Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health
Course Outline

NURS 539

People in Life Challenging Situations: Intensive Care

Course Co-ordinator:
Mark Reynolds
IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health at Victoria University of Wellington, uses all reasonable skill and care in an effort to ensure the information and course content information contained in this outline is accurate at the time of going to print.

Students should be aware, however, that in the event that course timetables and venues need to be changed, all attempts will be made to notify the students.

Produced by Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health, 81 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn, Wellington 6001.

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STAFF TEACHING IN THIS COURSE

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Email: nmh@vuw.ac.nz

Web site: http://www.vuw.ac.nz/nmh

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

GRADUATE SCHOOL DATES

The Graduate School office will be open on Wednesday 3 January 2007 and close on Thursday 21 December 2007. Between 25 June and 13 July limited academic support will be available.

In keeping with the practice of other years, academic staff will not be available on Fridays, except for the times they are involved in Schools.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Intensive Care: People in Life-Challenging Situations - NURS 539 is designed to prepare intensive care nurses to care for patients and families with complex needs and to develop the knowledge and skills associated with advanced nursing practice. Intensive care nursing as a speciality is an ever-growing profession encompassing more complex and varied challenges. This course has been designed to extend and deepen students’ academic, practical and technical knowledge through formal instruction and directed inquiry. Through this, intensive care nurses should be able to integrate theory and practice in the management of patients presenting with acute health needs.

COURSE AIMS

To ensure a high level of competence in the provision of nursing care within Intensive Care, through the integration of theory and practice in the management of clients with acute presentation and illness/injury.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing (Intensive Care) is designed to prepare the intensive care nurse to care for critically ill patients with complex needs, and to develop the knowledge base required for advanced nursing practice. This will benefit patient outcomes and care through:

- A commitment to research-based practice.
- Development of appropriate knowledge and skills to function at an advanced practice level.
- Leading practice development to meet best practice standards in intensive care.
- Evaluation of health outcomes that will influence health polices.

NURS 539 will focus on:

- Acute symptoms management related to advanced pathophysiology
- Advanced physical assignment
- Reflecting on nursing practice
- Clinical research for advanced nursing practice
- Influential forces in nursing and health care
COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through advanced professional practice, nurses will interact in teaching/learning sessions in order to:

• Define the scope of nursing practice in health promotion, maintenance and restoration of health, preventing adverse sequelae, and rehabilitation (4.2.1 adapted).

• Describe diagnostic enquiry processes responding to actual and potential health needs, and characteristics of a particular population group (4.2.1).

• Generate new approaches to the extension of nursing knowledge and delivery of expert care (4.2.1).

• Explain the application/adaptation of advanced nursing knowledge, expertise and evidence-based care to improve the health outcomes for clients across the care continuum within the scope of practice (4.2.1).

• Use professional judgement to assess the client health status, make differential diagnoses, implement nursing intervention/treatments and consult/refer the client to other health professionals appropriately (4.2.2).

• Use advanced diagnostic enquiry skills, utilising and interpreting laboratory and diagnostic tests (4.2.2).

• Develop a creative and innovative approach to nursing practice, achieving holistic client care, and incorporating family needs when appropriate (4.2.2 adapted).

• Apply critical reasoning to nursing practice to facilitate decision-making (4.2.2 adapted).

• Evaluate the effectiveness of the client’s response to prescribed interventions, technology, treatments and medications, and monitor decisions, taking remedial action and/or referring appropriately (4.2.2).

• Develop advanced skills necessary to provide appropriate nursing care to clients with increasingly complex health care needs (4.2.2 adapted).

• Develop initial and ongoing assignment skills to appropriately respond to the needs of the acutely unwell intensive care patients (4.2.2).

• Manage complex situations and to rapidly anticipate situations arising (4.2.2).

• Demonstrate ethical decision-making, and provide culturally safe practice to clients and their families (4.2.2 adapted).

• Recognise limits to own practice and consult appropriately (4.2.2).
• Collaborate and consult with the client, family and other health professionals, providing accurate information about relevant interventions, technology and treatment (4.2.2).

• Participate in mentoring/coaching activities, teaching and/or professional supervision in clinical practice (4.2.3 adapted).

• Take a leadership role in complex situations across settings and disciplines (4.2.3).

