Community Health Nursing
Doane College, Lincoln Campus
NRS 320-3 Credit Hours

Course specifics and goals:
Principles, theories and concepts of community health nursing are used to generate an understanding of the roles and functions of community health nurses. The class will help to foster an understanding of the impact of health issues on the client and community both at the local, state and global level. The course will explore the impact that biological, cultural, environmental, economic, social, and political factors in communities that affect population health. Students will learn about the community health practice of preventing disease and promoting good health within groups of people, from small communities to entire countries. This course will further understanding of community health nursing, nursing process, interdisciplinary communication, systems of care management, resource allocation and project management. Students will be able to apply concepts learned to nursing practice and philosophy, patient/client outcomes, individual work place settings, and their community. Students will develop an understanding of the meaning of community and their role. This course fulfills a requirement for the RN to BSN program.

Course objectives, learning goals and outcomes:
1. Explore, analyze and evaluate the critical concepts and aspects of community health and the collaborative role of community health nurses.

2. Enhance cognitive and critical thinking skills as read, explore, discuss and write your ideas concerning public health issues within community at the local, national and global levels.

3. Develop strategies for personal application to your nursing practice, philosophy and as an advocate and leader for community health.

4. Challenge thought processes to incorporate creative and innovative methods to design a project to enhance community health that uses your knowledge and strengths.

5. Cultivate an understanding, interest and excitement for lifelong learning regarding the community you reside in as well as the world.

Class Meeting Times and Dates:
Thursdays: 6:00 pm-10:00 pm
October 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18, 25; December 2, 9-2015

Adjunct Professor:
Kay Kiechel-White, BA, MAA, RN (kay.kiechelwhite@doane.edu)
COURSE FORMAT:
Interactive group discussion based on selected articles, case scenarios, guest speakers, community/public health web resources and other relevant resources: Purpose to engage in meaningful dialogue to further understanding, critical thinking and evaluation of community health nursing and practice. This course provides the opportunity to review public/community health nursing and further your understanding of community. We will use the nursing process to critically analyze application to professional practice. Students will participate in small group discussions designed to internalize the concepts and applications of public health and understanding community. The reading assignments and exploration of web sites combined with class discussion assists the student to gain knowledge, learn about community and community health. The class discussions provide the opportunity to enhance communication skills, enhance leadership skills and capabilities as well as build on each student’s strengths. Each student will provide a final project presentation regarding a community health issue that could be presented to policy makers, public or private organizations, families, community health nurses or your current work place.

Assessment and Class policies
Students will be able to obtain 200 points as follows and your grade is based on total points earned by the end of 8 weeks:
100 points: Class participation & preparation
100 points: Project Presentation

Grading scale
97-100 % = A+
93-96 % = A
89-92 % = B+
85-88 % = B
81-84 % = C+
76–80 % = C
70-76 % = D
Below 70% = F

Students will be excused if email, phone call or text message is received prior to class. If no message it will be unexcused. Assignments must be emailed or left at the Doane College front desk the day of class or as arrangements made with the instructor. Ten points will be deducted for each unexcused absence and if a third class is missed even though excused. Points will not be deducted for the first 2 excused missed classes. Ten points will be deducted for late assignments. Rubrics will be provided for class participation, papers and presentations as appropriate.

Doane College Academic Integrity Policy
The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and assignments will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.
**Week 1, October 21:**
Orientation to course, assignments and projects will be given. Rubrics and guidelines will be provided. Articles and web sites for weekly assignments will be distributed. A list of community speakers will be presented.

*Assignment for week 1: Explore the web site: American Public Health Association*

**Topics for class discussion:**
What Is Community?

Develop an understanding of community health by exploring the history, philosophy, core values, concepts, and functions, both locally and globally.

Develop an understanding of project implementation: understand planning, assessment, and evaluation as applies to community nurse practice.

**Week 2, October 28:**

**Guest Speaker: TBD**

**Topics:**
How do you understand and interact with community?

Explore the concepts of population health, basic processes, approaches, and interventions that identify and address major health related challenges and concerns of community populations.

Discover the importance and role of data by learning about basic concepts, methods and tools that are used in collection and analysis as well as the use of evidence base practice.

Understand the basic concepts of communication, technical and professional writing, use of mass media and electronic technology as applies to community health.

**Week 3, November 4:**

**Guest Speaker: TB**

**Topics:**
What do you observe or experience in your community?

Evaluate determinants of health: the socio-economic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities in communities.

Cultivate an understanding and appreciation of the health policy, ethics, law, economics and regulatory dimensions of community health policy as well as the various responsibilities of agencies.
**Week 4, November 11:**

**Guest Speaker:** TBD

**Topics:**
What is your role in community?

Examine and discuss current, emerging and future public health issues at the local, state, national and international levels. Discuss current issues within your community and what your role is as a professional nurse. Discuss project ideas.

**Week 5, November 18:**

**Guest Speaker:** TBD

**Topics:**
How do you learn about your community where you live? How do you understand community at the local, state, national and international level?

Review Healthy Families 2020 both at the national and local levels. Explore the WHO and CDC Web sites. Review the Unite Nations Millennium Development goals and beyond 2015. Come prepared to discuss the topics and how might apply to professional practice and nursing process.

**Week 6, November 25:**

**Guest Speaker:** TBD

**Topics:**
How might you foster collaborative relationships with community health nurses, resources and programs?

Research and discover community health services in your community. Discuss the importance to your community and the population that live and work in this area.

**Week 7, December 2: Guest Speaker: TBD**

**Project presentations**

**Week 8, December 9: TBD: Guest Speaker:**

**Project presentations**