

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
Southeast Missouri State University

Department of Nursing \_\_\_\_\_ Course No. NS 386 \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Course: Professional Practice: Community Health Nursing \_\_\_\_\_ Revision: No \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New:  X

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Introduction, application of community health concepts related to rural populations. Emphasizes independent decision making based on assessment of individuals, families, communities. (6)  
(Two hours theory, four hours clinical)

II. Prerequisite (s): Second semester junior standing within the nursing major. Completion of NS 380 and NS 390 for RN-to-BSN students.

III. Objectives of the Course:

- A. Utilize critical thinking in the management of care for home-based clients as well as other individuals in a variety of community health settings, especially those in rural areas.
- B. Recognize the importance of epidemiological concepts as a foundation of professional community health practice.
- C. Identify the various roles of the nurse within community health practice and, through clinical activities, develop initial competencies in selected areas.
- D. Utilize knowledgeable caring to provide effective nursing interventions to communities, groups, families, and individuals.
- E. Identify and discuss the unique problems/needs of vulnerable populations, in particular those persons who are medically underserved and/or economically disadvantaged.
- F. Perform a thorough community assessment based on an understanding of its various components and utilization of appropriate community resources.
- G. Identify the significance of environmental problems to the overall health of communities.
- H. Describe the concepts which form the foundation for and guide community health nursing practice.

IV. Expectations of Students:

- A. Provision of own transportation to all clinical assignments. Students do not transport clients in personal vehicles.
- B. Make up all clinical absences.
- C. Fulfillment of requirements identified in the *BSN Student Handbook*.

V. Course Content:

- A. Roles of the Community Health Nurse (school nurse, occupational health nurse, home health nurse, health department nurse) (3 hours)
- B. Community Assessment (2 hours)
- C. Organization of Community Health Services (2 hours)
- D. Voluntary Agencies (1 hour)
- E. Alternative Health Care (2 hours)
- F. Ethical Concerns in Community Health Practice (2 hours)
- G. Poverty As a Culture (1 hour)
- H. Epidemiology (5 hours)
- I. Communicable Disease (TB, STD's, Tetanus, Vector-borne illnesses, Parasitic infestations) (6 hours)
- J. Environmental Health (includes food-borne illnesses) (4 hours)

Four hours allotted for examinations; remaining hours for clinical application.

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

- A. Hitchcock, J., Schubert, P., & Thomas, S. (1999). Community health nursing: caring in action. Albany, NY: Delmar.

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

A. Four unit exams	70%	
B. Community Assessment		20
C. Group Project		5
D. Class participation, unannounced quizzes, and other assignments		<u>5</u>
	TOTAL	100%
E. Clinical Performance		Pass/Fail

NOTE:

Students will be assigned two types of experiences, community and home health. In both experiences, students will be expected to write weekly objectives and weekly accounts of their activities. Students also will be responsible for use of the nursing process/knowledgeable caring in providing care for clients both in the home and in other community settings. Content is directly related to course objectives through work at assigned agencies. Specific activities depend on agency assignments.