I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:
Identification and description of factors that influence functioning in everyday living. Emphases on professional communication, physical assessment, environment, lifestyles, community resources. (3)

II. Prerequisite(s):
Satisfactory completion of first semester of BSN program.

III. Objectives of the Course:
A. Utilize basic communication skills and principles of critical thinking to collect and cluster client information.
B. Recognize the significance of data collection through health history and physical examination and its role in the nursing process.
C. Discuss the professional & legal responsibilities of the nurse completing a patient assessment.
D. Demonstrate appropriate skills to perform a basic nursing physical assessment.
E. Recognize the many facets of an individual’s internal and external environments and their impact on health.
F. Utilize basic principles of teaching/learning to identify areas and formulate individualized plans for patient teaching.
G. Identify the expected changes in physical assessment findings as an individual ages.
H. Relate the importance of a thorough health history and physical assessment to the practice of knowledgeable caring.

IV. Expectations of Students:
A. Fulfillment of requirements identified in the BSN Student Handbook.
B. Completion of one written health history.
C. Completion of one elderly assessment project.
D. Active participation in class.
E. Completion of various weekly assignments.

V. Course Content:
A. Introduction to course (2 hours)
   Definition of Assessment
   Introduction to parameters (history, physical, environmental, spiritual, etc.)
B. Health history taking (5 hours)
   Purpose and components of health history
   Basic communication skills and interviewing
   Adult Developmental Tasks
   Various formats
   Organizing & clustering data
   General survey
   Techniques of assessment
   Inspection, palpation, percussion, auscultation
C. Nutritional assessment (3 hours)
   Mental status assessment
   Basic environment assessment
D. Teaching/learning principles (3 hours)
   General guidelines for physical assessment
E. Regional lymphatic assessment (3 hours)
   Ears & hearing assessment
F. Nose, mouth and throat assessment (3 hours)
   Skin, hair & nail assessment
   Abdominal assessment
G. Eye & vision assessment (3 hours)
H. Musculoskeletal assessment (3 hours)
I. Heart & peripheral vascular assessment (5 hours)
J. Lung & thorax assessment (4 hours)
K. Breast assessment (3 hours)
L. Neurological assessment (3 hours)
M. Expected changes in physical assessment findings with aging (3 hours)
N. Putting it all together (1 hour)

Four hours allotted for examinations.

VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:


VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

A. Satisfactory fulfillment of course objectives.
B. The final grade for this course will be based on the following:
   1. Four unit examinations 40%
   2. Five pop quizzes 10
   3. Comprehensive final examination 15
   4. One completed health history 15
   5. One elderly assessment project 10
   6. Bibliography cards 5
   7. Class participation/weekly assignments 5
   TOTAL 100%