

**Community Health Nursing**  
**Doane University, Omaha Campus**  
**NRS 320 January-March 2017, 3 credit hours**

This course emphasizes the health of communities and populations and the professional nursing role in health promotion and disease prevention. Topics include population-based health issues such as environmental health, epidemiology, and communicable disease. In a clinical setting, students will work with persons in a variety of community settings and learn how to assess and screen individuals and families within communities, address identified needs, educate people across the lifespan, collaborate with other health care professionals, make referrals, and participate in health promotion clinics. Students will gain an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of public health and the overall effects on health in the U.S. and abroad. This course is 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 that will impact health and wellness.
3. Discover the meanings of community and determine your role (s) in being a part of community.
4. Develop strategies for personal application to your nursing practice, philosophy and collaborating with multidisciplinary partners as an advocate and leader for community health.
5. Challenge thought processes to incorporate creative and innovative methods to design a project using your strengths to enhance community health and wellness that uses your knowledge, strengths and capabilities.
6. 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:** Omaha campus: 4020 South 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100

Tuesday: 6:00 pm-10:00 pm

Class will be held on the following 5 dates: 1/17/2017; 1/24/2017; 1/31/2017; 2/14/2017 and 2/28/2017.

**Adjunct Professor:**

Kay Kiechel-White, BA, MAA, RN ([kay.kiechelwhite@doane.edu](mailto:kay.kiechelwhite@doane.edu))

## **COURSE FORMAT:**

Interactive group discussion based on selected articles, community/public health website 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 to enhance the health of individuals, families and community. 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. **Each week you will write in bullet point format brief responses to the topics for discussion.** You will bring these documents to facilitate group discussions. Each week at the end of class you will provide to the educator. The class discussions provide the opportunity to enhance communication skills, leadership skills and capabilities as well as build on each student's strengths. Each student will provide a 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 preparation, participation, written assignment

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 University front desk the day of class or as arrangements made with the instructor.

Rubrics and guidelines will be provided for class participation, written weekly assignment and presentations as appropriate.

## **Doane University Academic Integrity Policy**

The Doane University 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.

### **January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017:**

Orientation to course, assignments and projects will be given. Rubrics and guidelines will be provided. The following websites and articles will be the foundation for this course concerning public health, community and project development. You will use each as resources.

#### Assignment for week 1:

Explore the web sites:

- American Public Health Association: [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)
- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services: Division of Public Health
- [nursingworld.org/gm-node/40956.aspx](http://nursingworld.org/gm-node/40956.aspx) Article titled: Evolving Public Health Nursing Roles: Focus on Community Participatory Health Promotion and Prevention (use title to find or the nursing world-either works)
- [www.cdcfoundation.org](http://www.cdcfoundation.org) (review the website tabs: who we are, what we do and why it matters-discusses public health)
- [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- [www.who.int](http://www.who.int) (explore the tab: Data: Global Health Observatory about the Sustainable Development Goals)

Read the following articles:

- Read the article: What is Community? (will be emailed to you at your doane.edu email address)
- Read the article: The Definition and Practice of Public Health Nursing (2013). (Google the title will take you to this short article regarding the definition and practice of public health nursing)
- Read the article: What is a Project? (will be emailed to you at your doane.edu email address)

### **Topics for class discussion:**

What Is Community? How do you learn about 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.

### **January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017:**

Assignment for week 2:

Read the articles provided:

- Public Health nursing Practice for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Competency Development in Population-Based Practice & Community Assessment: Types of Data
- What Does a “Sustainable Community” Actually Look Like?
- Professional Practice concepts
- Turning to one another (poem by Margaret J. Wheatley)

Explore the following websites:

- [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov) Type in the search: The Community Guide
- [www.Helpguide.org](http://www.Helpguide.org) Home page: scroll down and go to Improving Communication skills work and personal relationships.

Explore ideas for potential topics for your project presentation.

**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, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017:**

Week Three Assignment:

Review the websites:

- [www.healthypeople.gov](http://www.healthypeople.gov) Type in the search box: Social Determinants of Health: Review the Social Determinants of Health: Explore the tabs: Overview, Objectives, Interventions & Resources and National Snapshots
- [www.healthypeople.gov](http://www.healthypeople.gov) Explore the website. Explore Nebraska's data regarding Healthy People 2020

Explore and observe your community: workplace, where you live, and surrounding area: your county, the state, other “communities” that you have defined from classes one and two.

Research and discover community health services in your community.

Research who you might foster collaborative relationships with in your community to improve health outcomes and improve the health of your community.

Finalize your topic for your project presentation.

**Topics:**

What do you observe or experience in your community?

What did you discover about community health services in your community? Discuss the importance to your community and the population that live and work in this area.

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, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017:**

Week 4 assignment:

Review the websites:

- [www.neappleseed.org](http://www.neappleseed.org) Review the website, please review the “Our Work” tab.
- [www.go.unl.edu/climatechange](http://www.go.unl.edu/climatechange) Review the article: Implications of change for NE: Summary Report of Sector Based Round table discussions Sept-Oct. 2015: the document is 65 pages: please scan the summary and starting on page 11 is the impact on health.

Discussion of project presentation.

**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.

**Week 5, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Community Health Project Presentations