Brookhaven College  
Dallas County Community College District  
Spring 2012  
COMPLEX CONCEPTS OF ADULT HEALTH  
CLINICAL-NURSING-REGISTERED NURSE TRAINING  
RNSG 2560-2263

Instructor: Beth M. Mendel, RN, MS, CCRN  
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Clinical Hours: Clinical days and hours will vary

Credit Hours: 3 SCH, 0 Lecture  
Contact Hours: 12 Ext. Hrs. (clinical)

Course Description:  
This clinical provides an opportunity to apply medical/surgical concepts and theory to clients with complex health care needs. The student applies critical thinking and develops care planning for a group of adults in a moderately to severely ill critical care setting. Supervision is provided by the nursing instructor or clinical preceptor. Grading is the sole responsibility of the Brookhaven Nursing Faculty. Emphasis is on knowledge, skills and professional values within a legal/ethical framework.

Prerequisites: “C” or better in semester three courses

Co-requisites: RNSG 1443 Complex Concepts of Adult Health; both courses must be repeated if student fails either course.

Learning Outcomes:  
The student will: identify complex health changes which may be experienced by the client in an acute care setting; utilize critical thinking and a systematic problem solving process as a framework for providing care for the critically ill client; and explain the roles of the Associate Degree Nurse in caring for clients with complex health care needs and their families.

Course Objectives:  
1. Analyze nursing process to reflect the rapidly changing health status in clients with complex alterations in health. (Provider of Care, Coordinator of Care)

2. Provide therapeutic nursing interventions to client/family experiencing complex alterations in health based on knowledge of pathophysiological and psychosocial concepts. (Provider of Care)

3. Utilize effective therapeutic communication techniques to assist the client/family to adapt to complex alterations in health. (Provider of Care)

4. Demonstrate professional attributes of caring in providing care
of clients with complex alterations in health. (Provider of Care, Coordinator of Care, Member of Profession)

5. Integrate a nursing teaching/discharge plan, to include referrals, to assist the client/family to adapt to complex health related changes. (Provider of Care)

6. Accurately monitor client's/family responses to therapeutic modalities. (Provider of Care)

7. Communicate with appropriate members of the interdisciplinary health care team providing nursing care to clients with complex alterations in health. (Provider of Care)

8. Utilize critical thinking to organize and prioritize nursing care for clients experiencing rapidly changing health status. (Provider of Care, Coordinator of Care, Member of Profession)

9. Advocate for clients and their families experiencing complex alterations in health. (Provider of Care, Coordinator of Care, Member of Profession)

10. Communicate nursing knowledge and learning when providing nursing care for the complex client. (Provider of Care)

11. Utilize critical thinking to maintain legal and ethical standards as a member of the profession of nursing. (Provider of Profession, Coordinator of Care, Member of Profession)

12. Demonstrate the appropriate communication skills in the role of manager/leader. (Provider of Care, Coordinator of Care)

13. Identify principles of quality management applicable to nursing and health care delivery systems. (Coordinator of Care)

14. Identify health problems that exist in the present community. (Member of Profession)

15. Identify nursing actions that result in desirable learning outcomes of the community health client and/or family. (Provider of Care)

16. Demonstrate proficiency in medication administration. (Provider of Care)

17. Recognize, discuss, and implement holistic nursing care. (Provider of Care)

18. Discuss the responsibility of the nurse in continuing professional development. (Member of Profession)

19. Demonstrate work organization and time management for four to six
clients. (Coordinator of Care)

20. Describe how the Texas Nursing Practice Act, Standards of Care, and laws regulate the practice of nursing in clients with complex health problems. (Provider of Care, Coordinator of Care, Member of Profession)

21. Discuss political and economic issues impacting the care of clients. (Provider of Care, Member of Profession)

22. Examine professional attributes of caring that assist the client in adapting to complex alterations in health. (Provider of Care, Member of Profession)

23. Analyze the trends that have an impact on the restructuring of nursing care delivery. (Coordinator of Care, Member of Professional)

24. Discuss and participate in service learning to promote optimal client and family health adaptation. (Provider of Care, Member of Profession)

**Critical Clinical Skills:**
- Role transition
- Leadership
- Assessment of clients with complex problems
- Math/pharmacology test
- Externship
- Uses nursing process in the care of clients with complex health-care needs
- Delegation
- Transcription of orders
- Discharge planning
- Medication administration via all routes
- All skills from N.1105 and N. 1144

