



**CRITICAL THINKING IN NURSING**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**NUR 1024**

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## Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses

### GENERAL CLASS & COURSE INFORMATION

**Course Number:** NUR 1024      **Reference Number:** Multiple      **Term:** 2012-1

**Course Title:** Critical Thinking in Nursing      **Credit/Contact Hours:** 3 Credit Hours

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to assist the pre- or first year nursing student to develop learning strategies necessary to attain success in the nursing program. Learning strategies will be presented in-context (assignments will be based on current nursing content) for easy transferability and application of nursing knowledge. Focus is given to developing caring attitudes of nursing students applying critical thinking strategies specific to problem solving related to human response patterns. Lake Worth campus; Belle Glade campus and Distance Learning.

**Course Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking this course, the student will be able to**

1	Utilize the basic elements of word construction in developing and interpreting both traditional and medical vocabulary related to health care.
2	Explain the role of the health care professionals in relation to the interpretation of written and oral communication using medical terminology.
3	Employ critical thinking skills during test-taking to successfully identify and solve 5 types of multiple choice questions.
4	Identify the effects of nutrition on personal well-being and test-taking abilities.
5	Interpret specific terminology that relates to lifespan considerations from antepartal through geriatric populations.
6	Define the medical terminology of drug classifications as it relates to body systems and human response patterns.
7	Identify the effects of time management, empowerment, and environment on success.
8	Cite the legal and ethical implications of confidentiality in medical documentation and in the use of test-taking strategies for student Nurses.
9	Interpret vocabulary during test-taking utilizing word roots from past experience and linguistic knowledge base.
10	Explain the importance of vocabulary, both medical and traditional in teaching and learning, especially as it relates to test-taking.
11	Demonstrate relaxation principles to aid in stress reduction and the maintenance of a positive mental attitude.
12	Explain the importance of medical terminology in both verbal and written communication related to health care issues, including the reading of nursing textbooks.
13	Describe the steps of the nursing process as a method of inquiry when making assumptions to aid in decision-making.
14	Utilize technology to enhance study skills.

**[Course Outline for NUR1024 - CRITICAL THINKING RN:](#)**

**Textbooks information:** textbooks are listed as required and recommended.

**Required:**

1. Nugent, P. M. & Vitale, B. A. (2008) Test Success: Test Taking Techniques for Beginning Nursing Students (5<sup>th</sup> Ed). Philadelphia: F. A. Davis. ISBN-13: 978-0-8036-1894-7or ISBN-10: 0-8036-1894-8

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2. Turley, Susan, Medical Language, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-505578-6 or ISBN-10: 0-13-505578-4.
3. Alfaro-Lefevre, Rosalinda, Critical Thinking and Clinical Judgment: A Practical Approach. Saunders; 4<sup>th</sup> edition (2008). ISBN: 0721697291
4. The Syllabus for NUR1024 is published online at:  
[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Documents/Nursing/NUR1024.pdf](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Documents/Nursing/NUR1024.pdf) .

### Recommended:

1. Olrech, Nancy, Student Success for Health Professionals Made Incredibly Easy, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1 Pap/Psc edition (October 1, 2007) ISBN-10: 0781780616 or ISBN-13: 978-0781780612
2. Agnes, M., (2001). Webster's New World Dictionary, (4 Ed). Springfield, MA: Simon & Schuster. ISBN-0: 02-863118-8
3. Taber's (2008) (2010)Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary. (21<sup>st</sup> Ed) Philadelphia: F.A. Davis. ISBN-13: 978-0-8036-1559-5 ISBN-10: 0-8036-1559-0

You may purchase your textbook(s) at any one of Palm Beach State College's campus bookstores or [online](#).

The Electronic [Essential Nursing Resources](#) Video list is recommended & available in [MTIS](#) (Media Technology and Instructional Services) located on the first floor of the LLRC.

**Web Content Information:** This course has an Internet Component which is on the [Online Learning - Blackboard Campus](#)

To pass the course, you must be able to access this web site. **The course web site will be available at the start of the semester. Your password will not work until that time.**

It is the student's responsibility to have accessed this site no later than **the semester start date**. **The web site has a security system which requires a *Sign on* and a *Password*. Only registered students will be able to access the course.**

### To login to the component web site:

**User Name:** Use your Palm Beach State College Student ID Number (no hyphens). Your Palm Beach State College Student ID Number can be found on the back of your student ID card. If you do not have a student ID card, you can obtain one in the bookstore at Lake Worth campus. For obtaining a student ID card on other campuses, check with the campus directly.

