Course Number: NUR 501

Course Title: Theoretical Basis of Nursing Practice

Credits: 3 S.H.

Placement: FOUNDATIONAL CORE

Pre-requisites: None

Course Description:

Analysis of theories from nursing and other sciences as a conceptual basis for advancing nursing knowledge and practice. Application of theories to nursing practice, management, education, and research.

Student learning outcomes:

1. Identify the essential components of a theory
2. Utilize a model to analyze/evaluate nursing theories.
3. Apply nursing and other theories to the areas of nursing practice, management, education, and research.
4. Utilize a systematic approach to evaluate the appropriateness of nursing and other theories for nursing practice.
5. Develop a personal theory of nursing, including the essential components.

Content Outline:

I. Introduction to Nursing Theory

A. Definition of nursing theory
   1. Types of theory definitions
   2. Conceptual models vs. theory
   3. Nursing theory vs. borrowed theory
B. Theory development in nursing
   1. Historical perspectives
   2. Process of concept development
   3. Categorization of theory
      a. Scope/range or abstractness
b. Purpose
4. Process of theory development
5. Theory analysis and evaluation
6. Uses of nursing theory

II. Grand Nursing theories
A. Based on human needs
   1. Examples
      a. Florence Nightingale
      b. Faye Abdellah
B. Based on interactive process
   1. Examples
      a. Imogene King
      b. Jean Watson
C. Based on the unitary process
   1. Examples
      a. Martha Rogers
      b. Rosemarie Parse

III. Applications of Nursing Theories in Nursing
   A. Process
   B. Practice
   C. Management
   D. Education
   E. Research

IV. Theories from Other Disciplines
   A. Social Sciences
      1. Example
         a. General Systems Theory
   B. Behavioral Sciences
      1. Example
         a. Human Needs Theory: Maslow
   C. Biomedical Sciences
      1. Example
         a. General Adaptation Syndrome: Selye
   D. Administration and management
      1. Example
         a. Change Theory: Lewin
   E. Learning theories
      1. Example
         a. Adult Learning: Knowles
V. Model for Analysis and Critique of Nursing Theories

A. Theory description
   1. Assumptions
   2. Concepts

B. Analysis
   1. The theorist
   2. Paradigmatic origins
   3. Internal dimensions

C. Evaluation/Critique
   1. Relationship between structure and function
   2. Usefulness of theory
   3. External components of theory

D. Other
   1. Clarity
   2. Simplicity
   3. Generality
   4. Empirical precision

Approved: Jan 2006 Graduate Council