

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
Southeast MO State University

Department of Nursing  
Title of Course: Nursing of the Elderly

Course No. NS489  
Revision: \_\_\_\_\_  
New:   X  

- I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours:  
Care management of the elderly in interdisciplinary settings, focusing on reducing adverse events, maximizing quality of life among frail elderly (4 credit hours: 3 Theory, 1 Clinical).
- II. Prerequisite (s): First semester senior standing in the BSN program; must have completed all 300-level NS courses  
  
Co-requisites: NS487, NS488
- III. Course Objectives:
- A. Define frailty and identify key risk factors to health and independent living among the elderly.
  - B. Discuss the impact of ethnicity, culture, social events, and political events on healthcare needs of the elderly.
  - C. Identify and explain significance of geriatric syndromes in assessment and management of the frail elderly.
  - D. Maintain, restore, and optimize the elder's level of function and wellness in the presence of chronic illness and physiological decline.
  - E. Discuss the impact of multiple co-morbid conditions on quality of life for the elderly.
  - F. Utilize Evidence-based Practice when caring for elderly in a variety of settings.
  - G. Identify community resources which support the well-being of the frail, homebound elder and their caregiver/s.
  - H. Demonstrate sensitivity to the threat to dignity and personhood which dependency and frailty may impose.
- IV. Expectations of Students:
- A. Reading assignments prior to class and engagement in class discussions.
  - B. Receiving a minimum of 75% on exams and quizzes.
  - C. Attendance in clinicals and satisfactory completion of clinical assignments.
  - D. Maintaining confidentiality.
  - E. Fulfilling all requirements as outlined in the BSN Student Handbook.
  - F. Civility:  
"Every student at Southeast is obligated at all times to assume responsibility for his/her actions, to respect constituted authority, to be truthful, and to respect the rights of others, as well as to respect private and public property. In their academic activities, students are expected to maintain high standards of honesty and integrity and abide by the University's Policy on Academic Honesty.

Alleged violations of the Code of Student Conduct are adjudicated in accordance with the established procedures of the judicial system."

G. ADA:

"Any student who believes that they may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor to arrange an appointment to discuss their individual needs. Instructors rely on Disability Support Services for assistance in verifying the need for academic accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. Students who have not already registered with Disability Support Services as a student with a disability will be encouraged to do so." In other words, accommodations do not have to be given unless the disability is verified by Disability Support Services (Contact office at ext. 2273)

V. Course Content:

- A. Attitudes toward Aging and Demographics (3 hrs)
- B. Standards of Care and Ethnocultural Life Trajectories (3)
- C. Effects of Aging on Body Systems (3)
- D. Best Practices for Geriatric Syndromes and Caring for Elders with Co-morbidities (4)
- E. Special Presentation of Illness in Frail Elderly (3)
- F. Functional Assessment and Home Assessment (3)
- G. Polypharmacy and Adverse Drug Effects (2)
- H. Supporting Nutrition, Hydration, and Elimination (3)
- I. Mental Status Assessment, Delirium, and Sensory Changes (3)
- J. Best Care Practices for Dementia/Person-centered Care (6)
- K. Losses of Aging and Depression (3)
- L. Caregiving and Long-Term Care (3)
- M. Best Practices for Managing Pain (3)
- N. End-of-Life Care (3)

Total 45 theory hours

VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials:

Tabloski, P. (2006). Gerontological Nursing. Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

- A. Midterm Exam 20%

- B. Quizzes 20%
- C. Final Exam 20%
- D. Forums 20%
- E. Clinical Case Studies 20%

Clinical practice: Pass/Fail  
Total of 45 hours

The grading scale for the Department of Nursing is:

92% - 100% .....	A
83% - 91% .....	B
*75% - 82% .....	C
66% - 74.9% .....	D
0% - 65% .....	F

\*75% is the absolute minimum “C”; grades of 74.5-74.9 will **not** be rounded up to 75.

75% refers to 75% of **total points** possible in the course, which includes tests, quizzes, and additional graded assignments.