**Teaching/Learning Activities:**
- Communication exercises
- Audio-visual aids
- Critical thinking exercises
- Internet
- Simulation experiences
- Planned student/teacher conferences
- Selected clinical experiences
  - Group discussion
  - Computer-assisted instruction
  - Case studies
  - Printed handouts
  - Guest speakers
  - Pre- and post-clinical conferences
Grading:

Evaluation of the clinical performance is rated by “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory,” and is reflected in the clinical evaluation tool. The clinical evaluation tool identifies behaviors that must be met in order for the student to achieve a “satisfactory” evaluation. Every behavior listed on the final evaluation tool must be satisfactory in order to receive an overall satisfactory for the course.

In addition to a satisfactory clinical evaluation, the student will receive a grade for a class presentation (50%) and a grade on 10 mini care plans (50%). Please refer to the RNSG2560 Clinical Presentations outline for additional information. These assignments will be averaged and determine the student’s final course grade. Students must earn a grade of “C,” which is 70 percent, or better on the written assignments to pass the course. The grading criterion is:

90-100 A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
Below 69 F

In the event a student fails a co-requisite course, both courses must be repeated for a passing grade.

RETRIEVING YOUR GRADE AND eConnect
Paper grade reports are no longer available from the Dallas Community Colleges. Students may retrieve their grades on-line through eConnect or by visiting the Advising Center.

Guidelines for clinical experience N. 2560 (Fourth semester)

1) Students will be working with a preceptor. Please refer to Student Handbook for clinical guidelines about dress code etc. You must wear your student uniform and Brookhaven ID. Student uniform includes a lab coat as needed. Jackets that are not an approved lab coat will not be worn. Students found in clinical out of uniform will be sent home and will be counted absent for the shift.

2) The total number of clinical hospital hours is 168 (this equates to 14 x 12 hr shifts) community service=16 hours, seminar post conference 16 hours. Mid-semester and final evaluation will include feedback from your preceptor and instructor. Orientation does not automatically count as a clinical shift.

3) Clinical shifts are scheduled in advance by your instructor. If there are changes with less than 24 hours notice you must notify your instructor via cell phone (214-395-7228). You will work with your preceptor each day you are in clinical. If you are unable to attend clinical you must notify your instructor by 5am for day shift. You must also communicate with your floor.

4) You will be assessed by your faculty early in the semester on your skills and medications. Your preceptor will guide your practice and when he or she feels
you are ready you may increase your patient load and autonomy. You may give IV push meds **only** with your preceptor or faculty. IV piggybacks or IV’s **must be verified** by the preceptor or faculty prior to administration.

5) If you have questions or concerns that need an immediate answer call your instructor via the above cell number. Your instructor is on-call whenever students are in the hospital. If there are days when the instructor is not available it will be communicated to you so you know not to schedule yourself at that time.

6) **The following is NOT allowed by students:**
   a) hanging Blood or TPN. Student may monitor these before, during, and after administration but you may not “spike” the bag and hang it.
   b) titrating of IV medications. (drugs like Lidocaine, Primacor etc.)
   c) obtaining or counting of narcotics. Student may administer after RN’s has obtained and counted.
   d) witnessing of legal consents.
   e) accepting verbal or telephone orders from an MD/DO/DDS.

7) Any skill that you have never performed on a patient/person must be supervised. You are responsible for reviewing that skill prior to performing. If you are feeling unsure of any technique, you are responsible to make an appointment in the skills lab to PRACTICE in order to improve your confidence and competency.

8) Charting and med administration will be different from each hospital. Follow hospital protocol. You are responsible to document on the computer every patient you care for every day. Be sure before you leave your unit, you have charted and documented all your medications. Your preceptor must review your computerized documentation daily. You are expected to arrive on time and leave on time.

9) You must turn in a daily preceptor evaluation form each time you are in clinical. Your preceptor is to complete this form on the day you work and it is to be given to your instructor the next shift. You will have 14 forms (14/12hr.days) Keep extra forms with you as well as preceptor agreements. At the end of the semester, you will evaluate your preceptor.