**Password:** The student's Blackboard password will be the student's Palm Beach State College Pin Number.

### What do I do if I forget my password or need assistance with Blackboard?

[E-mail the Blackboard administrator](#). You can also email the Palm Beach State College [Student Help Desk](#) or contact them by phone at (561)868-4000. Be sure you have the following information available:

- your full name
- your Palm Beach State College Student ID number
- course with the reference number
- details of the assistance needed and any error messages

## Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses

[Student Help Desk Hours of Operation](#) are posted on the web page:

On hours and days that the Help Desk is closed, the student may leave a voice message or an e-mail and the issue will be addressed the next business day.

"[Netiquette Rule](#)" requirements are on the web site for network application. The faculty expectation is for student adherence to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life.

### PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

<p><a href="#">Carol Alexander, MSN, RN</a> Professor I BA 121, 561/868-3425 Lake Worth campus <a href="#">email</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Rebecca Pleasant, MSN, MBA, CLNC, RN</a> Professor I AH 210, 561/868-3429 Lake Worth campus <a href="#">email</a></p>
Faculty Office Hours Posted on Faculty Home Page & Outside Office	

### CLASS REQUIREMENTS

#### Assignments:

NUR 1024 will have 6 exams, a cumulative final exam, an annotated bibliography, and maintenance of logs/journals. See grading scale for details. All students are encouraged to participate fully in classroom activities. All readings, classroom discussions, AV material, and guest speakers are testable material.

**Late Assignment Policy:** All late assignments will lose 5% for each day beyond the scheduled due date unless prior arrangements have been approved by the instructor.

#### Nursing Department Grading Scale and Policy

90 - 100 = A  
83 - 89 = B  
75 - 82 = C  
Below 75 = F

The minimum score to pass the course is 75%.

All students must achieve an average grade of 75% on all tests before grades for assignments, journal critique, and class participation will be added for a final grade. An end of course grade of 75% is required to pass this course.

## Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses

**Tests, Quizzes And Final Examination**\_- Your course grade will be determined by the following:

Test 1	=	10%
Test 2	=	10%
Test 3	=	10%
Test 4	=	10%
Test 5	=	10%
Test 6	=	10%
Final Exam	=	20%
Journals/Outside Assignments	=	5%
Annotated Bibliography	=	10%
Class participation	=	5%

### **Make-up Exam Policy:**

Please see Nursing Handbook for standard Nursing policy related to Essay Make-up Exams.

## **CLASS POLICIES AND METHODOLOGY**

**Attendance:** Professors are required to take attendance. **Students are expected to attend all classes.** Students who are actively involved in their learning are more successful. Students are expected to complete all class work and homework and participate in structured class discussions.

**ALL students are expected to attend all classes. In the event of an absence due to extenuating circumstances, the student is expected to notify the appropriate faculty member.**

**Electronic Device Use:** Laptops and Hand-held devices are allowed in class for note-taking purposes, only. The use of Hand-held devices that are iPod capable are encouraged to facilitate downloadable information as learning strategies and study tools. Cell phones must be turned off in class and are prohibited in the campus Testing Centers.

**Email Policy:** All students have access to a college email account. It is the responsibility of the student to activate this account in order to be kept current with college, program and course information. College email must be checked weekly, at least. This course has a web component that has email within the course. Course email should be used for all course-related communications with faculty.

Faculty will contact students via college and course email, so be certain to check these email accounts twice weekly for any updates or changes to coursework.

**Equipment & Supplies:** Required text books; access to a computer with active Internet service; word processing and printing capabilities are essential to be successful in this class.

**Professor's Expectations:** The student will participate in discussions; will observe "Netiquette"; will read the assigned chapters; will make an appointment with the faculty member at the first indication of a test grade below 75%, for faculty mentoring and remediation plans.

## Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses

### Methods of Instruction:

1. Selected reading
2. Lectures
3. Discussions
4. Demonstrations
5. Audiovisuals
6. Interactive video software programs
7. Computer-Assisted Instruction
8. Student led presentations
9. Student group work
10. Journal Articles
11. Study Guides
12. Interactive Educational Activities
13. Internet – Blackboard Learning System
14. Critical Thinking Exercises

### Classroom Strategies

- A. Class Discussion
- B. Media Presentations: Video, Transparencies, PowerPoint
- C. Group Presentations/Case Scenarios
- D. Critical Thinking Exercises

### Evaluation Methods

- A. Group/Individual Activities
- B. Reflective Exercises
- C. Class Attendance/Participation
- D. Periodic Exams, Final Examination
- E. Annotated Bibliography/paper

**Unique Requirements of the Class.** This course has an Internet Component which is on the [Online Learning - Blackboard Campus](#)

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**Password:** The student's Blackboard password will be the student's Palm Beach State College Pin Number.

