

**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Master Resource Outline**

NRSNG 238: Health Assessment Across the Lifespan
Credits: 4 credits (2 lecture; 2 college laboratory)
Semesters Offered: F, Sp, Su
Pre-requisites: BIOH 201, 211
Co-requisite: NRSNG 225 or consent of instructor

Course Description: This course is designed to teach the student a health oriented approach to nursing assessment of clients across the life span. The primary focus of the course is on normal health assessment findings, with recognition of abnormal variations. The course emphasizes development of the skills needed to perform a comprehensive health assessment of children, adults, and the older adult. Data collection through comprehensive history taking and physical assessment is emphasized. Utilization of assessment findings in clinical decision making is discussed throughout the course.

Course Objectives: The student will:

1. Complete a comprehensive health history from clients across the life span (TO:1)
2. Perform a systematic health assessment on clients across the life span. (TO:1) (FO: 1,3,5, 12)
3. Communicate assessment findings verbally and in writing. (TO: 7,8) (FO:5)
4. Demonstrate health assessment skills appropriate for the developmental level of children, adults and the older adult. (TO: 7) (FO: 9, 10, 12)
5. Analyze information obtained from the health assessment for clinical decision making. (TO: 2) (FO: 2,3, 12)
6. Identify legal/ethical issues as they relate to the professional nurse's role in health assessment of clients across the life span. (TO: 4, 11) (FO: 5)
7. Demonstrate professional behavior in client, peer, and faculty relationships. (TO: 4) (FO: 5,7, 11)
8. Apply principles of evidence based nursing practice in the assessment of clients across the life span (TO: 2) (FO: 3, 4, 7)
9. Students will demonstrate behaviors that are congruent with the MSU Code of Conduct, CON Student Handbook, ANA Code of Ethics, Scope and Standards of Practice, and Social Policy Statements in all class related interactions..(F6-9, 12-13, T2,3,6,8,13)

Recommended Content and Concepts:

1. Health History
 - A. Interviewing strategies
 - B. Health history components
 - C. Concepts of privacy and confidentiality
2. Overview of the history and physical assessment
 - A. Developmental considerations of the child, adult, aging adult

- B. Functional Patterns Assessment
History of health assessment and how health assessment is utilized by professional nurses
- 3. Basic nutritional assessment
- 4. Introduction to Spiritual Assessment
- 5. Introduction to Cultural Assessment
- 6. Introduction to Environmental health risk assessment
- 7. History and Physical Assessment Areas to be Assessed:
 - A. General survey
 - B. Integument
 - C. HEENT
 - D. Breasts and axillae
 - E. Respiratory
 - F. Cardiac
 - G. Peripheral vascular
 - H. Abdominal
 - I. Neurological
 - J. Mental status
 - K. Genitourinary
- 8. Special populations:
 - A. Pediatric assessment
 - B. Geriatric assessment
 - C. Assessment of the pregnant client

Suggested Student Learning Activities:

class discussions
college laboratory experiences
viewing assessment DVDs
written assignments (history and assessment findings and review of systems)
clinical practice utilizing community based settings as available
simulation and case studies.

Approved by UAAC: April 14, 2014

Approved by Faculty: May 1, 2014