10) Your instructor will review your work organization with you weekly. Please identify 2-3 patient problems with actions/outcomes, plus labs, shift report and time management plans. You will have 10 formal Mini Care Plans (MCP) to turn in. Plan to complete and turn in 1 MCP about every week. Your instructor will review, grade, and return to you with feedback.

11) Be prepared to give your instructor a report on your patients using the above information. You are responsible to take the initiative and be assertive in your communication.

12) Professional Behaviors:
   a) Honesty and accuracy
   b) Punctuality. (Be on time/leave on time)
   c) Reliability
d) Politeness to preceptor and unit personnel. They are your family for the next semester.
e) Cleanliness and good grooming. (Clean uniform etc.)
f) Excellent interpersonal relations and good communication.

POLICIES

Attendance:

Withdrawal: If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar's Office by the date published in the Academic Calendar. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an "F." If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the published date, you will receive a "W" (Withdraw) in each class dropped.

Stop Before You Drop: For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a "W". Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

Students Receiving Financial Aid: If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date (NNNN) by either e-mailing or contacting the instructor or logging on to eCampus. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid office. Changes in your enrollment level and/or failing grades may have adverse consequences. Phone: 972-860-4110.

Repeating This Course: Effective with Fall 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third of subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition to be charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester.

Disabilities Act Compliance: If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires ADA accommodations, please contact your college Disability/Special Services office in Room S-124 or call 972-860-4847 on the Brookhaven Campus.

Academic Dishonesty: Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult.
Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the Dallas County Community Colleges Code of Student Conduct published in the Brookhaven College Catalog.

**Student Absences due to Religious Observance:** Absences for observance of religious holy days are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to make-up an examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Please note:** The instructor reserves the right to modify any course requirements and calendar due dates as necessary to manage and conduct this course online. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor and seeking clarification of any requirement that is not understood.

**Academic Honesty:**
The nursing faculty at Brookhaven College strongly believes that a graduate of the nursing program should: “responsibly practice within the ethical and legal framework of professional nursing.” Further, it is the responsibility of the nursing faculty and administration to recommend only those students who meet these program objectives to the State Board of Nurse Examiners to take the licensing examination for Registered Nurse. Any student who is involved in cheating is in direct violation of the stated program objective. This places the student in great jeopardy regarding the successful completion of the nursing program and subsequent recommendation to the State of Texas Board of Nurse Examiners.

**Academic Dishonesty:**
Academic dishonesty is willful and intentional fraud and deception to improve a grade or obtain a course credit. It includes all student behavior intended to gain unearned academic advantage by fraudulent and/or deceptive means. Examples include:

**Taking Information**
1. Copying graded homework assignments from another student.
2. Working together on a take-home test or homework when not specifically permitted by the instructor.
3. Looking at another student’s paper during an examination.
4. Looking at text or notes during an examination when not specifically permitted by the instructor.
5. Accessing another student’s computer and using his/her program as one’s own.

**Providing Information**
1. Giving one’s work to another to be copied or used in an oral presentation.
2. Giving answers to another student during an examination.
3. After having taken an exam, informing another person in a later section about questions appearing on that exam.
4. Providing a term paper or care plan to another student.
5. Taking an exam, writing a paper, or creating a computer program for another.

**Plagiarism**
1. Copying homework answers from the text to hand in for a grade.
2. Failing to give credit for ideas, statements of facts, or conclusions derived by another author. Failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from
another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof.

Other
1. Lying to an instructor to increase a grade.
2. Altering a graded work after it has been returned, then submitting the work for re-grading.
3. Removing tests from the classroom without the approval of the instructor, or stealing tests.
4. Planning with one or more fellow students to commit any form of academic dishonesty.

Students are expected to follow established procedures of the appropriate division in handling academic issues, such as grade appeals. Students, who wish to appeal a grade, should follow the following guidelines:
   1. Speak with your instructor. Ask why you received the grade you did.
   2. If that is unproductive, speak with the Associate Dean of Nursing.
   3. If that is unsuccessful, file an appeal with the Executive Dean of Health and Human Services.
   4. If still dissatisfied, student may request an appointment with the Vice President of Instruction.

Additional grievance procedures and the Student Code of Conduct are outlined in the Brookhaven College Catalog, available in hard copy in advisement or on the web at www.brookhavencollege.edu.