BSN Program
NURS-3313: Nurse as a Therapeutic Communicator
Syllabus

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Office Location: Nursing Building, Office #112
Office Hours: By appointment
Nursing Department: 903-886-5315
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials- Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:
American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual (6th Ed.)*. Washington, DC: American
      Psychological Association (ISBN: 1433805618). OR
Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab): http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
Arnold, E. & Boggs, K.U. (2010). *Interpersonal relationships: Professional communication skills for nurses
      (6thEd.)*. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders. (ISBN: 1437709443).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Emphasis is on caring communication as an essential dimension of professional nursing. Theories are presented
to explain the dynamic relationship between human behavior, health, and illness, and the impact of
interpersonal relationship skills to effect positive changes in individuals and their families. Nurse
communication in the role of educator will be introduced as part of the teaching/learning course content. (3
credit hours)

Student Learning Outcomes:
1.   Relate the effects of perception, self-esteem, self-concept and body image on communication.
    a.   Define perception and its effect on communication.
    b.   Discuss the importance of defense mechanisms in perceptual distortions.
    c.   Differentiate between self-esteem, self-concept, and self-ideal.
    d.   Identify the effect of self-esteem and body image on communication and interpersonal relationships.
    e.   Relate the effect of defense mechanisms on communication.
2.   Identify the relevance of caring to the practice of professional nursing.
    a.   Define caring.
    b.   Define empathy.
    c.   Identify purpose of therapeutic communication between nurse and client.

     d.   Explain the relevance of self-esteem, self-concept, and insight to empathic and caring communications.
3.   Describe the relationship of caring behaviors to each step of the nursing process.
     a. Use facilitative caring behaviors to collect data.
     b. Explain how problems/concerns are revealed through specific communication strategies.
4.   Demonstrate therapeutic communication skills to affect positive changes in individuals from diverse populations.
5.   Discuss the communication strategies for specific groups- families, children and the aged.
6.   Demonstrate caring communication responses to common emotional behaviors.
     a.   Interpret patient behaviors used on the expanded knowledge of the emotional impact of illness- anger, anxiety, denial, and depression.
     b.   Identify strategies to manage conflict situations and reduce anger.
7.   Demonstrate responsibility for own learning.
     a.   Select independent learning experiences related to own interests and needs.
     b.   Complete assignments within designated time period.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course. Each week you will complete various combinations of online assignments, activities, readings, etc.

Grading

Grades will be determined as follows:

Quizzes (6)	10%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Exam 4	15%
Critical Thinking Exercises	10%
Culture Presentation /Group Dynamic Paper	20%
Total	**100%**

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 75-79

D = 67-74

F = 66 and Below

A minimum grade of 75 is required to pass the course.

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this

course.

> *-Internet access/connection-high speed recommended (not dial up)*
> *-Word Processor (MS Word, or Word Perfect)*

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP, Vista, or 7) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, 8.0, or 9.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X or better along with a recent version of Safari (5.1 is now available). Along with Interent Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows, and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to eCollege, click on the "myCourses" tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Communication between faculty and students is primary and taken seriously. Preferred communication methods are individualized office hours, email, or via office phone. If a phone call is not answered please leave a message and send an e-mail using the direct e-mail link on the course home page. You will be treated with collegial respect and you are expected to communicate likewise in a professional manner.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:
1. Class Cancellation: In the event that a class is canceled, the student is expected to do the readings and complete the objectives for that day. The content will still be included on examinations. The material in this syllabus and dates identified in the Course Calendar are subject to change.
2. Students who miss an exam must make an appointment with the course instructor.
3. As an adult learner and responsible professional, the student is responsible for reading and completing assignments prior to class and for being prepared to participate in discussions over the assigned material. It should not be expected that all material will be covered in class. Students are expected to come to class prepared.
5. Assignments must be handed in on time. Assignments submitted late without prior arrangement with the classroom instructor will receive a 0.

The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 468-8148
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct Code – Refer to the BSN Student Guide

Students must adhere to standards of professional and academic conduct. Academic misconduct involves any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student or the attempt to commit such an act. Students are responsible for their own academic honesty and for reporting violations of academic honesty by others.