• Be an effective nursing resource through the application of interpersonal skills and integration of theory and practice. Lead case reviews or defusing/debriefing activities (4.2.3 adapted).

• Challenge and develop clinical standards (4.2.4).

• Plan and facilitate audit practices (4.2.4).

• Determine evidence-based practice through scholarship and practice; explains the application of advanced Intensive Care nursing knowledge and best practice guidelines in influencing patient outcomes (4.2.5).

• Evaluate health outcomes and, in response, help to shape policy and nursing practice; contribute and participate in national or local health/socioeconomic policy or guideline development (4.2.4, 4.2.5).

• Initiate change and respond proactively to changing systems (4.2.4, 4.2.5 adapted).

• Demonstrate a commitment to quality care, risk management identification and resource utilisation; influencing purchasing and allocation through utilising evidence-based research findings (4.2.4, 4.2.5 adapted).

• Reflect and critique the practice of self and others (4.2.5).

Nursing Council standards and competencies for Advanced Nursing Practice Courses are identified by each objective (May, 2001).
COURSE CONTENT

This course integrates with NURS 512 Practicum 1, to award a Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing (Intensive Care). The Nursing Council of New Zealand Advanced Nursing Practice Competencies (May 2001) are explored throughout the year within the School framework, tutorials and assignment work to:

- Articulate the scope of nursing practice and its advancement (4.2.1).
- Show effective practice working collaboratively across settings and interdisciplinary environments (4.2.2).
- Show effective nursing leadership and consultancy (4.2.3).
- Develop and influence health/socio-economic policies and nursing practice at a local and national level (4.2.4).
- Show scholarly research inquiry into nursing practice (4.2.5).

Schools for NURS 512 and NURS 539 are combined and together consist of Twelve School Days. The School Days involve sessions from a range of experienced nurses and health professionals from educational settings and speciality areas relevant to the course. Local and national experts are invited to the Schools to share their expertise. This course will give you an opportunity to reflect on theoretical assumptions that guide and structure nursing knowledge and the integration of this into professional nursing practice in the intensive care setting. An experienced intensive care clinician with appropriate academic background will convene this course. This ensures the clinical focus of these projects and academic rigour to the work.

Tutorials will compliment the Schools and explore the practical and theoretical application of nursing knowledge in clinical practice.
PRE-READINGS


RECOMMENDED READING/TEXT


RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

- www.medsafe.govt.nz. This is an excellent drug information resource.
- www.findarticles.com. This is a useful search engine, free of charge.

Victoria University of Wellington www.vuw.ac.nz

- The Ministry of Health (www.moh.govt.nz) has on-line publications, such as:
  - Nurse Practitioners in New Zealand
  - Nursing Sector Updates
  - NZ Public Health Reports (information re infectious diseases)

- The Health and Disability Commissioner website contains summaries of cases investigated: www.hdc.org.nz

- NZ health promotion information: http://www.healthed.govt.nz/

- NZ Health Technology Assignment Reports: useful literature reviews: http://nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz/

- Evidence-based nursing/medicine:
  www.joannabriggs.edu.au
  www.cochrane.org
  www.bestbets.org: a UK emergency medicine website
  www.emedicine.com

- Australian & New Zealand Intensive Care Society:

- Breath & Heart Sounds websites:
  http://www.med.ucla.edu/wilkes/inex.htm
  http://www.vh.org/adult/provider/internalmedicine/LungSounds/LungSounds.html#Normal%20breath%20sounds
  http://www.blaufuss.org/

- Cardiology: www.americanheart.org

- Critical Care Nursing:
  http://www.critical-care-nurse.org
  http://www.aacn.org/
  http://www.baccn.org.uk/
  http://www.wfccn.org/index.html
  http://www.efccna.org/
  http://www.caccn.ca/about_caccn.htm
WORKLOAD

30 point courses in the Graduate School of Nursing and Midwifery have an average workload of 12 hours per week; this is a guideline only. Some students may find they have to put in more effort as individual experiences and learning styles vary.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to commencing the course students must have access to a computer, printing facilities and have Internet access, with a current e-mail address.

In order to successfully complete this course you are required to attend all Schools, unless under special circumstances prior arrangements have been made with the Course Co-ordinator.

