

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

**N555: Concepts of Family Care**

Credits: 2 lecture

Semesters Offered: Spring

Pre-requisites: N521 or consent of instructor

Course Description: The focus of this course is the analysis and synthesis of family theories from nursing and other disciplines to form a family-focused foundation for application in advanced practice nursing. Related concepts and theories will be analyzed as a basis for understanding the principles of family assessment. Emphasis is placed on family health promotion, nursing of families within a rural context, and the influence of culture on family health

Course Objectives: The student will be able to:

1. Synthesize family theories to form a basis for application in advanced practice nursing.
2. Analyze and critique selected models for the assessment of families across the life span.
3. Analyze the components of family assessment in relation to the promotion of family health.
4. Analyze the components of family assessment within a rural context.
5. Analyze the components of family assessment from a multi-cultural perspective.
6. Analyze the body of family nursing knowledge and related research relevant to advanced practice nursing.

Recommended Concepts and Content:

1. Family and family nursing
  - a. Definitions of family
  - b. Assumptions about families
  - c. Conceptual approaches to family nursing
  - d. Historical roots
  - e. Barriers to family nursing
  - f. Roles for the family nurse
2. Theoretical approaches to understanding the family
  - a. Social sciences
    - i. General systems theory
    - ii. Developmental theory
    - iii. Structural-functional theory
    - iv. Interactional theory
    - v. Stress theory
    - vi. Change theory
  - b. Family therapy
    - i. Structural family theory (Minuchin)
    - ii. Family systems theory (Bowen)
    - iii. Genograms & Ecomaps

- c. Nursing
  - i. Systems related nursing theory
    - 1. King, Roy, Neuman, Orem, Rogers, Friedemann
  - ii. Integrated nursing theories
    - 1. Hanson & Mischke
    - 2. Friedman
    - 3. Wright & Leahy
    - 4. McCubbin & McCubbin
- 3. Assessment of families
  - a. Comprehensive family assessment models
    - i. Family Systems, Stressors, Strength Inventory
    - ii. Friedman Family Assessment Model
    - iii. Calgary Family Assessment Model
  - b. Selected focused family assessment tools
- 4. Promotion of family health
  - a. Definitions of health promotion and health prevention
  - b. Family explanatory models of health and illness
  - c. Circular questioning techniques
  - d. Influence of illness on families
  - e. Strength based family nursing
- 5. The science of family nursing
  - a. Conceptual and methodological issues related to family nursing research
  - b. Evidence-based family nursing
- 6. Rural family nursing
  - a. Health promotion in rural areas
  - b. Definitions of family health
  - c. Delineation of quality of life for rural families
  - d. Family safety issues
- 7. Cultural issues related to family nursing
  - a. Culturally competent family nursing
  - b. Cultural barriers to health care
  - c. Cultural identity development
- 8. Selected salient issues related to family nursing
  - a. Violence: elder abuse, spousal abuse, child abuse, suicide
  - b. Grief and its impact on the family system
  - c. Transitions and family health
  - d. End-of-life issues and the family
  - e. Family nursing of older adults
  - f. Addictions and family nursing

#### Examples of Student Learning Activities

1. Selected readings
2. Case study analysis and assessment
3. Critique comprehensive family assessment models
4. Critique focused family assessment instruments
5. Simulated family assessment using selected videos
6. Practice circular questioning
7. Class discussion
8. Internet activities
9. Use of current events to underscore social/political/cultural/rural influences on the family