



HEALTH PROFESSIONS

**NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**NRS 111**

CLINICAL REASONING IN NURSING PRACTICE

COURSE OUTLINE

Spring 2021

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Number:** NRS 111

**Course Title:** Clinical Reasoning in Nursing Practice

**Credits:** 1

**Hours:** 1 Theory Hour/Week

**Weeks:** 14

### **Catalog description**

This course introduces the learner to clinical reasoning used in nursing. In this course the student learns to use critical thinking that underscores the thinking represented in the nursing process as well as dealing with aspects of the healthcare system for safe practice in the current healthcare environment. This course forms the basis for the thinking processes applied throughout all nursing courses.

**Prerequisites:** Formal admission to nursing program or current Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) license

**Corequisites:** NRS 112

**This course will be presented using material online no text is required**

### **Course Coordinator**

Professor Tracy Scaletti, MSN, RN, CEN

Office: MS 155

Phone: 609-570-3895

Email: scalettt@mccc.edu

The most effective way to communicate with Professor Scaletti outside of class is via e-mail. Student e-mails will be returned within 48-72 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. Due to varying work hours and locations, checking of voicemail may not be as timely.

### **Course Expectations**

There are intellectual standards in this course, and each student is responsible for their own learning. Any student with questions about their progress should make an appointment with Professor Scaletti to discuss their concerns. Any student with a personal issue affecting their ability to be successful in this course is responsible for bringing it to Professor Scaletti's attention in timely manner and in accordance with the policies set forth for the nursing program. All communications during this course are expected to be conducted in a professional manner, and each student's personal conduct is expected to be reflective of a professional registered nurse.

### **Remote Instruction Course Procedures and Etiquette**

#### **Prior to Class**

1. Make sure you have the appropriate technology to support the session
  - Ensure that you have a reliable, high speed internet connection.
  - Test your audio and video settings.
  - Familiarize yourself with the classroom controls, like "raise your hand" and the chat function.
2. Find a quiet, private workspace
  - Preferably in a room by yourself.
  - Avoid having anyone come on camera.
  - Coordinate your personal responsibilities to eliminate interruptions or distractions while in class.

- Shut the door and place a sign on the door saying you are in class. Ask people not to enter or knock on the door.
3. Review your background.
    - Remove private or potentially offensive items.
    - Rid the space of any clutter or distractions.
    - Keep it simple.
  4. Be mindful of your background lighting.
    - Double check the lighting when you launch the meeting and the video has started. Make sure more light is on your face than coming from behind you. You might also need to adjust where you are sitting so the light is not right above your head and within the camera frame. If you are sitting with your back to a window, you may be silhouetted by the light coming through and you will not be visible.
    - Your overhead light might also need to be adjusted for the best image quality.
  5. Check your camera framing.
    - Be aware of your distance from the camera (not too close, not too far).
    - You want to try and have the camera at eye level.

### **Live Class**

1. Sign into the session at least 15 minutes early and make sure your set up is functioning appropriately.
  2. You must use your full, real name on the screen.
    - a. To change your name in Zoom, click the participants list on the meeting control panel at the bottom of your screen. Hover to the right of your name in the participants list and select the “More” button. A drop down menu will appear which gives you the option to “Rename”.
  3. The camera must be turned on at all time with your live face visible in the frame, unless otherwise directed by your course faculty.
  4. Only unmute when speaking. In smaller, more collaborative meetings, you may be directed to leave the microphone unmuted. If you would like to speak or answer a question, use the “Raise Hand” feature. Then unmute yourself after you are called on by your professor. When addressing the class you are expected to maintain a professional tone.
  5. You must be dressed appropriately, as if you were coming to an in-person session.
  6. You may not be in bed, under the covers. You may be seated on top of a made bed.
  7. No smoking or consumption of alcohol is allowed during class. You may eat a snack if necessary but avoid sitting down to a full meal with the class.
  8. The use of personal communication devices for any reason unless specifically directed to do so by the faculty is prohibited.
  9. There is to be no “side bar” chatting through digital means outside of class activities.
  10. If you would like to use the chat function, remember that it is public, and a record of the chat is kept and archived.
  11. Expectations for participation and attendance in a virtual class are the same as an in-person class. Please give your full attention to the class in session. Do not engage in other activities, such as cooking, cleaning, playing games, on-line shopping, etc.
- Remember to sign out or “leave the meeting” when the session is finished.

