

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Nursing

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