THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DIVISION OF NURSING
N108: Perspectives of Nursing
Spring 2011
STUDENT LEARNING SYLLABUS

I. **Course Title:**   N108 Perspectives of Nursing

II. **Course Description:**

This course will enable students to assess their potential to complete the nursing curriculum as well as give students an introduction to nursing roles, skills and responsibilities. Emphasis will be on defining the role of the nurse and exploring baseline skills such as problem solving, interpersonal relations, mathematical calculations and basic medical terminology. Site visits will be included in the course to observe various health care settings and the role of the nurse within those settings. Perspectives courses are most appropriate for degree students planning to enroll in any of the career programs; however, Liberal Arts or General Studies students are eligible. All students must have successfully completed developmental courses or attained a placement score indicating placement in ENG K100.

III. **Course Overview**

This course is the first, (optional) nursing course in the sequence. It introduces the student to positive learning behaviors and literacy skills in reading, mathematics, the sciences, information discernment and technology use via nursing literature and experiences. The student will be introduced to critical thinking, blended skills and the nursing process, when interacting with people of all ages and cultures. The principle of simple to complex is followed. In month one to three (January-March) classes will be held on campus. During month four and five (April-May) classes will be online. This will help students to understand how nursing courses work in the classroom and online. Highlights of this course will be the use of Blackboard and ePortfolio for activities. The Nursing Gateway will be used to introduce students to information literacy within the science and art of nursing. Students will also compare and contrast varying health care and nursing roles. The course outcomes mirror the core values of the CT-CCNP Common Curriculum Program.
(http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_academics/AlliedHealth/index.shtml)

The student will be introduced to resources at Three Rivers Community College and how to effectively utilize opportunities within their learning style. Faculty believe an environment conducive to learning, generates critical thinking, group interaction, and self direction. These behaviors are all critical to growth as a professional Registered Nurse. Individualized assessments will be made in

mathematics, reading and technology skills, coping styles, as well as test taking skills. Learning is the acquisition of new knowledge and skills that requires both mental activity and behavioral change. The individual assessments will foster goal directed understanding.

The learner will be given guidance to facilitate success in future nursing courses. The student will be introduced to effective class preparation, listening and note taking skills. Basic computer skills, use of a learning management system (Blackboard / Vista) and ePortfolio will be introduced. Roles in clinical, test taking strategies and the professional role of the Registered Nurse with an Associate Degree will be highlighted. Continued lifelong learning will be discussed for future BSN, MSN and other roles in nursing.

The student will be expected to demonstrate growth in mathematics, reading, information discernment, technology and effective learning strategies abilities. Students will also be responsible to develop critical thinking and reflective ability as they begin to identify the nursing role and other collaborative health care careers. The student will be expected to acknowledge responsibility for his or her own progress.

IV.   Student Learning Outcomes

1.   As a **COMMUNICATOR**, the learner will be able to:
A)   Discuss components of effective reading and information discernment.
B)   Develop effective listening strategies to hear and reflect on verbal and non-verbal input.
C)   Communicate through written assignments and discussion postings.
D)   Use technology to access evidence based information, evaluate and share the information with others.
E)   Use beginning medical terminology when speaking and writing.

2.   As a **CRITICAL THINKER,** the learner will be able to:
A)   Discuss basic biological, chemistry and physical science principles and their relationship to nursing.
B)   Define time management and prioritizing skills.
C)   Organize learning tools and complete assignments in a timely manner.
D)   Develop a plan for achieving desired goals within their learning style and requirements of a nursing program.
E)   Describe the nursing process and identify sources of assessment data.
F)   Identify successful Test Taking strategies for nursing exams.

3.   As a **SAFE AND COMPETENT PRACTITIONER,** the learner will be able to:
A)   Demonstrate an ability to use mathematical skills of + / - / x / %.
B)   Identify sources of accurate, professional information.
C)   Critique own work, eliminating mistakes and planning for improvement.
D)   Discuss the benefits of accepting constructive criticism.

E) Identify safety and infection control principles necessary for practice.
F) Identify organizations which promote safe practice in the 21st Century.

4. As a **CARING PRACTITIONER,** the learner will be able to:
A) Define empathy, comfort, compassion, concern and advocacy.
B) Identify examples of professional caring behaviors.
C) Discuss how cultural diversity influences caring.
D) Identify how caring is integral to the nursing process.

5. As a **HOLISTIC CARE PRACTIONER,** the learner will be able to:
A) Identify members and roles of the health care team.
B) Compare required education and work of team members.
C) Discuss continuum of health from wellness to restoration.
D) Identify bio-psycho-social dimensions which influence patient care.

3. As a **PROFESSIONAL WITHIN NURSING,** the learner will be able to:
A) Define the current role of the registered nurse.
B) Discuss areas of nursing employment and general qualifications.
C) Identify reasons for becoming a nurse.
D) Recognize how own value system can impact on nursing behaviors.
E) Compare and contrast effective and non-effective learning strategies.
F) Discuss the role of life-long learning in the profession of nursing.
G) Examine own strengths and weaknesses. Choose ways to increase overall
    academic and personal strengths.

V. **Course Components: Special Course Information:**
    Credits: 3
    Classroom and Online activities
    Independent study/classroom laboratory
    Computer / library use
    Actual and Virtual Site Visits
    A. Independent study modules and interaction with peers in course management
        system, use of http://my.commnet.edu , http://www.eportfolio.org , nursing,
        computer laboratories and library use.
        (http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_IT/Library/Library.shtml)
    B. Visit and/or Shadow of Registered Nurse (RN) at clinical site (if pre-requisite
        health facility requirements are completed).
    C. Visit a health care event such as a health fair, blood pressure screening, flu
        clinic or health care class.

