NURS 4390-001 - Dimensions in Nursing:
Test Taking: Plan to Apply Successful Strategies (P.A.S.S.)
Syllabus
Fall 2017

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CREDITS: 2 semester hours (2:0)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Focuses on literature study and in-depth knowledge of selected topics relevant to the nurse as a professional provider of care or coordinator of care. Variable content is directed by faculty specialties. **This course will focus on test taking strategies including time management and study techniques to facilitate the nursing student to be successful on unit, course, and specialty exams as well as learn skills to be a successful student and lifelong learner. (AACN Essentials I, VIII)**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify learning style to maximize studying and retention of material
2. Identify and apply time-management skills
3. Engage in learning through reading, note-taking and listening effectively
4. Practice effective study techniques
5. Calm anxiety through practiced techniques
6. Describe effective test taking strategies
7. Analyze test performance
8. Implement learned test taking strategies

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:

(also used for MSI and II)
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
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Linda A. LaCharity, Candice K. Kumagai, Barbara Bartz, (2013). Prioritization, Delegation, and Assignment Practice Exercises for the NCLEX Examination, 3rd Edition (also used for Transitions)

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES:

“Some old school types complain these days that the higher education too often feels like it is all about customer service. Students and their parents believe they are paying top dollar for a product, and so they want it to be valuable in a measurable way. It’s as if they’ve walked into a department store, and instead of buying five pairs of designer jeans, they’ve purchased a 5-subject course load.

I don’t fully reject the customer-service model, but I think it’s important to use the right metaphor. It’s not retail. Instead, I’d compare college tuition to paying for a personal trainer at an athletic club. We professors play the roles of trainers, giving people access to the equipment (books, labs, our expertise) and after that, it is our job to be demanding. We need to make sure that our students are exerting themselves. We need to praise them when they deserve it and tell them honestly when they have it in them to work harder.”

– Randy Pausch, from The Last Lecture

Teaching methods include lecture, seminar, discussion, small group work, independent study of texts and library resources, computer assisted instruction, audio-visual aids and assignments. 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. Students will participate in the following:

1. **Assignments:** Students are expected to follow instructions associated with the assignments for this course. Students who are confused about an assignment should contact the faculty member in a timely manner to ensure satisfactory completion of the assignment on the week it is due. Work must progress as outlined in calendar and be turned in accordingly; Work must be completed by due dates. All work must be turned in following the instructions provided for that assignment. No late work will be accepted. (No emailed assignments will be graded.)

2. **Reading:** Students are expected to complete all required readings and videos.

3. **Practice Testing:** Test practice or quizzes are created to not only test your knowledge of content but to help you practice testing using the NCLEX style questions. Consider it as part of the application of what you have learned in this course.

4. **Appointments:** Meeting with individual students about their test taking abilities is an important part of assessment and evaluation for both the student and the instructor. Please plan on making appointments to meet with the instructor after tests in your courses to evaluate your test taking skill improvement. There are a minimum of two required meetings

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with a testing course faculty and one mid-term conference meeting with this course faculty to 
discuss your progress and plan of action. If you are an eLine student, we can do this by 
phone or online chat.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is mandatory in order to achieve the outcomes of this course. Please see the 
schedule for details of what is expected of each student.

Announcements:
The material in this syllabus and dates identified in the Course Calendar are subject to change. 
Check your Islander e-mail for all university closing updates. Check Blackboard for all course 
related Announcements. (All announcements are sent to your Islander email.)

Assessment Guidelines:
1. The final assessment will be comprehensive.
2. Testable material is based on course, classroom, all required readings, lecture and 
discussion content, related material in the course syllabus, content covered by media 
presented in or required for class/clinical, and material given as handouts.
3. Assessment dates, times, and locations are subject to change.
4. Students will be allowed to use the calculator available on the computer or a simple 
calculator for medication type questions.
5. No Cell Phones, IPods/IPads, PDAs or Beepers are allowed during examination times.
6. Course faculty will review the Final Assessment and the grades will be posted on 
Blackboard. Those students scoring below 75 on any assessment are encouraged to 
make an appointment with the faculty of record to review their exam and address their 
concerns.

Grading Policy:
Completion of NURS 4390 requires the successful completion of a comprehensive final, 6 
quizzes and assignments to evaluate your progression in test taking techniques and the 
acquisition of time management skills including effective study habits. The percentage value of 
each requirement is as follows:
  Instructor Signatures (2) – 10% 
  Practice Quizzes and Homework Assignments – 20% 
  Mid-term Conference meeting – 10% 
  Attendance and Participation – 50% 
  Final Exam – 10%

Grading scale for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, College of Nursing & Health Sciences is:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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POLICIES:

Evaluation Input from Students
The faculty of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences places great value on evaluative input from students. Evaluation of courses, instructors and clinical facilities provides the College with important data which is used to strengthen the program. Data is analyzed as to trends and themes and is important to curriculum and sequencing decisions. All evaluations for courses posted are online. The online mechanism allows us the opportunity to tabulate and store information in order to analyze trends within the curriculum. Please be assured that this information is secured and not released until after grades are submitted. No names are available to faculty. In order to garner some reliability and validity, the College must have representative data from the student population. That representation, based on the literature, has been set at 70%. The College is anticipating that students will thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process which will assist the faculty with the growth of the program. A link to evaluations will be available on Blackboard toward the end of the semester. Thank you in advance for your assistance with the evaluation process.

Academic Integrity and Honesty
It is expected that University students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. 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 intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own). Please see the following sites for additional information:

University Student Handbook and Code of Conduct: http://www.tamucc.edu/~students

University catalog related to academic integrity and honesty: http://catalog.tamucc.edu/


Classroom/professional behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
Grade Appeals Process

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) adheres to the University’s student grade appeal procedures described in Section 13.02.99.C2.01 (revised May, 2013) and follows those guidelines. See [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/) for the University procedure and see [http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/](http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/) for the CONHS process identified in the Student Handbook.

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 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](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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 University’s Academic Calendar for the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Disabilities Accommodations

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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
Title IX

As part of the Texas A&M Corpus Christi University policy, pregnant students are urged to contact the Title IX office for facilitation of academic issues impacted by pregnancy, delivery and subsequent complications. Contact information: Mr. Samuel Ramirez, Title IX Coordinator or Ms. Rosie Ruiz, Deputy Title IX Coordinator (825-5826).

Active Military Duty

Active duty military personnel, military spouses, and veterans with special circumstances (e.g.: deployment, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the course and clinical instructor.

Support Services

Students are encouraged to seek faculty assistance in accessing University Services, including tutoring, health services, personal counseling, degree counseling, financial aid, learning resources, job/work placement, career guidance, and computer/technical support/instruction. If a student is interested in other support services provided by the University, the student is encouraged by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the University to seek these services.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.