American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Health Sciences
Nursing Program
NURS421
Community Health 1
3 Credit Hours
Length of Course: 8 weeks
Prerequisite: NURS300

Instructor Information

Please refer to the Instructor Profile on the course homepage for your instructor's contact information and biography.

Course Description (Catalog)

This course is only open to students who are enrolled in the RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) program. The course will begin with the history and theory of community health nursing and the influences of political and financial decisions. The course will provide an opportunity to investigate social, environmental, and economic issues and available community resources. Clinical experiences will allow for community assessment and planning for health education for vulnerable populations. This course includes a clinical project, which will be completed in NURS422. Students must arrange for a BSN-prepared project mentor prior to the start of this course. Formal mentor agreements will be signed during the first week of the course. (Prerequisites: NURS300) – 3 credit hours

Course Scope

This is the introductory course for the RN in Community Health Nursing. Students in this course will examine the role of the registered nurse in health promotion for individuals, families, and communities. Students will have an opportunity to evaluate themselves on issues that will impact their study as well as their practice and will formulate action plans which will be reviewed and utilized throughout the course of study toward their degree.

Course Learning Objectives

The following objectives are aligned with the RN-BSN Program Outcomes (PO):

1. Discuss the three Core Functions of Community Health Nursing: Assessment, Assurance, and Policy Development as well as the ten essential services. (PO 1, PO 7)
2. Evaluate the roles and responsibilities of nurses and other members of the healthcare team to improve health outcomes of communities. (PO, 1, PO 2)
3. Identify vulnerable populations with health disparities within your community. (PO 8)
4. Investigate predictive factors that contribute to the overall health status of a community and its members. (PO 8)
5. Determine infectious disease threats in your community and mechanisms that are in place to address the threats. (PO 5)
6. Explore the health risks and concerns of vulnerable populations in communities. (PO 2, PO 5)
7. Analyze the local, state, national, and global public health initiatives currently in place to improve the health of communities.(PO 7)
8. Develop a proposal for a teaching plan addressing vulnerable populations in your community. (PO 3, PO 9)
9. Discuss nationwide healthcare priorities identified in Healthy People 2020. (PO 3)

Module Learning Objectives are located within the course.
Baccalaureate Essentials covered in this course include I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX.
http://www.aacn.nche.edu/education-resources/BaccEssentials08.pdf

Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due weekly as noted on the course outline and can include Forum questions and written assignments. Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Materials

Required Course Textbook:
All required readings and resources are available within MyClassroom.

Academic Writing Requirements:
The School of Health Sciences requires use of APA format and style and all students are encouraged to have a current copy of the *APA Publication Manual.* All written assignments are to be submitted in APA format style unless otherwise noted in the assignment directions.

Evaluation Procedures

Discussions

Please join the discussions each week. Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week will not be graded. The Discussions are for student interaction and input should be submitted before the week ends in order to fully participate in the discussions. Students should demonstrate their own knowledge in the discussions and avoid copying and pasting from websites. In this class there are 13 graded discussions. Five of those discussion are Reflection discussions, and you will be graded on completion of the reflection questions, not on the content.

Guidelines:

- Post the initial response to each discussions by 11:55pm, ET, Wednesday
- Initial responses are to be original in content and demonstrate a thorough analysis of the topic.
- Reply to *more than 2* of your classmates in each forum by 11:55pm, ET, Sunday.
- Responses to classmates are significant to advance the discussions.
- All discussions can be accessed in the Discussions section of the course.
- Respond to all questions posed to you in your initial post by instructor and/or peers.

An initial post must precede the response posts to peers. An initial post received after Wednesday 11:55 pm will receive a 10% deduction for each day, for 3 days, prior to discussions being graded. This means the highest grade possible for a late submission of 3 days, is 70%. However, response posts are due by Sunday 11:55 pm. If response posts are not submitted by this time, the discussion is over. Therefore, no points can be awarded for collaboration, and the highest grade possible for late submission past 3 days is 60%.

Tests/ Quizzes
There are no tests/quizzes in this course.

Written Assignments
There are 4 written assignments due throughout the course. All assignment instructions and grading rubrics are located in the Assignments area of MyClassroom. Assignments are due by 11:55 pm EST on the Sunday of the week they are assigned, or as indicated in the Assignments area.

