

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Master Resource Outline

N437 Psychiatric Nursing
Credits: 6; (3 lecture, 3 clinical lab)
Semesters Offered: F, S
Prerequisites: N342, N377, N348 or N349 or N354

Course Description: The focus of this course is nursing care of clients with acute and chronic psychiatric disorders, including psychopathology associated with major mental illness. Community based experiences provide opportunity for continued development of therapeutic skills. Social, cultural, spiritual, and environmental issues influencing mental health are explored.

Course Objectives:

1. Utilize evidence based nursing practice in planning and managing the care of clients of a variety of ages with psychological, emotional and/or biophysical disorders
2. Assess the functioning of selected groups using theories of group dynamics.
3. Utilize knowledge of the dynamics of families, groups, and communities as they relate to mental wellness and mental illness in the care of selected clients.
4. Examine the effect of behaviors, values, attitudes, and feelings on the nurse-patient relationship.
5. Demonstrate skill in functioning as a responsible member of a mental health care team.
6. Discuss the significant legal processes that affect the rights of mentally ill clients.
7. Discuss the social, cultural, spiritual, and environmental issues which influence the present health care delivery system for the mentally ill.
8. Demonstrate professional behavior.
9. Communicate effectively with clients, families, and professionals.
10. Demonstrate responsibility and accountability reflecting professional values.

Recommended Content and Concepts:

- A. Mental Health and Illness: Acute and Chronic; Preventive Concepts; Complimentary Therapies
- B. Theories: developmental, psychodynamic, psychobiological, social-interpersonal, behavioral, group process
- C. Nature of Mental Illness: medical diagnoses and treatment, including psychopharmacological, DSM IV, psychiatric team members
- D. Psychiatric Nursing Practice: Conceptual models such as milieu, psychoeducational, DSMIV-TR, psychiatric interdisciplinary team members, culture of psychiatric nursing, and evidenced based nursing practice to include Standards of Care of Psychiatric Nursing.
- E. Psychiatric Disorders: thought disorders, affective disorders, anxiety disorders,

- personality disorders, addictive disorders, cognitive disorders. For each of the above: definitions, theories of causation, incidence, symptomology, the nursing process, family, group and community dynamics; disorders across the life span
- F. Societal Issues: legal/ethical, barriers/commitment, least restrictive environment, patient rights, advocacy, political action for mental health, community based services, access issues to treatment, barriers to treatment, economic issues, cultural issues, spirituality.
- G. Integrating Concepts: holism, cultural, multidisciplinary team, independent role of the nurse, adaptation, perception (patient's, family's, nurse's, etc.), teaching/learning, empowerment, change, acuity, chronicity, community based care and pharmacological and non-pharmacological concepts.

Suggested Learning Activities:

Therapeutic nurse-patient relationship with both acutely ill and chronically ill patient
Group work (co-lead, participate)
Nursing care planning, documentation
Process recordings
Participate in milieu treatment
Patient restraint (observation)
Assessment interview
Group and team conference - multidisciplinary
Lecture, discussion, role playing
Community organization/education activity
Reflective journaling

Approved/updated UAAC: April 2007
Faculty Approved : May 2007