Nursing Theory Orientation

It is very important that you read all of this information prior to starting this course. If you do not read this information, you will have difficulty continuing in and successfully completing this class.

WELCOME TO NURSING THEORY VIA INTERNET

This course is designed as a review of adult acute care nursing for RNs and LPNs who have not been working in the field for over five years and want to reactivate their licenses. It can also be used by those nurses who currently have a license but want to refresh their acute care skills. It is approved by the Oregon State Board of Nursing and is 90 hours in length.

The modules in this course review the nursing process, assessment skills, critical thinking techniques, and introduce nurses to the latest "best practice" being utilized in today's health care settings. Course work includes 90 hours of Website instruction. This Web-based course is available to students 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to promote flexibility. Students must have access to websites and be able to send and receive emails and Word documents. The proctored final exam will be scheduled during the last week of the term. This course is approved by the OSBN to meet the Theory requirement for LPNs and RNs seeking Re-entry and licensure in Oregon.

Required Text: "Medical Surgical Nursing," 7th edition by Lewis et al. Available through the PCC Sylvania Bookstore, 503-977-8119, or on-line textbook providers. Because some students may still be using the 6th edition of Lewis, I have included references to both editions in the reading list for each module. However, there are significant differences between the 6th and 7th editions, and I encourage you to use the 7th edition if at all possible.

Before beginning this course, students must have registered for the class through the PCC Registration system. Once registered, students must email the instructor at nursetheory@pcc.edu within the first week of the term.

You may read the full course description for this class as well as other important information about the Institute for Health Professionals at the IHP website, http://www.healthprofessionals.pcc.edu/ or contact IHP at 503-731-6633. If you want to find out more about the Nurse Re-entry Program, please visit our website at http://www.pcc.edu/renurse .

Portland Community College shall comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 (ADA), and other applicable federal and state regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis
of disability. These acts mandate that no qualified person shall, solely by reason of disability be denied access to, participation in, or the benefits of any program or activity operated by the college. Each qualified person shall receive reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to employment, educational opportunities, programs and activities, in the most appropriate integrated setting.

For further information about PCC and the Americans with Disabilities Act, please access the following websites:

http://www.pcc.edu/about/administration/board/policies/b408.html

http://www.pcc.edu/resources/disability/ada/law.html

**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE THEORY COURSE**

Each unit reviews an area of nursing practice and/or pathophysiology and relationship to disease. The reading lists are meant to provide you with a comprehensive review. There are reading assignments assigned from the textbook and internet links to current articles from professional journals. It is highly recommended that you print off each section so that you can write notes, highlight important concepts, and have the information easily available for review and study. I strongly encourage you to create a 3-ring binder with a section for the information from each module. This will organize the large amount of information included in the course and help you study for the clinical skills preparation lab and the final exam.

You may study the modules in any order you wish, except for **Module Number One**, which should be the first module you study. This module contains general information that has become essential for current nursing knowledge. Since the other modules are not numbered, please refer to them by their content (for example, Cardiovascular System) rather than by number.

The modules have been developed, reviewed and updated over several years of providing this course. Many professional nurses from various work settings and experiences have contributed to the creation of the modules. I am confident that you will find the information worthwhile and timely.

Taking an Internet course requires extreme discipline and will require approximately 6 hours per unit: reading, visiting web sites, completing assignments, and taking quizzes. The virtual classroom also requires at least beginning knowledge of use of the computer and searching the Internet. Realizing that people vary in their computer skills, we have tried to keep things simple, especially with the first lessons. Students should know how to cut and paste, how to email and send MS Word attachments, and how to browse and
download from the web.

The advantage of the internet course material is that you may take the class when you can fit it into your schedule (within the course deadlines) and travel is decreased for those of you that need to travel from outside the immediate Portland area. An added bonus is that by the time this course is done, you may have become more familiar with using the computer, which will be a benefit when you get back to work. You will also become familiar with searching the Internet for nurse-related articles.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR INSTRUCTOR

An Internet course means all correspondence between instructor and student is conducted via email. Your submitted assignments will be corrected and returned within one week. Please send all correspondence regarding the Nursing Theory course, including your assignments, to the nursetheory@pcc.edu address. Do not send any Theory course correspondence to my personal email address at PCC or to renurse@pcc.edu, since it may get lost in the volumes of emails we receive. We will not accept documents through the U.S. mail. All documents must include a heading that includes the student’s name, email address, and the unit name (for example, Cardiovascular). Please send your answers only. Please do not resend the case study or quiz questions.

