Northern Arizona University  
College of Health and Human Services  
School of Nursing  
NUR 427L Course Syllabus

Course Number: NUR 427L  
Course Title: Public Health Nursing Practicum  
Semester: Fall 2014  
Credit Hours: 2 credits (90 clock hours)

Faculty: Barbara Tomlinson, DHSc, MSN, RN (Clinical Faculty)  
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Course Prerequisites: NUR (350 and 350L) or NUR 420  
Co-requisites: NUR 427, 450C

Catalog Description: Required clinical practicum for Public Health Nursing

Course Description: This course provides a foundation for implementing public health promotion and disease prevention strategies for populations and communities within the context of a global society

Student Learning Outcomes  
Upon completion of the course, the successful student:

Clinical Practice and Prevention

- Synthesizes public health theory, research methodologies, and research-based evidence in delivery of care within professional public health practice.
- Utilizes effective patient teaching and evaluation of learning in public health practice.
Communication
- Incorporates effective communication in professional public health practice.

Critical Reasoning
- Analyzes the complexities of providing care in the current public health care delivery system.

Global Health
- Critiques the impact of health and social policy on global, national and state communities and the profession of public health nursing.
- Evaluates scientific evidence in environmental health to promote strategies for reducing risks for exposure in communities.

Leadership
- Integrates established principles of management and leadership into professional public health practice.

Professionalism and Professional Values
- Incorporates ethical and legal principles and professional standards in public health practice.
- Compares and contrasts the public health care delivery system and values in the US with systems in other countries.
- Incorporates cultural competency into professional public health practice in diverse settings.
- Integrates empathy and therapeutic use of self in professional public health practice.

Course Structure/Approach
Varied instructional methods are used to support and enhance student learning and achieve student learning outcomes. Methods include, but are not limited to:

Student guided seminar (conference)
Readings from research literature
Collaborative learning
Web based activities
Community interaction
Textbook and Materials

Required:


Course Outline (8 weeks)

Part 1
Community activities in support of group project: Data Collection
Weekly practicum conference with faculty (Bb Collaborate, Skype or in-person)
Weekly individual journals submitted in Blackboard
Written Community Assessment Part 1
Special assignments, videos, community activities

Part 2
Community activities in support of group project: Data Analysis, Diagnosis, Project Proposal
Weekly practicum conference with faculty
Weekly individual journals submitted in Blackboard
Written Community Assessment Part 2
Special assignments, videos, community activities

Part 3
Community activities in support of group project: Primary prevention project
Weekly practicum conference with faculty
Weekly individual journals submitted in Blackboard
Written Community Primary Prevention Intervention
Group presentations of community assessment and projects (dissemination)

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes:

A passing grade for NUR 427L requires successful completion of 90 hours of practicum with a score of 3 or higher for clinical performance evaluation and an average minimum grade of 78% for all graded assignments.
Individual student performance will be assessed from the following course assignments and points:

**Practicum Assignments Graded on Point system:**
Community Assessment Part I 150 points
Community Assessment Part II 100 points
Community Assessment Part III 100 points
Weekly Seminar (leader) 40 points
Total points 390

*Note: No Partial points are awarded. There is no rounding. Students earning a final grade of less than 78% for the course will be required to repeat the course in order to progress.*

**Grading System:**
**Pass criteria for graded assignments:**
A = 363-390 points (93%)
B = 328-362 points (84%)
C = 305-327 points (78%)
F = < 305 points (less than 78%)

**Practicum Assignments Graded Pass/Fail:**
Weekly Journals Individual
Special Assignments Group/Individual
Practicum Outcomes Individual

Document successful completion of pass/fail practicum assignments in weekly journals and submit by due date in Assignments section.

**Course Policies**
**General Attendance Policy**

Attendance of all on-campus and off-campus clinical experiences is required for students to be able to achieve clinical competencies. Should an absence be unavoidable, timely notification of faculty in accordance with syllabus instructions is expected. Tardiness or absence without faculty notification may result in dismissal for the clinical day or other consequences as determined by faculty. Please note: there may not be opportunities to make up missed clinical hours and faculty are not required to make arrangements for additional clinical hours.
Participation in weekly practicum conferences and scheduled community activities is required. Students must notify instructors of absences due to illness or emergencies prior to scheduled activities or assignment due dates.

Student Progress

If a student’s performance does not meet criteria for passing at any time during the semester, the instructor will advise the student and schedule a meeting to develop a plan for improvement. An academic advisement form will be initiated outlining the required performance plan for success in meeting course outcomes. A copy will be sent to the advisor and placed in the student’s file. Successful achievement of all criteria in a learning improvement contract is required to pass the course.

Retests/Makeup tests: There are no tests in this course.

Assignment due dates: Assigned work is expected to be submitted on the due dates specified in the course calendar or syllabus. Alternate due dates may be arranged in extenuating circumstances but must be approved prior to the due date (except in emergency situations). Written health provider excuses may be requested when illness or activity restrictions require adjustments in due dates for medical reasons. Late point deductions will be applied to Practicum assignments as determined by faculty.

Communication: Faculty will respond to emails within 48 hours for time sensitive content. If technical difficulties occur with home/office computers and you are unable to submit a message in Blackboard discussions by due date and time, email the teacher immediately. Otherwise, late point deductions apply. Adjustments in due dates are made for Blackboard outages.

Withdrawal Policy: Withdrawal from the course for any reason will be the responsibility of the student. Refer to school calendar or contact the Office of the Registrar for dates and criteria.

Important note about sources:
As senior nursing students you are expected to identify, appraise and utilize valid, reliable professional sources that reflect a standard of scholarship. Wikipedia and many other online web sources do not meet this standard. Tips: look for “about us” tabs on web pages, then determine if there are credentialed experts that review accuracy of web content. Be cautious about BLOG information; authors may not be experts. Content from sites in other countries may not apply to US. Check the “last updated” date, usually at the bottom of the page—we want current content for health materials. Always choose professional sources for research references; lay public material is acceptable for patient education tools from sites such as
Many sites have a professional section tab that is most appropriate for our purposes.

**Final word:** *Wikipedia and other clearly unreliable sources will result in point deductions.*

**Policy on Plagiarism and Cheating:**

Standards for plagiarism as set forth in the NAU Academic Dishonesty Policy and 6th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA); these will be strictly enforced. You may want to examine the website: [http://www.plagiarism.org/](http://www.plagiarism.org/)

Plagiarizing another's work will result in failure of the course.

The syllabus is subject to change with advanced written notice to students.

**NAU Policy Statements**

[http://www4.nau.edu/avpaa/UCCPolicy/plcystmt.html](http://www4.nau.edu/avpaa/UCCPolicy/plcystmt.html)


**Additional Expectations:**

A very high ethical standard for individual and group behavior is expected of each student. Interaction with communities requires that confidentiality of sources be protected from public scrutiny. The American Nurses Association Code of Ethics and the Social Policy Statement provide basic guidance for students.

The expectation of this course is that the student will complete individual assignments by individual effort. Group assignments are clearly indicated as such and students are expected to participate fully and equitably with classmates. Written work such as discussion postings or other assignments should represent the student’s own best effort to express his/her views. Students must cite each reference source and give the proper credit for an idea, quotation, or finding. Please refer to the Academic Dishonesty Policy.