Complex Concepts of Adult Health
RNSG 1443-23001
Brookhaven College
Dallas County Community College District
Spring 2013

Instructor: Rebecca Personett, PhD, RN, NEA-BC
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Office Hours: X1100 Posted on office door by appointment
Class days/hours: Wednesday 9:00-3:00
Unit Exams: Wednesday 8:00-9:15 in class
Credit/Contact Hour 4 Hours/240 Hours

Course Description:
This course explores the application of advanced concepts and skills for the development of the professional nurse’s roles in complex nursing situations with adult clients/families with complex health needs involving multiple body systems in intermediate and critical care settings. Emphasis will focus on the knowledge, judgment, skills and professional values of nursing with a legal/ethical framework. 4 SCH, 4 Lecture, 0 Lab.

Course Prerequisites:
Prerequisites: All semester 1, 2 and 3 courses as listed in the current nursing curriculum pattern. All must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.
Co-requisite: RNSG 2560

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:
The student will utilize critical thinking skills and a systematic problem-solving process as a framework for providing care for adult clients with complex health care needs involving multiple body systems in intermediate and critical care settings; and analyze the roles of the professional nurse in the provision of care for adult clients and families.

1. Describe the multi-system effects and the pathophysiology of complex alterations in health.
2. Apply the nursing process to the care of clients with complex alterations in health.
3. Utilize critical thinking skills, nursing literature based on research findings, psychosocial, and cultural knowledge in planning care for clients with complex alterations in health.
4. Integrate cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills into nursing care for clients with complex alterations in health.
5. Examine the roles of the nurse as Provider of Care, Coordinator of Care and Member of a Profession when caring for clients with complex alterations in health.
6. Describe how the Texas Nursing Practice Act, Standards of Care and legal implications relate to the care of clients with complex alterations in health.
7. Describe ethical decision making related to care of clients with complex alterations in health.
8. Analyze physiological actions, side effects, rationale, and nursing implications of pharmacological agents used in the care of clients with complex alterations in health.
9. Discuss client and family responses to therapeutic modalities and nursing interventions that are used to promote holistic adaptation for clients with complex alterations in health.
10. Discuss teaching/discharge/referral plans for clients and their families to facilitate adaptation to a complex alteration in health.

11. Identify growth and development concepts when providing nursing care for clients with complex alterations in health.

12. Discuss economic and political issues impacting care of clients with complex alterations in health.

13. Examine professional attributes of caring that assist the client to adapt to complex alterations in health and the critical care environment.

14. Examine community resources that assist clients with complex alterations in health to achieve an optimal level of health or to prepare terminal clients for death.

15. Discuss the role of the nurse in his or her professional growth and career development.

16. Describe the integration of critical thinking and decision-making skills in the coordination of care.

17. Analyze the trends that have an impact on the restructuring of nursing care delivery.

** See content outline for specific content to be covered in this course.

**Teaching/Learning Activities:**

- Lecture
- Group Discussion
- Audio-Visual Aids
- Assigned and Self-Directed Readings
- Case Studies & Critical Thinking Exercises

**Required Materials:**


**Classroom Expectations:**

Students are expected to attend all classes in order to meet course objectives. Time and Attendance will be monitored by the instructor. Tardiness is disruptive to the class and to the instructor. Plan to be on time. Consistent tardiness will be addressed in the same manner as absence, i.e. 3 tardies will count as an absence. Drop action can be taken by the instructor if a student is absent more than 10 percent of total class hours. Please notify the instructor in advance of religious observances that may interfere with class attendance or examinations. If a student is unable to complete the course, it is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from the course by the date published in the academic calendar. If the student is unable to complete the course by the date published in the academic calendar. If the student fails to withdraw before the final drop date, a performance grade- usually an “F” will be assigned for the course. Any appeal will be handled by the Dean of Nursing.

Nursing faculty have carefully scheduled and constructed lecture content. Please make every effort to be on time to class in order not to disrupt the learning of other students. It is not appropriate to leave repeatedly during class, eat noisily or bring children to class. Both subject matter and form of lecture delivery may be of a sensitive nature. Confidentiality is also of key importance and must absolutely be honored. If it is necessary to miss class, the student retains the responsibility for all content discussed. Tape recorders may not be used in the class. Cell phones are not allowed in the classroom and may be determined to be disruptive behaviors. Lap top computers are allowed for e-Books only.

Reading the assigned chapters is an important part of this course and is directly related to the student’s success. The content and behavioral objectives are in the syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to
keep up with the readings and to notify the instructor of any difficulty with associating the readings to the content or objectives.

Disruptive behavior in the classroom is defined as behavior which interrupts, obstructs, or inhibits the teaching/learning process. The faculty member determines what is disruptive and has a duty to terminate it. The faculty person shall give at least one verbal warning to a student to cease in-class disruptive behavior. In cases of abusive behavior, this requirement may be waived. In addition, if the in-class disruption does not cease, an attempt shall be made to resolve the problem in a conference between the faculty member and the student. If disruption occurs after these two measures are taken the instructor may file a complaint with the office of Vice President for Student Affairs to initiate campus disciplinary action. In cases where a student exhibits abusive behavior, is physically abusive, or threatens physical abuse, a verbal warning from the faculty person is not necessary. Examples might include directed profanity, physical disruption of the classroom, or threatening behavior.

Students are expected to adhere to the Brookhaven College of Nursing Dress Code (refer to Student Handbook) while in class. Any student who presents to class not following the written dress code will be asked to leave class and will be counted absent.

**Evaluation Procedures:**
The theory grade is a letter grade obtained from four unit exams and the Exit HESI which is considered the final comprehensive exam. Each of the four unit exams are worth 17.5% and the HESI is worth 30% of the final grade. The final course grade will be rounded up if .5 or greater; (e.g. 86.5 would = 87, 77.9 = 78). No rounding will occur on unit exams or comprehensive final. The actual number of final course grade rounded is applied to the scale below to determine a letter grade. **Unit Tests are to be taken in the classroom starting at 8:00 and ending at 9:15.** The exit HESI exam will be given in the Testing Center. There will be no scheduled late tests or test make-ups. Tests not taken as scheduled will result in a zero. The instructor may be contacted for extenuating circumstances; however any makeup test will be at the instructor’s discretion and the instructor must be notified prior to the time of the test.

A = 100-90  
B = 89-81  
C = 80-76  
D = 75-65  
F = 64 and below

RNSG 1443 and RNSG 2560 are co-requisite courses. A failure in RNSG 1443 or RNSG 2560 will require repetition of the other course. Each course will be graded separately. Each student is required to pass an exit HESI exam to graduate from the Brookhaven nursing program. Refer to the HESI policy for specific information regarding the exit exam. Dates: TBA.

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

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is expected at all classes to meet course objectives. Absences >10% of class time may result in disciplinary action.

**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 official published drop 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](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 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 being 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](https://www1.dcccd.edu/disability) 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](https://www1.dcccd.edu/brookhaven_catalog) 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.

Testing Center: Cell phones and pagers are not allowed in the Testing Center. The student is responsible to check with Testing Center for hours of testing.

This syllabus is subject to clarification, change, updates, and revisions.

Rebecca Personett, PhD, RN, NEA-BC
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