Casper College  
H.E. Stuckenhoff Department of Nursing  
Fall 2006  
Course Syllabus

Course Number: NRST 1605-N1-3

Course Title: Issues in Nursing Practice

Credit Hours: 1 credit hour

Instructor: Heidi Loucks, MS, RN, CNE  
Office: HS 204  
Phone: 268-2234  
E-mail: hloucks@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: As posted on WebCT

Course Description: This non-clinical course introduces the student to the position of nursing in the contemporary health care scene. Nursing history, settings, roles, values, and ethical/legal dimensions are examined. The philosophy and conceptual framework of the Casper College nursing program are explored.

Co-requisites: Admission to nursing program. Concurrent enrollment: NRST 1615, HLTK 1000, HLTK 1220 (if not taken successfully previously).

Course Goal: To introduce the nursing student to the position of nursing in the contemporary health care scene.

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Examine contemporary nursing practice in light of its historical development.
2. Explain the concepts and relationships within the Casper College nursing program philosophy and conceptual framework.
3. Distinguish between the functions and responsibilities of the registered and practical nurse.
4. Compare and contrast the roles and scope of practice of the associate and baccalaureate-prepared nurse.
5. Describe the health care delivery team, its members, and their roles.
6. Define an appropriate legal and ethical framework for nursing practice.

Methodology: This course is designed for the self-directed learner; it is delivered by internet through WebCT. Students need to work independently through exercises in order to learn the material, and complete assignments within the prescribed timeframe. The student should expect to spend at least as much time studying and preparing for this course as s/he would for a campus-based course. In addition to email, communication between other students enrolled in the course and the instructor is encouraged via telephone and/or personal contact.
NOTE: This is an Internet-based class and computers malfunction. Be prepared. Don't wait until the last minute to complete your assignments. YOU are responsible for making sure your work gets done on time and for scheduling yourself to keep pace. Internet courses are not easier than regular classes. I am here to help you understand the material and answer questions. If the information online and in the text is insufficient, please post questions in the discussion section of the course.

Evaluation Criteria: Students will complete a combination of assignments. The assignments are described in detail in the “Course Overview” section of the class. The course grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Item Value</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Discussions</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>400 points</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Final Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>364-400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>332-363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>300-331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>280-299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Texts:


Class Policies/Course Requirements:

1. Participation in online discussions is required.
2. A research paper related to a nursing issue is required.

Computer & Internet Requirements:

In order to participate in this course, the student must have access to the internet and to a compatible internet browser such as Microsoft® Internet Explorer or Netscape® Navigator. It is also helpful for the student to have a basic working knowledge of computer operations and to be familiar with internet navigation and the use of email. For more information regarding technical requirements, see the Casper College Distance Education webpage at http://www.caspercollege.edu. Click on “Distance Education.”

This course is conducted in a WebCT environment. While WebCT has a self-contained email system, students should also have an active personal email account. If you do not have a personal email account, you can setup a free email account with certain providers like Hotmail or Yahoo. (http://www.hotmail.com) or (http://www.yahoo.com).

If, at any time, you experience computer difficulties, please contact the instructor. If you fall behind in this course, it will be difficult to catch up.
Computer Labs: If students who do not have access to a personal computer at home, the following Casper College computer labs offer internet access:

- Casper College Library
- Thorson Business Building, 4th floor
- Administration Building, Room 6
- Saunders Health Science Building, Multimedia Center, 2nd floor, room HS 211. Please check with the academic assistant, for available hours (268-2235).

Important Dates: Last date to change to Audit Status or to withdraw (with a ‘W’ grade) is Friday, November 3rd, at 5 p.m.

Student Rights & Responsibilities: Please refer to the 2006 Casper College Student conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College student.

Chair of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president for academic affairs.

Academic Dishonesty/ Cheating & Plagiarism: "Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process may result in the offender’s failing the course in which the offense was committed. See Casper College Student Code of Conduct.” Casper College Catalog 2005-2006, p. 19.

ADA Accommodations Policy: It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodations in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience.

Conduct: There is an expectation that students will conduct themselves in a civil and respectful manner during class sessions and in individual interactions with their instructors and peers.
Calendar, Fall 2006

08/28/06 Classes Begin; Begin Introductions
09/01/06 Introductions Due
09/04/06 Labor Day – No Classes
09/05/06 Begin Unit 1
09/13/06 Library Orientation 0800-0850
09/15/06 Library Orientation 0800-0850
09/18/06 Begin Unit 2
09/29/06 Topic of Issues Paper Due by 0800 via WebCT Email
10/02/06 Begin Unit 3
10/27/06 N1 Issues Paper Due
10/16/06 Begin Unit 4
11/06/06 Begin Unit 5
11/10/06 N2 Issues Paper Due
11/27/06 Begin Unit 6
12/01/06 N3 Issues Paper Due