



The University of Texas at El Paso School of Nursing

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Office hours by appointment only

Semester

Summer 2014

Course Number and Title

NURS 3380: Special Topics in Nursing: Forensic Nursing Applications

Course Description and Overview

Focus on the use of Forensic Medicine in situations that have nursing implications in an Emergency Room setting. This course builds on and enhances knowledge and skills gained in preceding courses. Student's will critically analyze and prioritize client problems that will enhance decision-making skills for clients in forensic type situations.

Course Pre-Requisites

Entry into undergraduate nursing program.

Course Allocation

3 Credit hours (3-0-0)

Course Objectives

1. Knowledge
 - a. DEFINE Forensic Nursing to include examples of different areas associated with forensic nursing.
 - b. RECOGNIZE applicable laws governing forensic nursing.
2. Comprehensive
 - a. DISCUSS the components of the primary and focused secondary nursing assessment.
 - b. IDENTIFY different nursing interventions that are needed to protect and preserve patient evidence in different areas of the emergent situation.
3. Application
 - a. EMPLOY information on evidence collection and chain of custody to selected forensic situations.
 - b. APPLY cultural knowledge with nursing assessment; to include communication effectively with the patient and his/her designated family.
4. Analysis
 - a. EXAMINE how nursing and other disciplines collaborate in forensic nursing.



- b. ANALYZE different forensic situations and prioritize client problems from the initial contact with the patient to the courtroom.
- 5. Synthesis
 - a. ORGANIZE appropriate documentation regarding forensic situations.
 - b. DEVELOP forensic case studies relating to topics covered.

Required Text

Lynch, V. (2011). *Forensic Nursing Science*. St. Louis, MO: Saunders Elsevier. ISBN 978-0-323-06637-2

Texts may be ordered from pretty much any source. Please make certain the source has the book currently in stock. Also, order as far in advance as feasible as texts can take some time for delivery.

Contact the UTEP bookstore (915-747-5594) to order a copy or you may also purchase it online from Barnes & Noble or Amazon.

Teaching Methodologies

Textbook readings, discussion, case studies, guest lecturer presentations.

Grading Policies and Structure

- This course will be an online course to be conducted online with discussion board & online assignments and guest lecturer presentations via Elluminate.
- All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course.
- Any assignments received after the deadline will have automatic 10 points removed from the final grade of the assignment for every 24 hours that it is late.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day of class at 8:00 am.
- Achieving less than 75% in the course results in course failure.
- Grades are not rounded up. Final fractional points will be dropped.

Assignments

Discussion Board x4 (concepts)	25%
Discussion Board x3 (TV)	15%
Case Study	10%
Project 1 (Injury Patterns)	5%
Project 2a (Profiler)	10%
Project 2b (Crime Scene Photos)	10%
Introduction to Virtual Tour	5%
Final	20%

GRADING SCALE

90 - 100 pts	A
80 - 89 pts	B
75 - 79 pts	C
60 - 74 pts	D
< 60	F

TOTAL 100%



What should you expect from me as the Instructor?

- I will provide you clear instructions on class expectations
- I will check my email at least 2 times per day and will get back to you within 24 hours.
- I will provide graded feedback on your performance in a timely manner.
- I will keep you informed about your graded progress in the class at all times and will make time to discuss your needs.
- I will leave myself open to suggestions about improvement of the class and class related activities.
- I will do all I can to ensure your learning and success in this class.
- If any changes in the course are to be implemented, I will ensure that the class is notified in a timely manner.

Discussion Grading Rubric

Quality of Posting	60 Points	40 Points	20 Points	0 Points
Response to assignment questions	Responds completely to all questions.	Responds to most questions.	Responds to a few of the questions.	Responds to one question or less.
Focus on Topic	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information.	The main idea is clear but the supporting information is too general.	The main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information.	The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information.
Relates text and articles to the assignment	Cites the text and all articles in relation to the assignment.	Cites the text and almost all articles in relation to the assignment.	Makes few citations from text and articles in relation to the assignment.	Makes very few or no citations from text and articles in relation to the assignment.
Accuracy of Facts	All supportive facts are reported accurately.	Almost all supportive facts are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts are reported accurately.	NO facts are reported OR most are inaccurately reported.
Sources	All sources used for quotes and facts are credible.	Most sources used for quotes and facts are credible.	Few sources used for quotes and facts are credible.	Sources used for quotes and facts are less than credible (suspect).
Structure of the Posting	40 Points	30 Points	20 Points	0 Points
Grammar and Spelling	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.
Capitalization and Punctuation	Writer makes no errors in capitalization or punctuation, so the paper is exceptionally easy to read.	Writer makes 1 or 2 errors in capitalization or punctuation, but the paper is still easy to read.	Writer makes a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and interrupt the flow.	Writer makes several errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and greatly interrupt the flow.



Course Policies

- Review **Academic Regulations in UT El Paso Undergraduate Studies Catalog** and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Department of Nursing Undergraduate Nursing Student Handbook for the following policies: *Statement on Disability, Student Injury, Class Attendance, Religious Observance, Clinical Clearance and Policy on Academic Integrity*.
- **Students Opting for Success (SOS)**: should a student not be successful on an **examination** or is not progressing in the course as expected, the student must complete a retention action plan with the course manager.
- Students are required to **subscribe to and access the Blackboard CE 8.0 course site**. This site is the main source of communication between faculty and students. Students are encouraged to access this site on a daily basis. The course syllabus, calendar, topical outline of scheduled lectures with objectives and assigned readings, and clinical assignment criteria are posted on this site. Test grades and final course grades will be made available **ONLY** through this site.
- Communication is the responsibility of both students and faculty. The faculty will keep students informed of progress in both theory and clinical. Students with questions or concerns should:
 1. First go to the appropriate faculty member.
 2. If still unresolved, follow the next sequencing in the chain of command: Assistant Dean for Student Affairs; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dean of the School of Nursing

Course Schedule

Please look at the course schedule of assignments by clicking on the Course Schedule link in the Course Orientation Module.

