MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Master Resource Outline

N241#: Health Care Technology and Society
Semesters offered: F, S
Credits: 3 credits (2 lecture; 1 rec/disc)
Prerequisites: Sophomore Standing

Course Description: An investigation of the reciprocal relationship that exists between technological changes in health care and cultural, psychosocial, ethical and economic factors. Different cultures and their beliefs about health care and technology will be explored. An emphasis will be placed on the humanistic implications of health care technologies.

Course Objectives:

1. Relate historical perspectives to current health care and scientific technological developments.

2. Utilize a decision making model to consider choices among technological health care alternatives.

3. Discuss the reciprocal relationship of health care technology with cultural, psychosocial, ethical and economic factors.

4. Explore divergent cultural beliefs and values and how they affect utilization and availability of health care technologies.

5. Systematically investigate the humanistic implications of selected technological advances in health care as they relate to the individual, society and different cultures.

6. Analyze concepts and research findings related to technological changes in health care and their effect on various cultures and society.

Approved by Faculty: 6/13/91

Revisions Approved by Faculty: 8/19/93

9/20/93: MRO.241.wpd
Recommended Content and Concepts:

A. Impact of Technological Changes on the Individual, Cultures and Society as a Whole
   - Introduction to health care technology
   - Relationship of health care to other technologies (e.g., environmental issues)
   - Negative and positive impact of health care technology on individuals, on cultures and on society.
   - Exploration of solutions for the future

B. Individual's, Culture's and Society's Responsibility for Health and Health Care Decisions
   - Factors that have promoted awareness of need for self responsibility
   - Past and present health care trends
   - Health beliefs and practices of individuals, cultures and societies and how they have influenced health care
   - Alternatives to health care technologies
   - Alternatives related to cultural values and traditions (e.g., acupuncture)

C. Historical Perspective
   - History of health care and health care technologies going back to the beginning of man to the present
   - Influence of past cultures and societies on our present system

D. Ethical Decision Making in Health Care
   - Kohlberg's stages of moral development
   - Ethical theories
   - Bioethical dilemmas
   - Ethical decision making model
   - Values clarification
   - Human rights: rights in health care
   - Informed consent
   - Right to die

E. Psychosocial and Multicultural Influence in Health Care
   - Cultural similarities and differences
   - Ethnocentricity
   - Health care beliefs and values of at least two cultures other than dominant culture
   - Cultural interactions with existing health care systems
   - Aging in our present system
   - Poverty and homelessness
   - Rural issues
   - Alienation
   - Learning to work with different cultures and segments of society in the health care system
F. Economic and Political Influences in Health Care
   History of economics and politics in health care
   Social factors effecting health care costs
   Ways to cut cost in the present and future (DRGs, HMOs, alternative health care providers, etc.)
   Current political attempts to find solutions

G. Specific Technologies such as:
   Drugs
   Cardiac advances
   Kidney dialysis
   Transplants
   Genetic engineering
   In vitro fertilization
   Additional recent advances selected by students (with instructor's consent)

Examples of Student Learning Activities:

Lecture/discussion
Small group discussions, role plays and debates
Student presenters and leaders of small groups
Films/videos/slides
Values clarification exercises
Decision Making Model exercises
Student oral presentations of multicultural or technology papers
Guest lectures
Assigned readings
Written papers
Written exams