### **Information Resources**

Nursing Program website – [www.mccc.edu/nursing](http://www.mccc.edu/nursing)

Mercer Online (Blackboard Platform) - <http://mccc.blackboard.com>

NCSBN NCLEX-RN Detailed Test Plan – [https://www.ncsbn.org/2019\\_RN\\_TestPlan-English.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/2019_RN_TestPlan-English.pdf)

Please refer to the Nursing Program Information Handbook for program philosophy, program objectives, and other pertinent information regarding NRS 111 and other nursing courses.

### **Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is important to the learning organization's purpose of helping learners to develop critical, independent thinking skills and habits. Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty run counter to this purpose and violate ethical and intellectual principles; they are therefore subject to penalties. For purposes of this course, we will define academic dishonesty as:

### **Plagiarism**

Presentation of work that originates from another unacknowledged source as one's own; presenting someone else's ideas, argument, or information verbatim (or close to verbatim) without acknowledgement of the source in assessments, papers, or discussions, constitutes plagiarism.

### **Cheating**

- a) Giving, receiving, using, or attempting to give, obtain, or use unauthorized information or assistance during an assessment or an examination
  
- b) Obtaining, conveying, or attempting to obtain or convey unauthorized information about an assessment or examination questions
  
- c) Giving or receiving assistance on an essay or assignment that goes beyond that specifically allowed by the instructor (including buying and selling or attempting to buy or sell essays and/or research assistance relating to course assignments),
  
- d) Impersonating someone else or allowing oneself to be impersonated in an examination or knowingly availing oneself of the results of impersonation, and
  
- e) Presenting a single piece of work in more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

Mercer County Community College is committed to Academic Integrity – the honest, fair and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. Thus, students are expected to be responsible for their own work, and faculty and academic support services staff members will take reasonable precautions to prevent the opportunity for academic dishonesty. The college recognizes the following general categories of violations of Academic Integrity with representative examples of each.

#### **A. Using or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic work**

- Copying from another student's exam
- Using notes, books, electronic devices, or other aids of any kind during an exam when prohibited
- Stealing an exam or possessing a stolen copy of an exam

#### **B. Giving fraudulent assistance to another student**

- Completing a graded academic activity or taking an exam for someone else
- Giving answers to or sharing answers with another student before, during, or after an exam or other graded academic activity
- Sharing answers during an exam by using a system of signals

**C. Knowingly representing the work of others as one's own or representing previously completed academic work as current**

- Submitting a paper or other academic work for credit which includes words, ideas, data or creative work of others without acknowledging the source.
- Using another author's words without enclosing them in quotation marks or paraphrasing them or without citing the source appropriately
- Presenting another individual's work as one's own
- Submitting the same paper or academic assignment to another class without the permission of the instructor

**D. Fabricating data in support of an academic assignment**

- Falsifying bibliographic entries
- Submitting any academic assignment which contains falsified or fabricated data or results

**E. Inappropriately or unethically using technological means to gain academic advantage**

- Inappropriate or unethical acquisition of material via the Internet or by any other means
- Using any electronic or hidden devices for communication during an exam

*Each instructor and academic support service area is authorized to establish specific guidelines consistent with this policy.*

**Consequences for Violations of Academic Integrity**

For a single violation, the faculty member will determine the course of action to be followed. This may include assigning a lower grade on the assignment, assigning a lower final grade, failing the student in the course, or other penalty appropriate to the violation. In all cases, the instructor shall notify the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee of the violation and penalty imposed.

**ADA Statement**

Mercer County Community College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in all activities, programs, and services. If you have a documented differing ability or think that you may have a differing ability that is protected under the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact Arlene Stinson in LB 216 [stinsona@mccc.edu](mailto:stinsona@mccc.edu) for information regarding support services. If you do not have a documented differing ability, remember that other resources are available to all students on campus including academic support through our Academic Learning Center located in LB 214.

**The Nursing Program Handbook Information Packet**

Each nursing student receives a copy of this handbook, is responsible for the information contained in the handbook, and is expected to comply with all requirements and policies.

### **First Semester Students**

A coach has been assigned to assist you with navigating your first semester in college. Coaches help with understanding how Mercer works, finding appropriate help with course work, and establishing academic goals. Visit [www.mccc.edu/coaching](http://www.mccc.edu/coaching) to find your coach or Contact: Arlene Stinson, LB217, 570-3451, [SOAR@mccc.edu](mailto:SOAR@mccc.edu).