Students must submit and pass all components of the assignments to satisfactorily complete the course.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

Students should familiarise themselves with the University’s policies and statutes, particularly the Assignment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under ‘About Victoria’ on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz
STAFF AND STUDENT CONDUCT

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University’s life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:
www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct
The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:
www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean or Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA) representatives are available to assist you, including with advice or support, at any stage. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Statute which is published on the VUW website:
www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

STUDENTS WITH IMPAIRMENTS

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:
telephone: 463-6070
email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School’s Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.
**STUDENT SUPPORT**

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contact is Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, Room 407. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Maori, Manaaki Phipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Postgraduate Student Association is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/pgsa/

**SCHOOL CATERING**

The Bryant Education Center provides coffee for all breaks during School Days. No lunch will be provided, however you may wish to try the Momentos café across the road from the Hospital.
## COURSE TIMETABLE

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<th>WEEK STARTING Monday</th>
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<td>Case study presentations</td>
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SCHOOL TIMETABLE

1ST SCHOOL

Dates: Monday 19 to Thursday 22 March 2007
Time: 8.30am – 4.30pm
Venue: Bryant Education Centre, Waikato Hospital.

2ND SCHOOL

Dates: Tuesday 19 to Friday 22 June 2007
Time: 8.30am – 4.30pm
Venue: Bryant Education Centre, Waikato Hospital.

Dates: Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 September 2007
Time: 8.30am – 4.30pm
Venue: Bryant Education Centre, Waikato Hospital.

Timetables will be e-mailed to student’s prior commencement of course and a reminder before each School day.
ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment information including grade descriptions, the procedures for submitting assignments and referencing information is available on the Graduate School’s Website.

Assignment cover sheets are attached at the back of this outline. Please ensure you complete an assignment cover sheet and attach it to the front of each assignment you submit. All assignments are to be sent to Mark Reynolds, Course co-ordinator.

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health has set a number of assignment tasks and due dates to best meet the outcomes of the paper. In keeping with the Graduate School’s stated philosophy that no assignment work shall serve the Graduate School alone, it is possible to negotiate alternative assignments and schedule. This should be undertaken in consultation with the course co-ordinator.

Graduate School guidelines for submission and return of student assignments:

1. All assignments are to be submitted to the Course Co-ordinator by 5.00pm on the nominated due date.
   1.1 An extension to the due date may only be given in exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances would typically be sickness (as evidenced by a medical certificate) or bereavement.
   1.2 Application for an extension must be made to Course Co-ordinators at least 24 hours before the due date.
   1.3 Course Co-ordinators may grant an extension of up to 2 weeks.
   1.4 Any extension requested for longer than 2 weeks must be agreed to and signed off by the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator or in her absence the Head of School.

2. Dean’s extensions
   2.1 are available in exceptional circumstances for only the final piece of assignment in any course,
   2.2 must be applied for in writing at least 48 hours prior to due date,
   2.3 may be approved for up to 4 weeks by the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator with the appropriate documentation provided,
   2.4 may be extended beyond 4 weeks with written approval by, and an interview with, the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator.

3. Student coursework assignments submitted by the due date will be returned with feedback within four weeks of the due date.

4. Students who do not submit each piece of assignment within this framework may be subject to delays in their assignment being returned and may not receive comprehensive feedback.
5. Assignments which are late without an extension having been granted, and which remain outstanding for two weeks without due cause beyond the due date will be marked, but cannot attract a grade higher than a ‘C’ (pass) grade.

6. Assignments which remain outstanding for four weeks without due cause beyond the due date, will attract an ‘E’ (overall fail) grade.

**Final assignments will not be accepted by email.**

Students must submit and pass all pieces of assignment to satisfactorily complete the course.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

> The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one’s own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

> Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assignment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University’s website:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html)
ASSIGNMENT NUMBER ONE

Assignment Name: The health needs of a particular patient population.
Due Date: 20 April 2007
Length: 3000 - 3500 words
This assignment (Part A) is marked as 40% and (Part B) is marked 10% of your final grade.

ASSIGNMENT NUMBER TWO

Assignment Name: Influencing Health Policies and Nursing Practice.
Due Date: 20 July 2007
Length: 3000 - 3500 words
This assignment is marked as 50% of your final grade