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- details of the assistance needed and any error messages

[Student Help Desk Hours of Operation](#) are posted on the web page:

On hours and days that the Help Desk is closed, the student may leave a voice message or an e-mail and the issue will be addressed the next business day.

### ["Netiquette Rule"](#) requirements

Refer to the network application. The faculty expectation is for student adherence to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life.

#### Disclaimer

**Changes may be made to the syllabus at any time during the term by announcement of the professor. It is the responsibility of the student to make any adjustments as announced.**

## COLLEGE POLICIES AND WEB INFORMATION

### Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes the following actions, as well as other similar conduct aimed at making false representation with respect to the student's academic performance:

(1) Cheating on an exam, (2) Collaborating with others on work to be presented, if contrary to the stated rules of the course, (3) Submitting, if contrary to the rules of the course, work previously submitted in another course, (4) Knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above actions, including assistance in an arrangement whereby work, classroom performance, examination, or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed, (5) Plagiarism.

## Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses

Please refer to the **Palm Beach State College** [Student Handbook](#) for further information.

### **Classroom Etiquette and Student Behavior Guidelines**

Students will demonstrate respect for professors and fellow students. Behavior that is disruptive to a positive learning environment reported by the professor will result in a warning on the first instance; the second instance might result in expulsion from the course or campus.

### **Computer Competency Component**

Each student will, to the satisfaction of the professor, demonstrate a fundamental understanding of basic computer operations through various professor-determined exercises and/or assignments.

### **Disability Support Services**

Students with disabilities are advised, in compliance with federal and state laws, that accommodations and services are available through the office of [Disability Support Services](#) (DSS). It is the student's responsibility to contact [Disabled Student Services Advisors](#) and to submit appropriate documentation prior to receiving services.

### **Eating, Drinking and Smoking**

Eating and drinking are confined to areas designated on the campus. Smoking is not permitted in any College building and only in areas designated at each campus.

### **Student Responsibility Policy**

When a student attends the College, s/he becomes subject to its jurisdiction. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner, in all areas of campus life. By enrolling, they pledge to obey the rules and regulations of the College and are responsible for observing all College policies and procedures as published in the student handbook, the College catalog and other College publications. The student will be responsible for preparing for class, participating in class, and completing assignments on time.

### **Palm Beach State [College Websites of Interest](#)**

### **Withdrawal Policy for Individual Courses**

The last day to withdraw from a College course with a "W" grade in this course is posted on the college academic calendar. It is the responsibility of the student to use the PantherWeb system or visit a campus Registrar's office to withdraw. An official withdrawal entitles the student to a grade of "W" in the class.

## **DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Kellie Bassell, MSN, EdS, RN  
Nursing Program Director  
AH 110 (561) 868-3412  
Fax (561) 868-3452  
[Email](#)

## Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses

### GETTING STARTED

1. Make sure you have all the computer system requirements as listed in the Computer Requirements section of this syllabus.
2. Update your profile on PantherWeb. The professor will communicate with you through Blackboard or your Palm Beach State College-issued email address.
3. Obtain course materials. The textbook(s) can be purchased at the Palm Beach State College campus bookstore or [online](#).
4. Log onto the course component [Online Learning - Blackboard Campus](#). Use your PantherWeb logon information.
5. Explore the different parts of the web component. Be sure you print the syllabus, course calendar, and assignment sheet so that you know what is expected of you during the semester.
6. Print the course worksheets and content outlines that follow this section of the syllabus.
7. Begin completing your assignments as listed on the course calendar and/or class schedule.

**Have fun!**

**COURSE WORKSHEETS**

**Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses**

**JOURNAL ENTRY 1**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BEGINNING REFLECTIVE EXERCISE**

**What is your personal philosophy of nursing? Include your beliefs about the profession of nursing. . .**





**Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses**

**JOURNAL ENTRY 2**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Explain what technique learned in this class has been the most useful to you this week, and why. .**

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**JOURNAL ENTRY 3**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe what empowerment means to you personally. . .**

**Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses**

**JOURNAL ENTRY 4**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe your “learning type” and explain what tools you are using to assist you to learn. . .**

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**JOURNAL ENTRY 5**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Analyze how the use of a planning calendar has affected your time management skills. . .**

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**JOURNAL ENTRY 6**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What does it mean to “critically” think?**

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**JOURNAL ENTRY 7**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Share what aspect, topic, or tool you found to be the most useful from this course, and what was the least useful for you . . . explain. . .**