Course Schedule Changes

As course instructor, I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus or change assignments as needed. I will be sure to give you plenty of notice prior to any changes. Remember that our course syllabus and class schedule are living documents and can be changed.

Topical Outline

- Unintentional/Accidental death (MVA, Suicide/homicide, overdose, etc)
- Abuse (sexual, physical, psychological)
- Assault (sexual, physical, psychological)
- Forensic application in different settings with nursing implications

Computer Requirements

First, let's make sure your computer has the necessary plug-ins you will need to access all the content in this course. You can [click here](#) to access the Browser Checker test page that will inform you if the computer you are using has the latest software available.

Software Requirements

You will need the following software on your computers to efficiently work in this course. In some cases your computer may already have some of these programs installed.



- Adobe Acrobat Reader. You can get the program by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and then clicking on the icon on the center of the screen which says "Get Adobe Reader". Follow instructions to install the reader.
- Adobe Flash Player. You can get the player by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and then clicking on "Get Adobe Flash Player". Follow instructions to install the player.
- Apple QuickTime Player. You can get this player by going to <http://www.apple.com>. Once there, click on the "Downloads" tab on the top of the page and then click on QuickTime "Download" and follow instructions.
- Microsoft Office. I recommend buying this if you do not have any word processing software or presentation software. As students, you can generally buy this whole package for about \$25, far less than the store price of approximately \$400.

Class Participation

I strongly recommend that you log-in and check the course **every other day** to keep up. You will have assignments due every week. Email messages are sent to your UTEP email address, so you will want to check your UTEP email everyday as well.

There will be no incompletes offered in this course. Past experience has shown that if you cannot complete the course during the time allotted, you probably never will.

Being Successful in an Online Class

Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate as fully as they can so everyone can get the most from the experience. Here are some simple rules to follow to ensure your participation and engagement in the learning process:

- Ask questions: If you don't know the answer, someone else will. The discussion board is the area for asking questions related to content OR any problems (related to the class) you are having. Make sure that you have clearly indicated the subject of your message.
- Reach out to others: Offer a fact, article, link, or other item that can help others learn something you can share.
- Be appropriate: The online classroom is not the place for insulting or insensitive comments, attacks, or venting. Inappropriate behavior can be subject to disciplinary action, as well.
- Be diplomatic: When sending messages on emotionally charged topics, I recommend that you write the message and then walk away for at least an hour before re-reading the message and then sending it. Re-reading emotionally charged messages ensures that they are constructive instead of destructive. Think of the person at the other end.
- Stay focused: Stay on topic to increase the efficiency of your learning.

Effective Electronic Communications

It is important to share a word of caution, so we can become wiser about interpersonal distance learning communications. When communicating electronically, many of the feelings or impressions that are transmitted via body language in face-to-face communications are lost. Consequently, interpreting emotions and innuendos is much more difficult. Only what is written, or drawn, carries the message. Often, excitement can be misinterpreted as anger or insult. It is important that we all keep this in mind as we communicate. Words in print may seem harmless, but they could emotionally injure us when working at a distance. Hence, it is vitally important that we are conscious of how we communicate while working at a distance.



- For example, avoid the use of caps in your electronic messages, as wording in caps comes across as shouting.

The standard practice ("Netiquette") for participation in networked discussion requires that all participation be focused on the topic at hand, not become personalized, and be substantive in nature. (Translation: you may certainly disagree with others, but you must do so respectfully; you may express strong beliefs or emotions, but you may not get so carried away that you lose all perspective on the course itself.)

- More information on Netiquette, the etiquette of Internet communication, can be found at www.albion.com/netiquette.

Time Management

The rule of thumb for time planning for a course is approximately three (3) hours for every credit hour taken. This is a standard figure recommended across the board by American universities. In a typical long-semester course, you would be expected to spend:

3 hours of class time + 9 hours of study and prep time = 12 hours per week.

Academic Integrity

Honesty and respect for your work and for the work of others are essential to your success in this course and in university life in general. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes cheating on quizzes, plagiarizing readings, and claiming others' work as your own. Use a consistent citation method for your written work. The Chicago Style of citation is preferred for your final paper (see Guidelines on citing according to the Chicago citation style on Blackboard).

Academic Dishonesty Statement

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.



Disabled Student Statement

In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call 915.747.5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. You also can visit the DSSO website at www.utep.edu/dssso or the DSSO office in Room 108 East Union Building.

Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Disabled Student Services Office at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Technical Assistance

This online class is hosted by UT El Paso. If you have computer, Blackboard problems, or any other kind of technical questions, please contact the UTEP Help Desk via email at helpdesk@utep.edu or by phone at (915) 747-5257. The HELP desk hours are: Mon-Fri 7:00am - 8:00pm (Mountain Time), Sat 9:00am - 1:00pm (Mountain Time), Sun CLOSED.

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