### **Use your “MyMercer” Portal!**

Your “MyMercer” portal contains your Mercer Mail, financial information, class schedule, grades, and other information. Check your “MyMercer” portal every day! Visit [www.mccc.edu/mymercer](http://www.mccc.edu/mymercer) to access your portal.

### **Tutoring support**

Academic support services are free and available for all students. Drop in at LB214 on the West Windsor Campus or call 609-570-3422.

### **Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities**

The Office of Special Services (OSS) provides continued support to students with documented disabilities. Support staff are available to help students with differing abilities make a smooth transition to college as well as to succeed throughout their college experience. Contact: Arlene Stinson, LB 217, 570-3525, [stinsona@mccc.edu](mailto:stinsona@mccc.edu).

### **Career and Transfer Center**

Planning to go to work or to transfer to a 4-year college after completing your Mercer degree? Contact the Career and Transfer Center for support and advice. E-mail [transfer@mccc.edu](mailto:transfer@mccc.edu) or call (609) 5864800 ext. 3307.

### **Counseling Services**

Are you experiencing personal challenges, feeling overwhelmed? Are you having stress and anxiety? Counseling services are available free of charge. Contact 609-586-4800, extension 3423 or extension 3410.

### **Veteran’s Services**

If you are military, veteran, or family member, we offer free support for you. Email [vets@mccc.edu](mailto:vets@mccc.edu) or call 609-570-3240.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **Mercer County Community College Institutional Learning Goals**

- IL1 Written and oral communication in English: Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
- IL2 Mathematics: Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.
- IL3 Science: Students will use the scientific methods of inquiry for the acquisition of scientific knowledge.
- IL4 Technology: Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.
- IL5 Social Science: Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.
- IL6 Humanities: Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.
- IL7 History: Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western, or American societies and assess their subsequent significant.

- IL8 Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will understand the important of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.
- IL9 Ethical Reasoning and Action: Students will understand ethical issues and situations.
- IL10 Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use the information for college level work.
- IL11 Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills to distinguish among inferences, opinions and facts.

### **Program Student Learning Outcomes**

- P1 Provide safe, quality, evidence-based, patient-centered nursing care in a variety of healthcare settings to diverse patient populations across the lifespan.
- P2 Engage in clinical reasoning to make patient-centered care decisions.
- P3 Participate in quality improvement processes to improve patient care.
- P4 Collaborate with members of the interprofessional team, the patient, and the patient’s support persons.
- P5 Use information management (informatics) principles, techniques, and systems, and patient care technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error, and support decision-making.
- P6 Assimilate leadership, management, legal, and ethical guidelines in practice as a Registered Nurse.

### **Course Student Learning Outcomes with Competencies:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to apply clinical reasoning skills while caring for patients with a focus on wellness and the care of patients experiencing uncomplicated conditions. The student will be able to:

- A. Engage in clinical reasoning to make patient-centered care decisions. *Institutional Learning Goals 9, 11 and Program Goals 1, 2, 5, 6.*
- B. Explain the thinking skills and strategies that are used when applying clinical reasoning in nursing.
- C. Give examples of how thinking skills and strategies are applied to patient care situations.
- D. Give examples of how thinking skills and strategies are applied to problem solving in the healthcare environment.
- E. Discuss the importance of using clinical reasoning to anticipate risks, and predict and manage potential complications.
- F. Explain the steps that make up the nursing process.
- G. Discuss how the nursing process is an example of how nurses apply clinical reasoning.

### **Concept Based Curriculum**

This nursing curriculum utilizes a conceptual approach to learning. See the Nursing Program Handbook for a complete list of concepts.

### **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all lecture sessions. If you cannot avoid an absence, contact your instructor prior to the activity to be missed. Prolonged absences due to illness, injury, or bereavement for an immediate family member should be reported to the Nursing Office. Please see the Attendance Policy found in the Nursing Program Handbook Information Packet for further information regarding the Nursing Program policy on attendance.

Per the Nursing Education Attendance Policy, **two points** will be deducted from the overall course grade for every unexcused absence from any educational session. Two episodes of unexcused lateness will be treated as an unexcused absence; points will be deducted from the final course grade accordingly. Each request for an excused absence will be considered separately, on its own merit. Any combination of more than two absences in theory, lab, or clinical may result in inability to meet course objectives and course failure. For the full policy, see the Attendance Policy on the nursing program website.

