TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY – CORPUS CHRISTI
SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

Course Syllabus

FACULTY: Bruce Addison D.O.
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COURSE TITLE: Nursing 4322: Health Alterations

CREDITS: 3 semester hours

OFFICE HOURS: Off campus faculty:
Daily WebCT access: use WebCT Email for all course discussion – response within 24 hours for your convenience.

PREREQUISITES: Admission to RN-to-BSN Nursing Program OR Anatomy & Physiology

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course offers an exploration of selected pathophysiological processes that occur in the body when a homeostatic imbalance is brought about by internal or external factors. Knowledge of the etiology of specific impaired health states that individuals may experience, as well as the behavior and symptomatology that may be manifested will be explored. These principles will enable the student to frame problems through the critical thinking process.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the cause and effect relationships among multiple body systems in response to dysfunction.
2. Assess physiological responses to specific disease states.
3. Discuss risk factors to specific disease states.
4. Evaluate the compensatory mechanisms that are activated in response to dysfunction.
5. Describe the nurse’s collaborative role in monitoring for potential complications in individual human systems with selected health alterations.
6. Describe the nurse’s role in selecting therapeutic interventions.

Essential Content:
- Cellular function
  - Cellular and tissue characteristics
  - Cellular adaptation, injury, healing
  - Genetic control and inheritance
  - Genetic and congenital
  - Alteration in cell differentiation
- Body defenses
  - Immunity and inflammation
  - Mechanisms of infectious disease
  - Alterations in immune response
  - Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
- Hematopoietic function
  - Blood cells and hematopoietic
  - Alterations in homeostasis
  - RBC and alterations in transport
  - Disorders of WBC and lymphoid tissue
- Cardiovascular function
  - Control of the circulation
  - Alterations in blood flow in the systemic circulation
  - Alterations in BP
  - Alterations in cardiac function
  - Heart failure and shock
  - Disorders of cardiac conduction and rhythm
- Respiratory function
  - Control of respiratory function
  - Alterations in respiratory function (RTI, neoplasms, and childhood disorders)
  - Alterations in ventilation and gas exchange
- Fluid, electrolytes, and acid-base balance
  - Control of fluid, electrolytes, and acid-base
  - Alterations in fluid and electrolytes
  - Alterations in acid-base balance
- Urinary function
  - Control of urinary function
  - Alterations in urinary function
  - Renal failure
  - Alterations in urine elimination
- Reproductive function
  - Structure and function of the male reproductive system
  - Alterations in male genitourinary system
  - Structure and function of the female reproductive
  - Alterations of the female reproductive system
  - Sexually transmitted infections
- Gastrointestinal function
• Control of GI function
• Alterations in GI function
• Alterations in liver, gallbladder, and pancreas
• Endocrine function
• Mechanisms of endocrine control
• Alterations in endocrine function
• Diabetes mellitus
• Neural function
• Organization and control of neural function
• Disorders of brain function
• Disorders of spinal cord function
• Disorders of motor function
• Musculoskeletal function
• Normal musculoskeletal function
• Alterations in skeletal function
• Alteration in muscle function
• Integumentary function
• Control of integumentary function
• Integumentary changes associated with aging
• Alterations in skin function and integrity
• Sensory function
• Special senses
• Pain
• Sensory changes associated with aging
• Alterations in eye function
• Alterations in ear function

COURSE POLICIES:

1. Students are expected to behave in a professional manner and are accountable for their behaviors.
2. Cell phones and beepers will be turned off or on “vibrate” during class and in exams for all classes that meet on Campus (not applicable to Blackboard courses online).
3. No children are allowed in class for all classes that meet on Campus (not applicable to Blackboard courses online).
4. Required reading should be completed before class. Assignments will be due at the beginning of the class period. For online Blackboard classes, the class week will be considered to start each week on the same day as the first day of scheduled postings online (Monday to Sunday if Monday is the first day of class, Wednesday to Tuesday if Wednesday is the first day of class, etc.).
5. Should a student miss a class, it is his/her responsibility to obtain handouts, lecture notes, and information from instructor or peers. There will be no automatic excused lack of participation for the class week for online Blackboard classes. For online Blackboard classes,
you must meet your posting requirements each week. There is no make up work for online Blackboard classes.

6. Taping of lectures is permitted in this course.

7. Students must achieve a mean of 75% on major exams.

8. All exam dates are printed on the Topical Outline for classes that meet on Campus. For online classes exam dates are posted in the first day’s postings as well as the outline as mentioned.

9. Students with documented test-taking needs should discuss them with faculty prior to the first scheduled exam.

10. Students who are late for exams will not be given extra time. For online, Blackboard classes, you must finish the test in the time allotted. You must take the test on the day it is open or there will be no other time allowed to take the test and the score will be a zero.

11. No exam may leave the classroom; any student leaving the room with an exam will receive a zero for that exam. For online Blackboard classes do not discuss the test with your classmates.

12. Cheating is considered to have occurred if you share information about a test in verbal, written or printed format, online or in person. Taking the test must be an individual event. Do not take the test and allow others to see your responses.

