

Midland College
Syllabus
RNSG 1171
Nursing Care of the Older Adult (1-0-0)

Course Description:

This course is a study of the unique health care needs of older adults. Content includes the developmental, physiological, and psychosocial changes of the older adult in regard to health promotion, maintenance, and restoration. The course will emphasize the application of knowledge, skills, and attitudes within a legal/ethical framework.

Text, References and Supplies:

- Touhy, T & Jett, K. *Ebersole and Hess' Gerontological Nursing and Health Aging*. 4th Edition, Elsevier. St. Louis, 2014.
- First Semester A.D.N. Learning Packet

Student Learning Outcomes:

The following course student learning outcomes (SLOs) are based on the *Differentiated Essential Competencies* (DECs) identified by the Texas Board of Nursing for the professional nursing roles of Member of the Profession (MOP), Provider of Patient-Centered Care (PPCC), Patient Safety Advocate (PSA), and Member of the Health Care Team (MHCT). Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe physiological changes associated with aging. (PPCC-A,B)
2. Explain the effect of aging on pharmacokinetics and the nursing adaptations related to safe medication administration to the older adult. (PPCC-D; PSA-B)
3. Describe common conditions/illnesses that are found in the older adult population, as well as, treatments and interventions for those conditions/illnesses. (PPCC-E; PSA-C)
4. Identify safety considerations specific to the problems associated with the aging process. (PPCC-B,G; PSA-B,C)
5. Describe end of life issues in caring for the older adult population and their caregivers. (PPCC-D,H)

Course Outline:

Unit I Foundations of Healthy Aging

- A. Introduction
- B. Normal physiological changes of aging
- C. Residential options
- D. Economic and legal issues

Unit II Fundamentals of Client Needs in the Aging

- A. Assessment and documentation for optimal care
- B. Safe medication use

- C. Nutrition and hydration
- D. Elimination
- E. Rest, sleep, and activity
- F. Promoting healthy skin and feet
- G. Promoting safety

Unit III Coping with Chronic Disorders in Late Life

- A. Pain and comfort
- B. Diseases affecting vision and hearing
- C. Bone and joint problems
- D. Cognitive impairment

Unit IV Caring for Elders and Their Caregivers

- A. Relationships, roles, and transitions
- B. Loss, death, and palliative care

Student Contributions, Responsibilities and Class Policies:

1. Class time will be spent on application activities, therefore assigned reading must be completed before coming to class. Outside preparation will be essential in order to maximize learning in this course.
2. Proficiency will be tested by traditional exam, project, and classroom activities.
3. All electronic communication equipment must be on silent and kept out of sight except as directed for group activities by instructor. No texting is allowed during class. Unless a potential emergency exists, students must not leave the classroom to respond to a page, a text or to make or receive cell phone calls. The student must inform the instructor of this potential emergency prior to class starting. Repeated violations of this policy are considered unprofessional conduct. (See Professional Behavior policy in A.D.N. Handbook) and will be dealt with by the program chair or designee.
4. All assignments must be completed in order to receive a grade in this course. They are not optional.

Attendance Policy:

Strict attendance and punctuality is required. Class absence results in the student missing application exercises related to the content. These activities are group activities that cannot be replicated. Absence during these activities limits the student's ability to practice application of theory. In the event that a student *must* miss an exam, the student *must* contact the instructor prior to the exam in order to be eligible to reschedule a makeup exam. Not notifying the instructor of an absence prior to the missed exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam. Make up exams will be taken during the last three weeks of the semester and an alternate testing format may be used.

Withdrawal Policy:

Students who have enrolled in a Texas public institution of higher education as a first-time freshman in fall 2007 or later are permitted to drop no more than six courses during the entire undergraduate career. This limit includes all transfer work taken at a Texas institution of higher education and to second baccalaureate degrees. This statute was enacted by the State of Texas in spring 2007 (Texas Education Code 51.907). Any course that a student drops after Census Day is counted toward the six-course limit if "(1) the student was able to drop the course without receiving a grade or incurring an academic penalty;

(2) the student's transcript indicates or will indicate that the student was enrolled in the course; and (3) the student is not dropping the course in order to withdraw from the institution."

<http://catalog.midland.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=673>

Scholastic Dishonesty:

Midland College does not tolerate scholastic dishonesty or academic misconduct in any form. Please read the MC Student Handbook on this subject.

<http://catalog.midland.edu/content.php?catoid=6&namoid=673>

Evaluation of Students:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Daily Grades	20%
Project	30%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

A semester grade of less than "C" will not be acceptable as passing in any required nursing course leading to the degree. An incomplete contract (grade of "I") and Withdrawals (grade of "W") will follow the College catalog. This contract is negotiated at the discretion of the instructor.

Letter grades for the course are determined as follows:

"A"	≥90 – 100
"B"	≥ 80 – 89.9
"C"	≥ 70 – 79.9
"D"	≥60 – 69.9
"F"	59.9 or below

There will be no rounding of the final grade. Passing grade for this class must be 70 or better.

Course Schedule:

A detailed course schedule will be provided to students at the start of the class. This class meets two hours per week during the second eight weeks of each fall and spring semester.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact Shep Grinnan as soon as possible. Mr. Grinnan's office is located in the Scharbauer Student Center Building. These conditions may include documented physical or educational disabilities. Please be aware that services or accommodations are not automatic. Each student must request them and secure the proper authorizations/documentation.

Health Sciences Division Information:

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