**Computer Hardware and Software Requirements**

*A personal computer with consistent, reliable Internet access is required, and must meet the following requirements:*

- A cable, fiber optics, or DSL connection to the Internet; dial-up is not supported and satellite may be inconsistent.
- Laptop or tablet computer with a minimum of a 2 GHz processor and 2 GB of RAM. You will need access to a laptop or tablet that you can bring with you to campus periodically.
- Chromebooks and Ipads are **NOT** compatible with our testing software and **cannot** be used.
- Built-in or external webcam and microphone.
- Headphones are recommended to minimize audio interference from any background noise in your environment.

*You should have one of the following computer operating systems and additional software applications installed on your computer:*

- Windows 10 or higher system operating software for PC computers OR Mac OS X 10.6 or 10.7 for Apple Mac computers.
- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint). A free version of Microsoft Office is available for students. Login to your student portal through <https://www.mccc.edu/mymercercer.shtml> and select the Office 365 apps icon. This will give you access to all the Office tools like Word, PowerPoint, Excel and others options. If you want to download a version of the Office Suite to your machine, select the drop down ‘Install Office’ on the top right.
- Antivirus for Windows OS, [Microsoft Security Essentials](#) OR Antivirus for Mac OS, [Sophos](#)
- A Blackboard compatible browser, such as the latest version of Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari. **Internet Explorer, Edge or Chromium are NOT a supported browsers and should not be used.**

Additional information can be found in your course under the “Course Info” tab, in the folder labeled “Resources for Students”.

**Determination of NRS111 Grade:**

The grade is NRS111 will be determined by:

Assessment	Percentage of Grade
Quiz 1	20%
Quiz 2	20%
Quiz 3	20%
Time Management Log project	15%
Group Presentation	10%
HESI Critical Thinking Exam	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

A final grade of "C+" (77% - 79.99%) or better in each nursing course is necessary to progress to the next nursing course and to graduate. **No grades will be rounded.** If all criteria for the determination of a grade for NRS 111 have been successfully met, a grade will be assigned as follows:

A	93% - 100%
A-	90% - 92.99%
B+	87% - 89.99%
B	83% - 86.99%
B-	80% - 82.99%
C+	77% - 79.99%
C	70% - 76.99%
D	60% - 69.99%
F	0% - 59.99%

**HESI Critical Thinking Exam**

The HESI Critical Thinking Exam will be taken in class during the regularly scheduled class time. Please see the course calendar for a specific date and time. You must bring either a laptop or tablet capable to access the internet either via hotspot, WiFi or cellular service. **You will take this exam on your own device. The nursing program will not provide electronic devices.** Ipads and Chromebooks are not an approved device as they are not compatible with the testing software. Cellphones are not an approved electronic device to be used for this exam.

### Weekly Course Outline

<b>Week - Class Date</b>	<b>Weekly Course Learning Objective</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
1 –January 19, 2021	Define and contrast critical thinking, clinical reasoning and clinical judgement in nursing practice. Critical thinking and time management.	Class discussion
2 – January 26, 2021	<b>PEER MENTORING WITH 3<sup>RD</sup> SEMESTER STUDENTS</b>	<b>Peer Discussion</b>
3 – February 2, 2021	Examine the development of critical thinking in nursing practice with critical thinking indicators. Demonstrate the use of critical thinking and concept mapping in nursing practice.	Class discussion <b>Quiz 1</b>
4 – February 9, 2021	Apply critical thinking attributes to communication in nursing practice.	Class Discussion
5 – February 16, 2021	<b>HESI EXAM</b> <b>You must have a compatible device</b>	<b>HESI Exam</b>
6 – February 23, 2021	Apply critical thinking in the nursing process.	Class discussion
7 – March 2, 2021	<b>PEER MENTORING SESSION #2</b>	Peer Discussion <b>Time log due</b>
8 – March 9, 2021	Distinguish how critical thinking impacts quality improvement. Dissect critical thinking failures in nursing practice and failure to rescue scenarios.	Class discussion Assign group projects
9 – March 16, 2021	Construct conflict management techniques applicable to nursing practice.	Class discussion <b>Quiz 2</b>
<b><i>Spring Break March 22-28, 2021</i></b>		
10 – March 30. 2021	<b>PEER MENTORING SESSION #3</b>	<b>Peer Discussion</b>
11 – April 6, 2021	<b>Class Group Presentations</b>	Class discussion
12 – April 13, 2021	<b>Class Group Presentations</b>	Class discussion <b>Quiz 3</b>
13 – April 20, 2021	Apply critical thinking attributes to teaching in nursing practice. Relate current trends in critical thinking as it applies to nursing practice.  Relate the impacts of Evidence Based practice on nursing care.	Class discussion
14 – April 27, 2021	Explain the importance of reflection related to critical thinking in nursing practice.  Examine the impact of teamwork on critical thinking in nursing practice.	Class discussion

