UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
SCHOOL OF NURSING - BSN PROGRAM
NURS 3235 - Mental Health Nursing Practice - Newnan Campus
Summer 2009

Credit: 3-4-5
Prerequisites: All 3100 level Nursing courses

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Meeting Place & Time: Place: GA Resource Center (GRC) Newnan Campus, Room 1135.
Class Times: Monday and Wednesday 11 AM – 1:50 PM

Official Communication: The university requires that all electronic communications be done through your myUWG e-mail accounts. Please do not use your personal e-mail services. Please note personal emails to faculty via the Grapevine are not monitored. Email faculty via CourseDen.

Course Description: This course focuses on the role of the professional nurse in promoting mental health and in providing nursing care for clients experiencing mental health disorders. Students will have the opportunity to apply theory to actual clinical experiences in a variety of settings.

Learning Goals: 1. Demonstrate knowledge of mental health disorders and the promotion of mental health in clients of all ages. (1, 6)*
2. Utilize the domains of nursing and the nursing process to provide competent nursing care clinically and culturally. (1, 5, 6)
3. Demonstrate knowledge of how persons experience mental health. (6)
4. Use evidence-based strategies to increase clients’ abilities to care for self and a family’s ability to care for family members. (1, 3, 8)
5. Implement nursing care that reflects a holistic view of self and others and respect for diverse cultures. (5)
6. Assist in the creation of a safe, healing environment. (3)
7. Demonstrate beginning skill in therapeutic communication with clients, families, and groups. (1,9)
8. Demonstrate caring with peers, clients, families, groups and other members of the health care team. (3, 8)
9. Engage in activities for self-care and evidence-based strategies to increase self-awareness and self-empowerment. (2)
10. Apply critical thinking based upon scientific and humanistic concepts, theory, mental health treatment models, and research findings to mental health issues and the
practice of mental health nursing. (1, 6)
11. Assume individual accountability and work collaboratively with clients, families, interdisciplinary health team members and others in providing nursing care. (1,8)
12. Provide nursing care within established ethical and legal boundaries and incorporate best practices from evidence-based guidelines. (4)
*Numbers in parentheses after the course learning goals refer to program objectives.

Course Content:

**Topic**

- History and Foundations of Mental Health Nursing
- Communication and Motivational Interviewing
- Neurobiological Influences and Psychopharmacology
- Treatment Modalities
- Stress Management and Crisis Intervention
- Caring for the Child and Adolescent
- Caring for Clients with Substance Abuse Disorders
- Caring for Clients with Personality Disorders
- Caring for Clients with Anxiety Disorders, Adjustment Disorders, PTSD, Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders
- Caring for Clients with Eating Disorders & Sexual Disorders
- Caring for Clients with Schizophrenia, and Other Psychotic Disorders
- Caring for Clients with Mood Disorders
- Caring for the Client Experiencing Grief and Loss
- Caring for Clients who are Suicidal and/or Homicidal
- Caring for the Incarcerated Client/Forensic Psychiatric Nursing
- Caring for the Elderly Client with Cognitive Disorders
- Caring for the Client Experiencing Violence, Abuse or Neglect
- Holism and Mental Health
- Application of Psychiatric Nursing to other Areas of Nursing

*Note: Presentation times above may vary with time availability*

**Required Textbooks:**


*Textbooks Purchased in Previous Courses may be useful.*

**Learning Activities:**

- Assigned Readings/Learning Activities
- Discussions/Chats
- Critical Thinking Activities
- Quizzes/Exams
- Formal and Informal Writing Activities
- Movie Review (optional)

**Methods of Evaluation:**

- Quizzes (6) 60% (each quiz is 10%)
- Psycho Ed Group Report * 5%
- Learning Activities 5%
- Final Exam 15%
- ATI Exam 10%
- Movie Review * 5%

* Separate guide is available
If the average of the quizzes, final exam and ATI is below 75.0%, the grades obtained from the Psycho Ed Group Report, Learning Activities, and Movie Review will not be calculated into the student’s course average. The quizzes will count 60%, the final exam will count 25%, and the ATI will count 15% for the purpose of calculating the grade for examinations without Psycho Ed, Learning Activities or Movie Review. Additional Extra credit will not be allowed and work completed for another class will not be accepted in this course. Any assignment, assessment or learning activity turned in late or outside specified mode may not be graded or a penalty of a letter grade drop may be exercised.