CORRESPONDENCE THAT DOESN’T RELATE TO THE THEORY COURSE

If you are contacting me regarding anything else in the Re-entry program, please use the renurse@pcc.edu address rather than nursetheory@pcc.edu or my personal email. That way your concerns can be processed in a timely manner. Thank you.

ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES

The quizzes in each module are open-book tests. If you are unsure of the answers, please look them up in the textbook before you submit your quiz answers to the instructor. This will save us both a lot of time.

In addition to a quiz for every module (except Nursing Delegation in Oregon), there are critical thinking exercises for several modules. These are essay questions, and are a required part of your homework. The modules which have critical thinking exercises are: Fluids and Electrolytes, Pain Management,
Respiratory, Urinary/Renal, and Immune System. The Fluid and Electrolyte

critical thinking exercise may be as brief as you wish. For the others, I

expect about one page (typed) or more, so that you can answer the questions

thoroughly.

The entire course is set up within a one-term (10-12-week) format. It is important

that you stay "on-track" with the assignments and quizzes. If you receive less

than a 70% on any quiz or homework assignment, I will ask you to review the

module again and resubmit your answers. If you receive 70% or greater on any

quiz or homework assignment, that will be your final grade on that quiz or

assignment. I do not send back the correct answers, since the case studies, quiz

questions, and final questions are almost all taken from a nursing program test

tank. It would be unethical for me to give out the "test key."

Please note that UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES will I accept homework
during the last two weeks of the term (after Sunday, November 29), unless

you are resubmitting homework that originally scored less than 70%. UNDER

NO CIRCUMSTANCES will I accept resubmitted homework during the last

week of the term (after Sunday, December 6).

You will receive my answer to your submitted assignments within one

week, but do not wait for my reply for any assignment before proceeding to work

on the next one. Because I have several jobs at PCC, I cannot accept more than

three assignments from each of you during a one-week period.

I make every effort to respond to you as quickly as possible. In addition to

submitting your homework, I encourage you to email me with questions or

comments during the course. You are not alone out there in cyberspace; you

have an engaged and responsive instructor on this end.

Students must score at least 70% on every homework assignment in order to be

eligible to take the final exam.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

The reading assignments in the text are mandatory. The journal articles and

other resources are given to you as supplements, so that you can have the most

recent information about the topic under discussion.

In most modules, quiz questions are based on the text and on the material given

in the module. However, in a few modules, such as Module Number One and

Professional Issues, test questions are based on the online resources cited in the

module.

I have not assigned the review questions at the end of each chapter, but I

encourage you to do them as a way of increasing your comprehension of the
text. The correct answers are in Appendix D in Lewis, 7th edition, which begins on page 1865.

**FINAL EXAM INFORMATION**

The final exam is “in-class” or "proctored." It is **not** an open-book exam. The final exam will be scheduled near the end of the term at two different times—once on Saturday, December 5, and once on Tuesday, December 8, for your convenience. Students able to be present for the in-class final will be able to sign up for a specific date and time via e-mail during the class. The location for the final exam is the Central Portland Workforce Training Center located at 1626 SE Water Ave., Portland, OR 97214. (2 blocks north of OMSI, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry). For directions, please call 503-731-6633.

Students who are unable to take the in-class exam, or who desire to remain in their local community, will need to make arrangements for a proctored test. Most community colleges have people that are available to proctor tests. They charge a fee for their service/time. Libraries are also sometimes able to offer this service. Once you have made arrangements for a proctored test, please send the name, address and email address to me so I can mail the final exam to the proctor. **Proctor information must be received in the IHP office at least 2 (two) weeks prior to the scheduled class final.** All arrangements and fees are the responsibility of the student.

Almost all questions on the final exam are taken from a test bank provided with the text. Almost all questions are based on the text.

**COURSE GRADE**

Because this is a non-credit course, you will earn a grade of “successful completion” or “non-successful completion.” Your average score for your quizzes and homework assignments counts as 50% of your grade. The final exam counts for the other 50% of your grade. Students must score a minimum of 145 points in the course to receive a grade of Successful Completion. For example, if a student averaged 70% on all quizzes and scored 75% on the final exam, the student would score 145 points in the course. If a student averaged 90% on the quizzes and scored 55% on the final exam, the student would score 145 points in the course.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

After passing the course, In order to receive a final grade and certificate for the course, students must submit a course evaluation which I will mail out during the final weeks of the course. Please mail your evaluation to: PCC Nurse Re-entry Program, 1626 SE Water Avenue - Rm 208, Portland, OR 97214.
Thank you for reading this information. Please email me at nursetheory@pcc.edu, stating that you have read and agree to the above information.

I want to do everything possible to make this course a valuable and enjoyable experience for you. I wish you a great learning experience!

Lynn Paff, RN