**Weekly course outline and assignment dates are subject to change at instructor's discretion.**

### Time Management Log Project

Each student will complete a time management log and an essay reflecting on how they have managed the new demands of entering the nursing program. The essay should be completed using APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format. The components of the assignment should include:

1. An ideal log (**one week**) which demonstrates how the students believes that they should spend their time to be successful
2. An actual log (**one week**) which shows how the student has spent their time
3. An essay that includes:
  - a. How the ideal and the actual log are different.
  - b. What issues impacted their ability to meet the goals in their ideal log.
  - c. Possible ways this could impact their performance in the nursing program and when caring for clients.
4. **The assignment should be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted via blackboard.** The time log can be completed in tables that are included with the essay. The essay should be between 500-750 words. **NO ABSTRACT IS NECESSARY.**

#### Rubric

Ideal Log	<b>Poor 1pt</b>	<b>Good 1.5pt</b>	<b>Excellent 2pt</b>
	Ideal Log is not complete or may be missing entirely.	Ideal log is mostly well formulated and complete and demonstrates a realistic depiction of weekly activities.	Ideal log is complete, well formulated and presents a very thorough and realistic depiction of weekly activities.
Actual Log	<b>Poor 1pt</b>	<b>Good 1.5pt</b>	<b>Excellent 2pt</b>
	Actual Log is not complete or may be missing entirely.	Actual log is mostly well formulated and complete and demonstrates a realistic depiction of weekly activities.	Actual log is complete, well formulated and presents a very thorough and realistic depiction of weekly activities.
Reflection Content	<b>Poor 5pt</b>	<b>Good 6.5pt</b>	<b>Excellent 8pt</b>
	The essay fails to integrate classroom materials about time management. The provided information does not sufficiently cover the demands of the prompt and fails to demonstrate an increased understanding of time management skills.	The essay for the most part provides adequate information summarizing logs and comparing theme. Some classroom materials are integrated. For the most part, this reflection sufficiently demonstrates some increased understanding of time management.	The essay is well written from start to finish, without spelling, grammar or use of English errors. The essay is well organized, clear and presents ideas in a coherent way.

## Group Project

Each group will present to the rest of class in Power Point format. **All members of the team must contribute.** The Power Point presentation can be no shorter than 7 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes. This group project is a quality improvement project. Choose an area of nursing that as a group, you believe can be improved. Your topic must be approved prior to presenting and no two topics can be the same. Use a defined quality improvement method, such as PDSA or Six Sigma, etc. A reference page in APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format is required for the project.

Power Point presentation criteria:

1. Describe the Quality Improvement idea that you have chosen, factors such as location/environment, time of day (if provided), what is the problem given and any other details that you consider important.
2. Implement the quality improvement methodology the group has chosen and discuss how you would measure the problem and how you would measure the improvement.
3. Give a brief description of what would be your team's priorities are and why.
4. Briefly explain your team's plan to manage the challenges presented.
5. All references should be on the last slide.

<b>Group Presentation Rubric</b>					
	<b>1 point</b>	<b>2 points</b>	<b>3 points</b>	<b>4 points</b>	<b>Score Total</b>
Content: Did the presentation present valuable material?	Little or no valuable material was presented.	Limited amount of valuable material presented.	Most of the valuable material was presented.	Exceptional amount of valuable material presented beneficial to the class.	
Organization: Was the presentation well organized and did it flow well?	The presentation lacked organization and had little evidence of preparation.	There were minimal signs of organization or preparation.	The presentation has organization but could have been stronger or better prepared.	The presentation was well organized, well prepared and easy to follow.	
Presentation: Did the presenters speak clearly? Had the material been reviewed?	Presenters were unconfident and little to no evidence of planning was present.	Presenters were not consistent with level of confidence but had some strong moments.	Presenters were more confident with their presentation, some evidence of preparation present.	Presenters were all confident in delivery. Preparation is very evident.	

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