FACULTY: Catherine Harrel, MSN, RNC
Clinical Assistant Professor

OFFICE: Island Hall 336B

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

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CREDITS: 4 credit hours

PREREQUISITES:

Course Description:
The course focuses on interviewing clients, obtaining their complete health histories, and physically assessing them. These assessment components are explored through learning activities centered on interviewing techniques and physical assessment skills as portions of the nursing process. Students are expected to practice the skills of health assessment in the campus laboratory prior to using these skills in clinical settings. Competency in the assessment of normal clients across the life span while acknowledging transcultural differences among populations of clients is the expected outcome.

Course Objectives with examples of outcome criteria:

1. Identifies principles of history taking in the assessment process of individuals.
   • Relates the components of the comprehensive health history to the content of data and its organization.
   • Recognizes the importance of effective interviewing techniques in obtaining a health history.
   • Describes the modifications necessary in the approach and content format included when obtaining the health history of pediatric, adult and elderly clients.
   • Differentiates assessment needs from transcultural viewpoints.
2. Explains and demonstrates physical examination skills according to established criteria.
   - Identifies anticipated normal findings, utilizing knowledge of human anatomy and physiology.
   - Describes and demonstrates the appropriate assessment skills in the interview, the complete health history, and inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation techniques.
   - Relates health assessment activities to the nursing process.

3. Associates problems and needs in individuals with data discovered during the health history and physical examination.
   - Perceives problems/needs based upon subjective and objective data and also upon knowledge of the effects of stresses on normal physiological functioning.
   - Considers an individual’s age, culture, socioeconomic group and physiological and psychological status in needs identification and assignment of nursing diagnoses.

4. Considers the role and responsibilities of the nurse in the process of health assessment and health promotion.
   - Demonstrates caring behaviors essential in the health assessment process.
   - Examines the role nurses have in the process of health assessment for improvement of patient care.

5. Demonstrates responsibility for independent learning.
   - Identifies specific learning needs in relation to course objectives and schedules.
   - Prepares for class by completing assigned readings and activities prior to coming to class.
   - Participates in class discussion.

**eLine Modules**

PRB 215: Health History and Physical Assessment I
PRB222: Physical Assessment II
PRB223: Physical Assessment III
PRB224: Physical Assessment IV
CLB 201: Health Assessment Clinical
Required Textbooks:

Suggested Text

Website: www.iol.tamucc.edu
http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx
For additional help go to: Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA) (http://casa.tamucc.edu/)

Learning Experiences and Teaching Methods:
Course objectives may be met through individual study using suggested resources, active involvement in formal, and informal exchange of ideas with classmates and colleagues regarding specific topics as well as utilizing critical thinking skills. Teaching methods include discussion, small group work, independent study of texts and library resources, computer-assisted instruction, audio-visual aids and the assignments listed. While the professor will provide guidance and consultation, the student is responsible for identification of learning needs, self-direction, seeking consultation and demonstration of course objectives.

Academic Honesty
Students entering the profession of nursing are held to the highest possible standards of ethical behavior. For this reason you will be asked to sign a pledge adhering to standards of academic and professional honesty. Please refer to the University catalogue (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/index.php), Student Handbook (http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/TAMUCC_student_handbook.pdf), and CONHS Student handbook (http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/) for descriptions of academic honesty and dishonesty. If you violate these rules you will receive an “F” in the course and may be dismissed from the program.
Student Responsibilities (http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/)

Clinical Policy
Clinical practice is the application of the theoretical component into the practice area. Clinical practice is comprised of the hospital/community experiences and the learning lab. Clinical orientation is mandatory.
Professional Behavior and Safe Practice
Students must adhere to the dress code (http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/) of the agency/institution in which the clinical practice takes place. If a student is not properly attired, including the College of Nursing and Health Sciences ID badge and patch, the student will be dismissed from clinical for the day with NO credit for hours. Additionally, students are required to bring all equipment/materials needed to perform patient care and vital signs with them. Students are not allowed to leave the facility during the stated hours of clinical practice, nor be on the unit in student attire after clinical is over. Cell phones are allowed to be used when contacting your instructor during clinical hours. Student who must miss clinical for any reason and those students who fail to notify both their clinical instructor and their assigned nursing unit that they will not be in clinical, will receive an “F” in clinical for that day. Students who are dismissed for unprofessional conduct, unsafe nursing practice, or inappropriate attire will also receive an “F” for that day. A student who earns a total of two “F”s will receive a final grade of “F” in clinical.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your instructor before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. 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. Faculty cannot drop you from a course. Please refer to the following site for details: http://registrar.tamucc.edu/6drop.html

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 through the CONHS academic review process prior to pursuing University Grade Appeal. See the handbook for the process http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/.
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 final grade given in the course. 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 Rule13.02.99.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://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/grievances.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons 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.
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 Island Hall 3rd floor 361-825-2799
http://conhs.tamucc.edu/advising_nursing.html