Grading Scale:

- A = 90 - 100%
- B = 80 - 89%
- C = 75 - 79%
- D = 60 - 74%
- F = Below 60%

Clinical:

**CLINICAL EXPERIENCES – Each Student is expected to complete the following clinical activities:**

1. Mental Health Clinical Laboratory hours: 6 clinical days are required and 1 orientation day.
2. Attendance at one community meeting which must be a 12 Step meeting – Alcoholics/Narcotics/Emotions Anonymous (Approval of course coordinator or clinical instructor must be obtained.)
3. Journal entries – Each clinical day and attendance at the community meeting must be documented with a journal entry (See separate guide)
4. Co-lead a psycho-educational group with staff and/or faculty supervision (See separate guide)
5. Caring Group activities are scheduled as a component of the clinical experience for the course. These activities are designed to provide the opportunity to learn caring as the essence of nursing and to promote learning to care for self, others and the profession. Attendance at scheduled Caring Group activities is required. Make-up activities will be assigned if students are absent from Caring Group.
6. Interaction Records – 2 (See separate guide)
7. Preparation/Medication worksheets are required for 3 clinical days (See separate guide)
8. Mid-semester and final clinical evaluations. (See separate guide)
9. Movie Review and Assessment. (See separate guide)

**CLINICAL EXPECTATIONS:**

- Students must satisfactorily complete all assigned clinical laboratory experiences, associated written assignments, and participate in Caring Group activities in order to satisfactorily complete the clinical portion of this course.
- Failure to satisfactorily meet the objectives of the clinical rotation will result in failure of the course regardless of classroom grade. An “Unsatisfactory” in clinical will result in a grade of “F” in the course.
- Specific clinical objectives are listed on the Clinical Evaluation Form. The criteria for a satisfactory rating are explained on the Clinical Evaluation Rating Guidelines.
- Attendance and punctuality is required for clinical and clinical pre- and/or post-conferences.
- Absences from clinical or clinical conferences, failure to complete clinical learning activities satisfactorily, unsatisfactory clinical preparation, persistent tardiness to clinical and turning in assignments late may result in an unsatisfactory rating in the clinical component of Nursing 3235.
- Unsatisfactory journal entries and all written clinical assignments may be returned for
completion at the discretion of the clinical faculty.

CLINICAL DOCUMENTS:
- STUDENTS are responsible for keeping their clinical documents up-to-date. See BSN Student Handbook for a list of required health-related documents.
- Submit your documents to administrative Staff, Laura Edmonds, ledmonds@westga.edu. Remember to make an extra copy of documents for personal use before submitting to SON.
- Students who are not in compliance by the first day of class will be dropped. Students are to remain in compliance with this policy throughout clinical and will not be allowed to participate in clinical learning activities without the required documentation.

ATI:
- Students must provide documentation of the completion of assigned unsecured (non-proctored) ATI Content Mastery exams at a score of 90% by the date set forth in the course calendar in order to be eligible to take the Mental Health Secured (Proctored) examination. It is recommended that students wait a minimum of two weeks to repeat an examination, but the exam may be repeated as many times as needed.
- Scores on the Secured (Proctored) Mental Health ATI Exam will comprise 10% of the course grade. Grading will be based on the achievement of levels of proficiency as indicated by ATI.
  - Students scoring at a Level 3, will receive a grade of 100%
  - Students scoring at a Level 2, will receive a grade of 90%
  - Students scoring at a Level 1, will receive a grade of 75%
  - Students scoring less than Level I, will receive a grade of 60% (See separate guidelines for current scoring of ATI for Mental Health.)