Course Grading Outline

Grading Instrument	Percentage of Final Grade
Introductory Forum	1%
Weekly Forums	20%
Reflection Forums	7%
Assignments	
• Week 1 Mentor Forms Submitted	1%
• Defining a Community (Table)	10%

• Population Assessment (Paper)	15%
• Windshield Survey (PowerPoint)	20%
• Vulnerable Population Teaching Project Proposal (Paper)	25%
• Week 8 Mentor Forms Submitted	1%
TOTAL	100%

Course Outline

Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
1	Core Functions of Community/ Public Health Nursing	1. Explain the Core Functions of Community Health Nursing using examples from readings and practice. 2. Discuss the three levels of prevention (primary, secondary, and tertiary) and provide examples of each. 3. Evaluate the role of the community health nurse in understanding the relationship between the HP2020 objectives and the determinants of health and disease.	As assigned	Introduction Discussion Week 1 Discussion Submit required forms (Mentor Agreement and Mentor CV)
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Reading(s)**	**Assignment(s)**
2	Public Health: Care Systems, Policy Development, and Healthcare Functions	1. Discuss current public health policies issues at the local, national, and global levels. 2. Explain the role of the community health nurse in public health policy development 1. Identify various factors which impact the cost of health care.	As assigned	Week 2 Discussion
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Reading(s)**	**Assignment(s)**
3	Defining Communities: Community as Client	1. Identify multiple ways that communities /populations can be defined. 2. Explain why it is important to define the community prior to performing a community assessment. 3. Discuss the concept of "Community as Client."	As assigned	Week 3 Reflection Discussion Defining Your Community
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Reading(s)**	**Assignment(s)**
4	Community Assessment:	1. Explain the process of implementing a community	As assigned	Week 4 Discussion

Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
	Using the Nursing Process	assessment. 2. Discuss the methods that are used to collect data in a community assessment (existing data, and ways to generate new data.)		Week 4 Reflection Discussion Population Assessment
Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
5	Epidemiology and Surveillance	1. Discuss the role of epidemiology in determining the health of a community. 2. Identify the primary uses of epidemiology in primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention. 3. Explain the most common types of rates used in epidemiology (e.g. attack rates, incidence rates, prevalence rates, morbidity and mortality rates.)	As assigned	Week 5 Discussion
Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
6	Vulnerable Populations: Overview/ Populations Affected by Disability	1. Define the term vulnerable population. 2. Identify the primary characteristics of vulnerable populations. 3. Explain the concept of cumulative risk. 4. Discuss the factors that lead to vulnerability in certain populations such as those with disabilities.	As assigned	Week 6 Discussion Week 6 Reflection Discussion Windshield Survey
Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
7	Vulnerable Population: Populations Affected by Poverty/ Homelessness	1. Explain the difference between the poverty guidelines and the poverty threshold. 2. Identify organizations and programs that use the U. S. Poverty Guidelines. 3. Define homelessness. 4. Discuss the health problems of those who are homeless.	As assigned	Week 7 Discussion Week 7 Reflection Discussion
Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
8	Rural and Migrant Health	1. Identify challenges in providing health care in a rural setting. 2. Identify challenges in providing health care for the migrant population.	As assigned	Week 8 Discussion Week 8 Reflection Discussion

		3. Discuss health care resources for rural and migrant populations.		Vulnerable Population Teaching Project Proposal Submit required forms (Mentor Evaluation and Student Activity Log)

Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

> Drop/Withdrawal Policy
> Plagiarism Policy
> Extension Process and Policy
> Disability Accommodations

Nursing Program Policies

Assignment and Coursework Grading Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the designated due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. Failure to submit coursework by the designated due date will result in a ten percent (10%) penalty per day until three (3) days after the coursework is due. Therefore, after three (3) days, the maximum grade the student can achieve with a late submission will be a grade of 70% (C-). If a student is ill, has a family crisis, or will miss scheduled coursework deadlines for any reason, the student shall notify the instructor in advance if at all possible. Assignments will NOT be accepted more than seven (7) days after the due date unless prior arrangements have been made in advance of the due date.

Use of Online Sources such as Course Hero

In addition to the university's plagiarism policy, students who are found to have submitted materials plagiarized from any online source, such as Course Hero, will be reported to the university and may fail the course and/or be expelled APUS. Use of said materials is academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated.

Self-Plagiarism

Each course in the program has unique course learning objectives designed to build professional knowledge and skills. To accomplish these learning objectives, all work submitted for a course must be original and cannot be a resubmission of one's own previous work. When repeating a course, students must submit newly created work as well.

Course Completion and Progression Requirements

Effective September 1st, 2015 (For all students who started NURS300 after September 1, 2015, and beyond), to pass the course and progress in the nursing program, students must achieve a final course grade of a 73% (C) or better. In the capstone course, NURS498: Senior Seminar in Nursing Studies, students must achieve a final course grade of an 84% (B) or better in order to pass the course and graduate from the nursing program.