13. Any student determined by the faculty to be cheating on an exam will receive a zero for that exam.

14. For classes that meet on campus, if a student is absent on the day of the exam:
   a. The student must notify the instructor prior to the start of the exam in order to have a make-up exam scheduled.
   b. The student must bring documentation to the instructor related to the absence as appropriate.
   c. The make-up exam may be multiple choice, essay, sentence completion, case study analysis, or any combination of these options at the discretion of the faculty. The student will not be notified regarding the format of the exam. The make-up exam must be scheduled within 5 working days of the originally scheduled exam.
   d. For Blackboard online classes, you must take the exam within the time it is posted. If you are unable to do so you must provide the instructor with documentation prior to the start of the exam why you are unable to take the exam.
   e. For Blackboard online classes, you must make at least one original posting in that week’s discussion area. It should be within 48 hours of when the assignment is posted. It should be at least 75 words in length and be properly cited (APA format). You will be graded for content, format and appropriateness of your response. Each week your discussion points may accumulate to total number of points per week (please see the syllabus below). Postings after midnight (CDT) on the last night of the class week will be
considered late and will not be graded. Your first posting of the week must be within 48 hours of start of the course week or you will lose credit for that post. Plagiarism will result in a zero for that posting. The number of units open for discussion that week will determine the number of posts due each week. If there is only one unit open then 4 posts are required. If there are 2 units open then 2 posts for each unit is required for a total of 4 for the week.

14. **The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for person with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

15. **Academic Advising**: The College of Nursing and Health Sciences require that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Faculty Center rooms 163 & 165, and advisors are Johanna DuBose 825-3748 and Angelica Santillan 825-2461.

16. **Academic Honesty**

   University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to a penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work.)

   [http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~students/JAffairs/ja_code_of_conduct_article3.htm](http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~students/JAffairs/ja_code_of_conduct_article3.htm)

17. **Grade Appeal Process**

   As stated in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) Handbook under section VII Policies and Procedures, a student that believes they have an academic grade appeal is encouraged to go though the CONHS academic review process prior to pursuing University Grade Appeal. See the handbook for the process.

   As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the
The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html.

For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

18. **Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. You may also want to discuss this course of action with your advisor. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, **you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.** Please see the academic calendar to determine the last day you may drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**SUPPLIES:** You do need a working reliable computer with reliable Internet service. Please take the introduction quiz to be sure that your computer will work with Blackboard. You will need a current version of Adobe Reader. It is available as a free download from http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/

You may use any PDF reader that you have access to. You will also need Word compatible software. If you do not have this, OpenOffice is a free download that will provide you with this function. It may be found at: http://www.openoffice.org/

Please submit all work in word.doc format.

**COURSE EVALUATION:** In order to pass Nursing 4322, the student must achieve a minimum grade average of 75. Discussions must be completed each week and you cannot pass the course without participation in the weekly discussions. Points will be accumulated as follows:

- **Quizzes** – 25 points each total of 250 points possible (Must take quizzes or will fail due to lack of participation. This is an important part of the class).
- **Discussions** – 20 points each week, total of 300 points possible.
- **EKG test** – 50 points total possible
First Major exam – 100 points possible
Second Major exam – 100 points possible
Third Major exam – 100 points possible
Final exam – 100 points possible

**Grading Scheme**

A= 89.5 and above (895 points and above)
B= 82.5 and above to less than 89.5 (825 and above to less than 895 points).
C= 74.5 and above to less than 82.5 (745 and above to less than 825 points).
D= 66.5 and above to less than 74.5 (665 points and above to less than 745 points).
F = less than 66.5 (less than 665 points).

All tests and quizzes are timed.

Students are allowed and encouraged to use any resource in their discussion postings as long as it is cited appropriately (APA format).

The exams are objective, multiple-choice, and true and false question format. The final will be cumulative, with previously untested material given heavier weight.

I will read each and every posting, interjecting ideas, questions or asking clarification. I am online every day and if you need to discuss anything about the course please email me in the Blackboard email. Do NOT send emails to me through the campus email, I may NOT check that mailbox for several days but I check Blackboard every day. Please contribute to the learner-centered environment with your discussion forum posts. Please participate in the discussion forums daily, remember that discussions after the last night of the class week, (midnight CDT) will not be included in your grade. You will lose points if you do not post each week. Expect to read a great deal. Your assignments contain essential information; please do NOT get behind in your reading. Interact, engage, and contribute to establishing and sustaining a learner-centered environment. Expect to spend 10-15 hours per week on the course. Accept that successfully completing this program of study while challenging will open a myriad of doors for you professionally and personally.

Texas A&M Corpus Christi School of Nursing and Health Sciences believes discussion forums are an excellent way to pull online learning together. You are encouraged to post and respond regularly. The greater the participation, the greater the educational reward. You cannot pass this class without participation in the weekly discussion postings. Please expect to read a great number of posts per week and assist with meeting this expectation by quality participation.
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