

**UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA  
SCHOOL OF NURSING  
BSN PROGRAM**

**NURSING 3122-01/91 - PROFESSIONAL CONCEPTS  
SUMMER 2009**

**Credit:** 3-0-3

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the BSN Program or consent of instructor

**Faculty:**

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**Office Hours:** Newnan: Monday/Wednesday, 9:00 am to 11:00 am  
Carrollton: Tuesday/Thursday, 1:00 to 2:00 pm and 5:00 to 6:00 pm

**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to professional nursing and an overview of the roles and concepts essential to practice.

**Learning Goals:**

1. Identify the domains of nursing and the knowledge and attitudes required for competent clinical practice. (1)\*
2. Explore the roles of professional nurses in contemporary health care delivery systems. (1)
3. Reflect on caring as the essence of nursing and establish caring interactions with others. (3)
4. View self and others as holistic beings with diverse cultural perspectives. (1, 5)
5. Define evidence-based practice in terms of evidence, expertise, and patient values. (6)
6. Explore the professional nurse's role in utilizing nursing theory/knowledge and research in evidence-based practice. (6)
7. Develop skills in collaboration, critical thinking, and written, oral, and electronic communication. (6, 8, 9)
8. Recognize the value of self-awareness, self-care, and empowerment. (2)
9. Examine the ethical and legal boundaries of professional nursing practice. (1, 4)
10. Develop a sense of commitment to the profession. (7)
11. Review the guidelines for Healthy People 2010 and their relationship to professional nursing practice. (1)

\* Indicates relationship between course learning goals and BSN program objectives.

## **Course Content:**

### The Context of Professional Nursing

- Historical perspectives, educational patterns and image
- Professional roles and domains of practice
- Healthcare delivery systems
- Ethical/Legal principles of professional practice

### Concepts Essential to Professional Practice

- Caring for self and others
- Holism
- Communication through scholarly writing
- Critical thinking
- Health and illness and *Healthy People 2010*
- Theory, research and evidence-based practice
- Quality improvement
- Cultural diversity
- Teaching and learning
- Healthcare informatics

## **Required Textbooks:**

Hudacek, S. (2005). *Making a difference: Stories from the point of care*. Indianapolis, IN: Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Center Nursing Press.

Finkelman, A., & Kenner, C. (2010). *Professional nursing concepts: Competencies for quality leadership*. Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett.

Paul, R., & Elder, L. (2008). *The miniature guide to critical thinking: Concepts and tools*. Santa Rosa, Ca: Foundation for Critical Thinking.

Perrin, R. (2009). *Pocket guide to APA style*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

## **Learning Activities:**

- Assigned readings
- Independent study & multi-media materials
- Classroom activities, presentations and discussions
- Formal and informal writing activities

## **Methods of Evaluation:**

Final grades are calculated as follows:

In class/online writing exercises	10%
Formal group paper	40%
Cultural activity	20%
Caring Interviews	15%

Image of nursing activity

15%  
100%

Grading system:     A = 90-100%  
                          B = 80-89%  
                          C = 75-79%  
                          D = 60-74%  
                          F = Less than 60%

**ATI Testing Requirements:**

Students are required to complete the ATI Critical Thinking Entrance Exam and the Self-Assessment Inventory in this course by the date identified on the course schedule. Students who do not complete these requirements will be given a “D” in the course.

**Official Communication:**

Official communication for this course will be conducted ONLY through campus E-mail (MyUWG) and the course site on WebCT CourseDen.

**Disability:**

The Student Development Center coordinates special services for disabled students including physical disabilities or learning disorders. Students must register with Disabled Student Services to receive certain accommodations including extended test time or individual testing. For further information, call 678-839-6429.

**Academic Honesty:**

The School of Nursing faculty value professional and academic integrity and will not tolerate any form of student dishonesty or deception. The academic dishonesty policy of this course is the same as that of the University of West Georgia and is found in the *UWG Connection and Student Handbook*, Appendix A. Evidence of student cheating, fabrication or plagiarism may result in a grade of zero for the assignment, failure in the course, and dismissal from the program.

Additional information on plagiarism is located in the *Pocket Guide to APA Style*, pages 15-20.