Course Description: Principles and concepts of mental health, psychopathology, and treatment modalities related to the nursing care of clients and their families. Prerequisites: Approval of the Program Director.


Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of the course the student will:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking by relating the nursing process, pharmacological principles and current literature/research findings to the care of clients with mental health disorders. (POC - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)
2. Predict how cultural background, developmental level and religious/spiritual practices are likely to affect the nursing care of clients with mental health disorders. (POC - 1,2,3)
3. Distinguish therapeutic from non-therapeutic communication techniques in the mental health setting. (POC - 5)
4. Analyze professional literature as it applies to teaching health promotion to clients with mental health disorders. (POC - 7. COC - 3)
5. Compare the human and material resource requirements of the adult medical-surgical hospital environment with those requirements of the residential mental health environment. (COC - 1)
6. Analyze legal and ethical guidelines, and professional nursing standards which are related to the care of clients with mental health disorders. (MOP - 1,2,3)
7. Analyze cognitive and interpersonal skills necessary to provide basic mental health nursing care. (POC - 1,2,3,4,5,7)
8. Actively participate in appropriate self-directed learning activities in mental health nursing, with instructor guidance. (MOP 1,2)

DELC Competencies Summary:

1. Determine the health status and mental needs of clients based upon interpretation of health data and preventive health practices in collaboration with clients and interdisciplinary health care team members. (Additional Knowledge: A, B, C, D, F, G)
2. Formulate goals/outcomes and plan of care based on nursing diagnoses in collaboration with clients and interdisciplinary health care team members. (Additional Knowledge: A, B, D, E, F, G)
3. Implement the plan of care within legal and ethical parameters, including scope of practice, in collaboration with clients and interdisciplinary health care team to assist client in meeting health care needs. (Additional Knowledge: B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, M, N) Evaluate clients' responses and outcomes to therapeutic interventions. (Additional Knowledge: A, B)
4. Use a critical thinking approach to analyze clinical data and current literature as a basis for decision making in nursing practice. (Additional Knowledge: A, B, C)
Coordinator of Care:

1. Collaborate with clients and the interdisciplinary health care team for the planning and delivery of care. (Additional Knowledge: A, C, D)
2. Refer clients to resources that facilitate continuity of care. (Additional Knowledge: A)

Member of a Profession:

1. Assume accountability and responsibility for the quality of nursing care provided to client. (Additional Knowledge: B, C, G)
2. Explain the values of the professional nurse in caring for clients and families experiencing mental health problems.

Student Contributions and Class Policies

1. Read and study assignments prior to class.
2. Classroom absences are discouraged due to the large volume of material that is covered each class day. If a classroom absence is unavoidable, the student should contact the instructor to report the absence before class begins. Punctuality is expected. Students should not expect to leave class early unless an emergency exists. Work and personal schedules must be arranged to accommodate class attendance.
3. The final exam will be a standardized computer exam created by the company HESI (REACH). It is a computerized exam and will be given in the first week of Dec. All other exams will be printed and you will need a scantron to complete.

Evaluation of Students

1. The student is responsible for material in assigned reading and content presented in class.
2. In order to successfully complete this course, the student must attain a passing grade of C or better (e.g. an average score of at least 75%).

Students are responsible for material presented in textbooks, handouts, lectures and discussion, in media, and presentations by guest speakers. No assignments are optional. All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Course grade:
Exams 70%
Daily Grade 10%
Final 20%

Daily quiz grades cannot be made up. If a student makes below a 75 on a major grade, they need to make an appointment with the instructor.

90-100 A
80-89 B
75-79 C
Below 75 is not passing this course

Lab Component: Therapeutic communication, Mental Assessment Practice
Case studies
Care Plans
Teaching Strategies:
- Lecture
- Discussion
- Role Play
- Instructional Videos

Course Schedule
The course calendar will be provided as a separate handout at the time of the course orientation.

SCANS Information
The following SCANS skills are taught and/or reinforced in this course:

**Listening**: Receives, attends to, interprets, and responds to verbal messages and other cues such as body language in ways that are appropriate to the purpose; for example, to comprehend; to learn; to critically evaluate; to appreciate; or to support the speaker.

**Speaking**: Organizes ideas and communicates oral messages appropriate to listeners and situations; participates in conversation, discussion, and group presentations; selects an appropriate medium for conveying a message; uses verbal language and other cues such as body language appropriate in style, tone, and level of complexity to the audience and the occasion; speaks clearly and communicates a message; understands and responds to listener feedback; and ask questions when needed.

Examples of listening and speaking activities in the course: role play and identification of therapeutic communication techniques.

Safety Training:
Students receive annual training in the following: blood and airborne 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.

Instructor Information:
Name: Dee Ann Decker RN, MSN
Vocational Nursing Program Director

Office Location and Telephone: TC 157-C, 686-4270
Students are encouraged to contact the instructor at any time; however, making an appointment will guarantee the instructor’s availability at a specific time.