VI. **Faculty:**
     Lillian Rafeldt, MA, RN, CNE Associate Professor
         Email address: preferred Blackboard / Vista email http://my.commnet.edu
     or lrafeldt@trcc.commnet.edu if Blackboard is down

Email will be checked from Monday through Friday. Replies can be expected within 48 hours. Assignments are generally due by Thursday.
Phone and voice mail: (860) 383-5257
Home: for emergency use…860-376-4833 before 9PM
   Office: 2nd floor faculty office C230 (On Campus Office hours to be announced)
   Technology support is available through the front home page of http://my.commnet.edu and through the TRCC website
      http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/EDDL.shtml
   Tutoring support is available by contacting me directly through email or phone or on campus visit as well as through the TASC Center online or on campus
      (http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_academics/TASC/TASC.shtml)

VII. Instructional Methods:
- Classroom and online modules, discussion, small group activities, guest speakers, experiential exercises, instructional media, individualized modules, observational site visits, the use of Blackboard Vista http://my.commnet.edu and ePortfolio http://www.eportfolio.org .
- For Addition Blackboard / Vista help contact: TR-DistanceLearning@trcc.commnet.edu

VIII.   Textbooks Required:
   1. Nuggent, P. & Vitale, B. **Fundamental Success A Course Review Applying Critical Thinking to Test Taking,** 2nd edition, F.A.Davis, 2008.
   2. Wilkerson, Judith, **Nursing Process and Critical Thinking,** 4th edition, Prentice Hall, 2006.
   3. **The Neighborhood**   a computer access program Prentice Hall 2010

   Recommended not required Textbooks:
   1. Benjamin-Lesmeister, Michele. **Math Basics for the Health Care Professional,** 3rd edition, Prentice Hall, 2009.

IX.   Course Requirements:
A)   Students work to achieve their own grade using the "Point Grading System"

   The criteria used for grading is:

A 920-1000 points	C+ 750-789 points
A- 890-919	C 710-749
	C- 700-709
B+ 850-889	D+ 650-699
B 820-840	D 600-649
B- 790-819	F 0-599

B)   Categories of Work to be graded will be: assignments, discussions, quizzes, reports about visits to a class or health care event or facility or virtual site, a group project and a final exam. Work will be due each week by Thursday. Assignments will correspond to

the content covered during in each week. Students will have a choice of some assignments.

Grading criteria and rubrics will be given for assignments and discussion board entries. A quiz and final schedule will be given on the first week of class

C)

Categories	Learning Assessment Category is worth ___ percent	Total Points
10 assignments (50 points each)	50%	500
5 quizzes (each quiz 25 points)	15%	125
5 online discussions (25 points each)	15%	125
1 Actual or Virtual Visits and report (100 points)	10%	100
1 group project	10%	100
Final Exam or ePortfolio Project	10%	100
	Total % = 110	Total points = 1050
See grading criteria above for letter grade		

X.   Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to participate each week. **During April and May pretend you are taking the ground course that you must attend at certain times.** That will help you to maintain consistency and not procrastinate. **The difference will be that you don't have to "attend" on Thursday nights but rather anytime during that week.** It is the **student's** responsibility to notify the instructor if absence is necessary and to fulfill objectives of the experience. **Excessive nonparticipation can result in a final grade of "F".**

XI.   Test Make-Up Policy:
If you must be absent from a scheduled quiz, project or final due to illness or other emergency, contact the faculty (860 383-5257) or email on Blackboard / Vista before the start of the quiz or final. Failure to do so can result in a zero grade for that quiz or final. Students with an approved absence from scheduled tests will be given an alternate form of the examination at a time and date convenient for the faculty and student.

XII.   Statement on Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

"Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the online classroom and

beyond....In this class and your... academic career present only your best work; clearly document the sources of material you use from others and act at all times with honor."

This content comes from http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/President/Policies/Academic_standards.pdf pages 19-22

"Plagiarism is the **unacknowledged** use of another person's words or ideas in your writing. Whether conscious or not, plagiarism is a serious offense. Evidence that you did not write material that you submit under your name can result in failure for the entire course. Please refer to the 2010-2011 College Catalog for policy. Students are expected to: "Demonstrate academic integrity by not engaging in conduct that has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance, including but not limited to: (a) cheating on an examination; (b) collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; (c) plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed or otherwise obtained) as one's own; (d) stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials; (e) falsifying records or laboratory or other data; (f) submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; and (g) knowingly assisting another student in any of the above, including an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination, or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed."

Cutting and pasting from other documents without appropriate acknowledgment is plagiarism.

XIII. Additional Expected Activity Requirements:
Students are reminded that both in class and online classroom behavior is a vital part of participation. Students should act appropriately at all times and are asked to practice common courtesy recognizing each person's right to learn in an atmosphere conducive to the learning experience. Students who violate the rules of courtesy and/or professional demeanor will be asked to leave. Students are expected to use "netiquette" when communicating online.

XIV. WITHDRAWAL POLICY:
Students may withdraw, in writing, at the Registrar's Office up to a certain date. Refer to the Student Handbook and Calendar for the exact dates. This semester it is. May 9th (http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_academics/Admin/calendar/Academic%20calendar%20w%20mods%20FAL10_SUM11.pdf) This course does not offer midterm theoretical warning grades. **Students with concerns about their course average are encouraged to contact the instructor.**

XV. DISABILITIES STATEMENT:

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabilities Counseling Services. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please be sure to register with Chris Scarborough if you have a learning disability, ADD or ADHD. See the **Three Rivers Community College Catalog and Website for additional information about disabilities.**
(http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_StudentServices/Counseling/counseling.shtml)
Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. Your cooperation is appreciated.

REVISION TO SYLLABUS:
The information contained in this syllabus is subject to revision at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified of any changes.

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