**COURSE CONTENT BY CONCEPT**

## Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses

### SELF-REGULATION AND STUDY STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVES	CONTENT	RELATED LEARNING ACTIVITIES
<p>The student will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop an operational semester calendar relative to theoretical and clinical nursing assignments.</li> <li>2. Form active study groups among nursing colleagues.</li> <li>3. Develop a timetable for study activities to include theoretical study and clinical nursing practice.</li> <li>4. Describe the SQ3R (Survey, develop Questions, Review, Recite, Recall) method of reading a nursing textbook.</li> <li>5. Operationalize the SQ3R method with current nursing text</li> <li>6. Create a vocabulary journal from current nursing text utilizing medical terminology</li> <li>7. Develop a vocabulary word of the day from current nursing text</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Introduction to self-regulation within the nursing program               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Create a semester calendar including nursing theory and practice assignments</li> <li>B. Form study groups of five or less nursing colleagues</li> <li>C. Institute time management activities relative to nursing program schedule</li> </ol> </li> <li>II. Introduction to metacognition as a basis for prioritizing nursing scenarios</li> <li>III. Reading the current nursing text book</li> <li>IV. SQ3R method utilizing current nursing textbook</li> <li>V. Textbook vocabulary including essential components of medical terminology               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Word of the day log based on assigned readings and audio-visuals</li> <li>B. Word bank file of terms related to general vocabulary building with emphasis on medical terminology</li> <li>C. Dictionary/thesaurus usage: Webster’s, Roget’s, &amp; Taber’s</li> <li>D. Understanding technical nursing text</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Readings in required Texts as assigned.</p> <p>Completion of a Learning Style Inventory.</p> <p>Completion of a Math Diagnostic Tool</p> <p>Review: Professor Nightengale video</p> <p>Introduction to the Student Learning Center (SLC)</p> <p>Completion of individualized assignments developed by Learning Specialists</p>

### Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses

<b>LEARNING STRATEGIES &amp; RESOURCES</b>		
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>RELATED LEARNING ACTIVITIES</b>
<p>The student will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Generate an online search related to current nursing subject matter</li> <li>2. Find one nursing research article in the Library &amp; Learning Resource Center (LLRC)</li> <li>3. Find one nursing descriptive article in the LLRC</li> <li>4. Demonstrate the use of Nursing Skills Lab Learning Resources and successfully apply to assigned nursing skills</li> <li>5. List the accessibility and technology available in the Nursing Skills Lab, Quantum Testing Center and the LLRC to enhance the completion of theoretical and clinical practice assignments in nursing.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Computer assisted instruction (CAI) specific to nursing practice               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Introduction to the CAI in the Library &amp; Learning Resource Center (LLRC) and in the Nursing Skills Lab</li> <li>B. Internet based CAI vocabulary program</li> <li>C. Introduction to the LLRC and student availability and access to the internet</li> </ol> </li> <li>II. Introduction to the LLRC to provide necessary tools for scientific inquiry of nursing topics               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Online search activity utilizing CINAHL &amp; other nursing related databases</li> <li>B. Computer search on in-context nursing material</li> <li>C. Nursing journals</li> <li>D. Introduction to e-mail</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Readings in required Texts as assigned.</p> <p>Introduction to the LLRC</p> <p>Review: Steps for Success CAI</p> <p>Completion of individualized assignments developed by Learning Specialists</p>

## Course Syllabus – Classroom Courses

<b>CRITICAL THINKING &amp; TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES</b>		
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>RELATED LEARNING ACTIVITIES</b>
<p>The student will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate the use of Nursing Skills Lab Learning Resources and successfully apply to assigned nursing skills</li> <li>2. List the accessibility and technology available in the Nursing Skills Lab, Quantum Testing Center and the LLRC to enhance the completion of theoretical and clinical practice assignments in nursing.</li> <li>3. Appraise and develop test items based on the computerized multiple choice NCLEX (National Certification Licensing Examination) model</li> <li>4. Define Critical Thinking as it applies to Case Scenarios in Nursing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Test-taking strategies specific to current NCLEX format               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Multiple choice - applying didactic nursing content to select best answer</li> <li>B. Essay – outline answers by prioritizing content</li> <li>C. Matching terms with definitions/nursing concepts</li> <li>D. True/false – read &amp; analyze entire statement to determine veracity</li> <li>E. How to read a question and extrapolate essential query</li> <li>F. How to eliminate false answers utilizing critical thinking within nursing scenarios</li> </ol> </li> <li>II. Other learning strategies               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Note-taking to include nursing journaling</li> <li>B. Underlining key nursing concepts within assigned text</li> <li>C. Highlighting important points for nursing application of content</li> <li>D. Summarizing according to nursing process: assessment, diagnosis, plan, implementation, &amp; evaluation</li> <li>E. Paraphrasing utilizing therapeutic communication techniques to restate understanding of nursing concepts</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Readings in required Texts as assigned.</p> <p>Completion of individualized assignments developed by Learning Specialists</p>