

**CAPITAL AREA SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL NURSING  
MENTAL HEALTH NURSING  
SYLLABUS**

**PLACEMENT OF COURSE:** THIRD QUARTER

**THEORY HOURS:** 105

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** Valerie M. Ellinger RN, BSN Phone: 585-2160 Ext. 206  
Office Hours: 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. by appointment only

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course deals with the role of nursing associated with the human emotional responses to stress and crisis along the developmental continuum. Course components include: utilization of the nursing process to determine the health care needs of patients/clients with psychosocial illness through a variety of treatment modalities, concepts of therapeutic communication with the use of caring attributes, interpersonal relationships, and interdisciplinary management of psychosocial problems. Acute, chronic, and community mental health resources available to individuals, families, and groups with actual or potential mental health problems are investigated.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

1. Morrison-Valfre, Michelle; Foundations of Mental Health Care: 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2005 Elsevier Mosby.
2. Kee Hayes McCuiston, Pharmacology: 5<sup>th</sup> ed. 2003 Saunders.
3. Current Drug Handbook

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Applicable to theory and clinical learning:

At successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate caring attributes with patients experiencing impaired biological, psychological, and social functioning.
2. Demonstrate acceptance of differences toward the patient with varying cultural backgrounds, lifestyles, and value systems.
3. Clarify personal values concerning mental illness.
4. Provide culturally and spiritually competent care that meets needs of mental health clients from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.
5. Plan for a continuum of care that promotes a therapeutic and safe environment, structure and support for clients with mental illness and their families.
6. Verbalize and explore the role that research plays related to psychiatric mental health nursing for application to practice.
7. Apply ethical principles in development of therapeutic nursing interventions for clients experiencing mental illness.

8. Discuss legal, ethical, and political issues that arise in protecting patient rights in the mental health clinical setting.
9. Describe and discuss the influence of neurobiological, psychological, sociological and developmental factors of communication.
10. Utilize principles of communication to evaluate effectiveness of interaction in clinical settings.
11. Promote mental health across the life span.
12. Demonstrate ability to work with various members of the interdisciplinary team.

### **INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Create a classroom environment conducive to learning and inquiry with open communication.
2. Be on time and prepared for classes and clinicals.
3. Present theory in a manner understandable and challenging.
4. Offer help to students about theoretical concepts.
5. Provide grades in a timely fashion.
6. Be sensitive to student's fears and apprehensions about working in psychiatric areas.
7. Support students in their clinical growth.

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THEORY:**

1. Read text *prior* to class so active participation in class activities and discussion is feasible.
2. Bring all books/papers to class as designated by instructor.
3. Attend class regularly. Attendance is taken daily. Refer to the Attendance Policy in the CASPN STUDENT HANDBOOK.
4. Participate in individual and small group classroom activities.
5. Be respectful of instructor and peers in class by demonstrating professional behaviors. For example, arrive on time, pay attention to the presenter, cell phones/pagers are to be turned off, and pick up your own trash.
6. Complete all assignments by the due date.
7. Be responsible for following all Capital Area School of Practical Nursing policies as written in the CASPN STUDENT HANDBOOK.
8. Exhibit ethical conduct during exams:
  - a. No talking during exam; cell phones/pagers turned off and put away.
  - b. No use of notebooks; book bags zipped and stowed away.
  - c. No looking at other student tests.
  - d. No leaving the room.
  - e. Stay in seat until exam is finished.
9. Complete a structured evaluation of the course and instructor at completion of quarter.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLINICAL:**

1. All policy including Clinical Performance, Clinical Standards, and Clinical Attendance is to be followed as documented in the CASPN STUDENT HANDBOOK.
2. Provide own transportation to clinical facilities.
3. Bring books, papers, and/or form as requested by instructor to assist in the clinical learning.
4. Come prepared and able to participate actively in clinical without physical, emotional, or mental distractions or impairments. Students may be sent home at the instructor's discretion if not prepared or able to participate actively.
5. Participate actively in pre and post conferences.

## **LEARNING ACTIVITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

- **Supportive Note Taking Lecture – Power Points – Small Group Discussions – Case Studies – Role Plays**

Various methods of instruction are used by instructors to bring the theory to life and encourage class participation. The purpose of class is to focus on the material in the textbook that must be clearly understood for a nurse to safely apply the nursing process in the clinical setting. Information in addition to the text and guest speakers may be used to enhance student understanding.

- **Reading Assignments**

Be prepared for class by reading the chapters prior to the lecture. The role of the instructor is to assist students in identifying what parts of the reading assignments are most important.

- **Movie Presentations**

Mental illness and treatment are often displayed in media and movie presentations. Students will be asked to critically evaluate these presentations in this course.

- **Written Examinations, Quizzes, and Presentation**

Approximately 7 written examinations and a comprehensive final will make up most of your grade. Also, approximately 12 quizzes will be given throughout the quarter. These will incorporate into your final grade as well. A small group presentation will count for 10% of your final grade.

- **Clinical Experiences and Clinical Conferences**

Students will be assigned to acute and/or chronic psychiatry clinical sites over the quarter. Clinicals provide hands-on experience and will help students understand how to apply psychiatric theory. It is expected that students will actively participate in pre and post conferences at the clinical site.

- **ATI Proctored Exam**

The ATI Mental Health Proctored Exam will be administered during this quarter. Those scoring at Level 2 will receive the total possible points awarded for the exam (10% of total course points). Those scoring at Level 1 will receive 8% of total course points and those scoring below Level 1 will achieve 7.7% of total course points, but only after having successfully completed remediation of ATI content material as assigned by the instructor. If remediation is not completed, the student will receive a 0 for the ATI exam. Those students who exceed Level 2 on the exam will receive the total possible points awarded and a bonus of 1% of total course points.