Any student who scores less than Level I will be required to participate in a remediation program as prescribed by ATI and/or the course coordinator.

WebCT/Vista CourseDen
This course is a WebCT/Vista CourseDen supported course. Course materials (syllabus, schedule, handouts, learning activities, exercises, and others) are available on the WebCT/Vista CourseDen site. Testing will be WebCT/VISTA CourseDen administered and/or via the ATI website access using Secure Exam Browser. Journal entries will be submitted via WebCT/VISTA CourseDen Discussion Group and other designated assignments will be submitted via WebCT/VISTA CourseDen Assignment Drop-box or Assessments. Students are expected to check the course calendar, mailbox, and discussion board for vital course information and announcements. Email access to professors and classmates is readily accessible utilizing the WebCT VISTA CourseDen site. Please feel free to post to the discussion board any class-related information that you think is helpful for other students, websites that are helpful, or words/tips of the day. The course may be accessed using your student number and password for banner on the WebCT/Vista login page: http://webct.westga.edu/. If you are unfamiliar with using WebCT/Vista CourseDen, please complete the tutorial offered online at the course homepage. This course may be accessed from any campus computer lab or from any computer with the technology specifications that support WebCT/Vista CourseDen (see WebCT/Vista CourseDen login page for specifications or tech support).
Academic Honesty: The academic dishonesty policy of this course is the same as that of the University of West Georgia and is found in The Student Handbook http://www.westga.edu/documents/studentHandbook2006.pdf. The School of Nursing is committed to promoting a learning environment that recognizes the importance of honesty, integrity, and high ethical standards in education and the professional practice of nursing. Evidence of student cheating, fabrication, or plagiarism will result in failure in this course. Students displaying questionable behavior regarding honesty and integrity in the classroom or clinical area will be counseled and appropriate actions will be taken. Students who are found to be involved in questionable behavior outside the academic area, i.e., any involvement in the Student Judicial System, will find their standing in the program in jeopardy pending the outcome of such activity. Additionally, see document concerning academic dishonesty posted on WebCT VISTA course homepage. Secure Exam Browser and Turnitin.com will be used as technology to assist in prevention of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

Attendance: Students are responsible for their own learning and must accept individual accountability for behavior. Students are expected to attend every scheduled face-to-face class and to arrive to class in a timely manner. Attendance is required at all clinical activities. Students have the responsibility for making arrangements for any missed activities. Arrangements regarding absences should be made prior to the absence except in emergencies. Absences from clinical experiences may have to be made up on the students’ own time. Because of the difficulty in rescheduling and making up exams, students must make arrangements regarding missed exams prior to the absence if possible, or as soon as possible in cases of an emergency. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the faculty regarding absences.

Tardiness: Every effort will be made to begin and end classes on time. Students are expected to cooperate by arriving to class and clinical experiences in a timely manner. Consistently tardy behavior does not convey professionalism or a sense of caring for self or others.

Disabled Students: The Student Development Center coordinates special services for disabled students including physical disabilities or learning disorders. Students must register with Disabled Student Services and inform faculty to receive certain accommodations including extended test time or individual testing. For further information, call 678.839-6428.

Tape Recorders, Beepers & Cellular phones: Taping of lectures can be a useful learning tool. However, because of the sensitive nature of discussions regarding personal feelings and the legal and ethical considerations concerning client confidentiality, tape recorders must be used cautiously. Discussion related to caring groups, clients and quiz reviews are not to be taped. Students are asked to turn off cellular phones and pagers (place on motion/silence mode) while in the classroom.

Inclement Weather Instructions: In case of snow, ice, or other inclement weather, please refer to local and Atlanta radio and TV stations for University closings. If the University is closed, class and clinical are canceled. If the University is open, class and clinical will be held.

BSN Student Handbook: Students are to consult the online student handbook to obtain SON policies, which are not listed on the syllabus and/or to clarify policies.