural, social and nursing sciences and the research process to provide intermediate level nursing care needs to clients, families, groups and systems with multiple intersecting health care needs.

2. Use clinical decision making skills and the research process to evaluate case studies and clinical experiences at the novice professional level.

3. Participate in systems and organizational groups designed to monitor professional nursing role standards and expectations.

4. Use critical thinking to examine legal, ethical and cultural problems in nursing care and societal health.
3. Readings

**Required Texts:**
1. ALL prior nursing and related course texts that used during your BSN program nursing courses will be required for this course.
2. A substantive review text for the NCLEX is strongly recommended. Utilization of this resource will be discussed the first class.

**Required Readings:**

4. Course Faculty
   - Louise Selanders, RN, EdD
   - Mary Jo Arndt
   - A202 Life Sciences
   - A 206 Life Sciences
   - 355-3804
   - 432-1720
   - selander@msu.edu
   - mjarndt@msu.edu
   - Office Hours: By Appointment

5. Course Policies
   a. **Student Evaluation:** NUR 415 is a two-semester course that will be graded at the end of the second semester on a “Pass/Fail” basis. In order to receive a passing grade for this course, which is required for graduation from the program, each NUR 415 student must meet each of the three following requirements:

      1. **Attendance** for each class will be mandatory, as will participation in class activities.

      2. **First Semester:** Each student MUST TAKE each of the following ERI exams:
         a. Clinical Calculations exam;
         b. Critical Thinking assessment exam;
         c. Nursing Care of Adults (2 exams)
         d. Nursing of Children
         e. Nursing of the Childbearing Family

      3. **Second Semester:** Each student MUST TAKE each of the following ERI exams:
         a. Pre-RN
         b. RN Assessment
         c. nationally-normed and standardized CAT examination
4. EXAMINATION POLICIES

1. OUTCOMES: For each examination except the Critical Thinking exam, the student either must achieve a score equal to or higher than the national “Average Score”.

   **IF THIS DOES NOT OCCUR, THE STUDENT WILL:**

   - Remediate by retaking the ERI exam(s) for which this level of score was not attained.

   See the course calendar for specific dates during which each exam and remediation period will be available.

2. Each examination will be available to each student on a **one-time only basis**. Any additional attempts must be completed during the remediation period.

3. It is the student’s responsibility to provide the course instructor with a print out of each examination and remediation attempted. See the calendar for due dates.

5. Course Policies

1. Illness - In the case of illness resulting in absence, the instructor must be contacted via email prior to the start of class. A health care provider’s statement may be required at the discretion of the course instructor.

2. Academic Dishonesty - Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If dishonest practices are observed or suspected in any form, the student will be reported to the College of Nursing Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for disciplinary action. A NP (no pass) course grade may be issued.

3. Communication Devices – All electronic communication devices are to be turned off while students are in class. There is no taping of classes, lectures, or presentations allowed without prior permission.

4. Weather Related Policies- This course will meet as scheduled unless the University cancels classes.
6. Study Plan Development

Each student is expected to develop a personalized study plan and timelines as part of his/her preparation for the NCLEX exam. It should be understood that the process of preparation is four-pronged:
1.) NUR 215-315-415 sequence which focuses on immediate content and test taking skills. NUR 415 in particular will focus on identifying content areas of deficiency and NCLEX format.
2.) ERI review at end of the second semester which focuses on specific content areas.
3.) External preparation, such as KAPLAN, which focuses on the structure of NCLEX and how to dissect individual questions.
4.) In addition, students will need to have a personal study plan which is both realistic and comprehensive. See calendar for due date.

Calendar for Fall Semester, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Testing/Meeting Dates</th>
<th>Remediation Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Course introduction and review of syllabus</td>
<td>September 6, 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Exploration of the NCLEX examination</td>
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<td>-Study plan due Sept 13 to ANGEL drop box</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Critical Thinking Process Test</td>
<td>Sept 13 - 19</td>
<td>No remediation</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Clinical Calculation</td>
<td>Sept 13 - 19</td>
<td>Sept 20-26</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Nursing Care of Adults</td>
<td>Sept 27 – Oct 3</td>
<td>Oct 4 - 10</td>
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<td>-Nursing of the Childbearing Family</td>
<td>Oct 11 - 17</td>
<td>Oct 18 - 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Nursing of Children</td>
<td>Oct 25 – Nov 7</td>
<td>Nov 8 – Nov 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>-All exams and remediation complete</td>
<td>Nov 22</td>
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Review of Exams and preparation for Spring semester | Nov 22                 |

NOTE: All exams are to be taken independently except the CAT exam which must be completed in the Media Lab. Issues which concern exam access must be directed to Marla Goucher at goucher@msu.edu
### Calendar for Spring Semester, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Testing/Meeting Dates</th>
<th>Remediation Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Course introduction and review of syllabus</td>
<td>January 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>-RN Assessment</td>
<td>Jan 24 - 30</td>
<td>Jan 31 - Feb 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Pre RN</td>
<td>Feb 14 - 20</td>
<td>Feb 21 – Mar 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>-CAT exam</td>
<td>Mar 14 - 20</td>
<td>Mar 21 – Apr 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>-All exams and remediation complete</td>
<td>April 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review of Exams and preparation for NCLEX</td>
<td>April 11</td>
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