

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

N550: Advanced Health Assessment

Credits: 3; 2 lecture; 1 college lab

Semesters offered: Fall

Course Description: This course focuses on advanced health assessment. It includes assessment of physiological and psychosocial processes relevant to the health of different cultural groups and genders across the lifespan.

Course objectives: The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate advanced assessment skills across the lifespan
2. Utilize knowledge of human anatomy and physiology as well as growth and development to assess various clients within the family unit.
3. Apply therapeutic communication skills in the comprehensive assessment of clients in order to facilitate communication and establish rapport with the client.
4. Apply to comprehensive assessment the knowledge of psychosocial, cultural and spiritual frameworks of clients, with an emphasis on rural dwellers.
5. Utilize effective interviewing skills for obtaining appropriate information for clients across the lifespan for both complete and episodic histories.

Recommended Content and Concepts:

- I. Interviewing strategies
- II. Health History--includes psychological, sociocultural, spiritual and physiological components
- III. Overview of Physical Examination of the Adult
 - A. Developmental variations of the child
 - B. Developmental variations of the aging client
- IV. General Survey
 - A. Height and weight
 - B. Vital signs
 - C. Signs of distress
 - D. Grooming, dress, hygiene
 - E. Posture, motor activity, gait
 - F. Manner, mood, speech, state of awareness
- V. Skin Assessment
- VI. Head and Neck
- VII. Breasts and Axillae
- VIII. Cardiovascular Assessment
 - A. Heart
 - B. Pressures/pulses--arterial and venous
 - C. Peripheral vascular system

- IX. Lungs and thorax
- X. Abdomen
- XI. Genitalia
 - A. Female genitalia including pelvic and breast exam
 - B. Male genitalia including prostate and testicular exam
 - C. Anus and rectum
- XII. Musculoskeletal System
- XIII. Nervous System
- XIV. Psychological Assessment
- XV. Sociocultural Assessment
 - A. Growth and development (Duvall, Erikson)
 - B. Social relations
 - C. Culture
 - D. Socialization
 - E. Family assessment
- XVI. Spiritual Assessment
 - A. Spiritual growth and development (Kohlberg, Gilligan, Fowler)
 - B. Religious beliefs

Examples of Learning Activities:

“Desire 2 Learn” study modules
Narrated PowerPoint lectures, accessible via mP3 format or podcasting
Computerized “Virtual” patient assessments
Demonstrate a comprehensive health history and complete health assessment,

Approved by GAAC: 4/03
Approved by Faculty: 1/94; 1/96; 4/07; 5/09
Reviewed/modified by GAAC: 12/95; 10/01; 3/07; 4/09