Midland College  
Syllabus  
Fall 2008  
RNSG 1200  
Introductory Concepts of Clinical Decision Making  
(2-1-0)

| Course Description | This course is an examination of selected principles related to the continued development of the professional nurse as provider of care, coordinator of care, and member of a profession. In this course, emphasis is on clinical decision making for clients in medical-surgical settings experiencing health problems involving pain, perioperative care, infection, eye-ear-throat disorders, and integumentary disorders. Includes discussion of knowledge, judgment, skills, and professional values within a legal/ethical framework. Prerequisites: Admission to the program. Co requisites: RNSG 1108, 1162, 1215; BIOL 2420; and HPRS 2206. |
| Text, References and Supplies | **Textbooks**  
| Course Goals/ Objectives | Upon successful completion of the course, the student is expected to:  
A. Define critical thinking, technical skills, and pharmacological principles. Identify appropriate use of the nursing process related to basic medical-surgical care of adult clients experiencing health problems involving pain, perioperative care and infectious disorders. **POC 1-5, COC 4**  
B. Describe basic nursing care required to meet the needs of clients with health problems with respect to cultural background, developmental level and religious/spiritual practices. **POC 1-3, COC 1-3, MOP 2**  
C. Recall appropriate basic therapeutic and professional communication techniques for developing and maintaining effective collaborative relationships with adult clients and other healthcare personnel. **COC 2,3**  
D. Choose appropriate elements of health teaching plan for adult clients with selected health problems. **POC 4, COC 2** |
E. List basic human and material resources needed to provide care and manage the care environment of adult clients. **COC 1,3**

F. Cite examples and sources of legal/ethical problems in nursing, professional nursing standards and technological advances within the healthcare setting which affect nursing. **MOP 3**

G. Describe basic cognitive, psychomotor and interpersonal skills related to the basic care of adult clients with selected health problems. **MOP 3**

H. Explain the importance of taking responsibility for professional self-development. **MOP 1, 3**

**Student Contributions and Class Policies**

1. The attendance policy in effect for Midland College and the ADN program will be followed.

2. A schedule of required readings, study assignments and supplemental learning activities will be provided in the course calendar in Blackboard, accessed at [https://bb01.midland.edu](https://bb01.midland.edu)

3. Students are expected to prepare **PRIOR** to coming to class. Performance objectives, found in the modules on Blackboard, identify the student’s expected performance after studying each unit. Performance objectives will serve as exam blueprints.

4. **All written work must be submitted through Blackboard.** The assignment will be penalized if these criteria are not met.

5. All assignments are due on the specified dates. **Late assignments may not be accepted without penalty.** Grading is based upon quality of content. Assignments are to strictly be the individual student’s efforts unless otherwise assigned as a “group” project. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in failure of the assignment. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty may also result in failure of the course or institutional suspension or dismissal as specified in the MC Handbook.

6. Examinations are given as scheduled on the course calendar. Make-up exams will be given in the computer lab the week before finals week. The student must notify the instructor, Ms. Madewell 685-4593 OR Ms. Floyd 685-4600, of any absence **PRIOR** to the scheduled exam or they will not be able to make up the exam. Missed exams may receive a grade of **ZERO**. Alternative testing methods may be used on make up exams.

7. Students will take an individual exam from 0830 to 0945. The instructors will then randomly assign students in pairs. The pair will take the exam again as a cooperative exam. During the cooperative exam, the pair may discuss the questions in whispered tones. Cooperatively, the pair will complete the exam in 1 hour from 0950 to 1050. The score of the individual exam is worth 135 points and will be combined with the score of the cooperative exam which is worth 15 points to give the individual a weighted grade.
8. Lab activities are an integral part of the learning experience in this course. Attendance and participation in all activities are **MANDATORY**.

9. Students are expected to dress according to the Professional Dress Policy when representing the college at community agencies. Inappropriate dress may warrant the student being sent home and a grade of “F” assigned for that day’s activity.

10. Blackboard will be utilized for the course calendar, announcements, supplemental information and assignments. **Students are required to check Blackboard at least three times a week.**

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**Evaluation of Students:**

1. Grades will be calculated according to the following formula. Students must make a minimum grade of 700 (70%) in order to pass the course.

   - Module Exams (4 @ 135 points each) **540 points**
   - Cooperative Portion of Exams **60 points**
   - Final Exam **250 points**
   - Journal / Video Discussions (2) **100 points**
   - Case Study **50 points**

   **TOTAL** **1000 points**

   Letter grades are determined by the following point values:
   - “A” 900-1000
   - “B” 800-899
   - “C” 700-799
   - “D” 600-699
   - “F” 599 or below

2. Module exam questions will be drawn from information studied in class, assigned readings, and activities. All exams are computerized. Questions are delivered one at a time. See prior section for details regarding exam policy.

3. The final exam will be comprehensive covering material from each of the five modules. It is scheduled for Dec. 4.

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**Course Schedule**

The class schedule can be located on the RNSG 1200 Blackboard.com. It is subject to change by the instructor. Students should refer to this calendar a **minimum** of three times a week.
The following SCANS skills are taught and/or reinforced in this course:

**Thinking Skills:**

1. **Creative Thinking:** Uses imagination to combine ideas or information in new ways, makes connections between seemingly unrelated ideas and shapes goals in ways that reveal new possibilities. Accomplished by identifying client needs through nursing assessment using the nursing process.

2. **Decision Making:** Specifies goals and constraints, generates alternatives, considers risks and evaluates and chooses best alternatives. Decision making is accomplished when the student identifies client needs using the nursing process and then establishes client goals. These client goals are evaluated using the evaluation phase of the nursing process.

3. **Problem Solving:** Identifies problems and devises and implements a plan of action. Student uses problem solving skills in each phase of the nursing process.

4. **Seeing Things in the Mind’s Eye:** Organizes and processes symbols, picture graphs, and objects. The student in RNSG 1200 uses medical terminology to describe the client’s needs and uses symbols and graphs both in administering medications and documenting the daily care of the client.

5. **Knowing How to Learn:** Uses efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply new knowledge and skills by utilizing the nursing process to identify client needs.

6. **Reasoning:** Discovers a rule or principle underlying the relationship between two or more objects and applies it when solving a problem.

**Safety Training**

Students receive annual training in the following: blood and air borne pathogens, electrical safety, back safety, hazardous chemicals, latex allergies, fire and disaster procedures, security and personal safety procedures and safety requirements of clinical facilities. Students must maintain CPR, immunizations and health insurance during all clinical courses.

**Course Modules**

A. Perioperative
   1. Preoperative
   2. Intraoperative
   3. Postoperative

B. Pain

C. Infection

D. Integumentary Disorders

E. Eye-Ear-Throat Disorders
Instructor Information

Name: Cindy Madewell, RN, MSN
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Name: Lea Keesee, RN, MSN
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Division Dean: Becky Hammack, Ph.D. RN
Division Dean Office: Health Sciences Bldg. Room 209B
Division Dean Telephone: 685-4600
Division Director: Kim Bezique MSN RN-C
Division Director Office: Health Sciences Bldg. Room 214
Division Director Phone: 685-4741
Division Secretary: Kay Floyd
Division Office: Health Sciences Bldg. Room 209B
Division Office Telephone: 685-4600

Students are encouraged to contact the Instructor at any time however, making an appointment will guarantee the Instructor’s availability at a specific time.