END OF LIFE CARE IN THE ACUTE CARE SETTING

CREDIT HOURS: 3 hours

PLACEMENT: Elective

PREREQUISITES: Admitted to the College of Nursing or consent of the instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide insight into the special needs of adult and pediatric patients in the acute care setting who are near the end of life. This course will cover pain and symptom management; ethical issues in palliative care nursing; cultural considerations in end-of-life care; communication; loss, grief, and bereavement; achievement of quality care at end-of-life; and preparation for and care at the time of death.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Describe the role of the healthcare professional in providing quality end-of-life care for patients across the lifespan.
2. Identify the need for collaboration with other disciplines to provide quality end-of-life care.
3. Use critical thinking to develop, implement, and evaluate interventions that promote quality at the end-of-life.
4. Integrate principles of hospice and palliative care across settings to promote quality care at end-of-life.
5. Discuss pharmaceutical agents used in the treatment of pain and other common end-of-life symptoms.

FACULTY:

Gina Lowry, RN, PhD(c)  Sue Snider, MSW, MSN, CHPN
441A HSLC/CON  Hospice of the Bluegrass
257-5258  276-5344
rlowr0@email.uky.edu  SSnider@hospicebg.org

Sherry Warden, RN, PhD
439 HSLC/CON
323-6640
lsward00@email.uky.edu

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TEACHING LEARNING METHODS:

1. Lecture / Guest Speakers
2. Case studies
3. Readings and films
4. Discussion

EVALUATION METHODS:

Two (2) papers (50% of course grade)
   The first paper will be worth 15% of the course grade.
   The second paper will be worth 35% of the course grade.

Four (4) Reaction papers (20% of course grade)
Paper Presentation (25% of course grade)
Participation (5% of course grade)

GRADING SCALE:

A  90-100
B  80-89
C  70-79
D  60-69
E  below 60

TEXTS

Required Text:

Recommended Text:
   Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.). Washington, DC; APA

In addition, each student will obtain materials and references from other current sources including books, journals, and the Internet. Suggested readings/resources (available on-line or from E-journals) for each content area will be provided in the syllabus.

CHEATING AND PLAGAIRISM

Academic integrity is a core value at the University of Kentucky and is strongly supported by faculty, staff, and students within the College of Nursing. Neither cheating nor plagiarism is acceptable in any form. Please refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook which is available at http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/, for a detailed description of the University policies related to what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and how both are handled at the University. The College of Nursing adheres to these policies.

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CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Class members are expected to come prepared and to contribute to class discussions.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Reaction Papers: Students will write a one page reaction paper to four assignments. The paper should include a brief summary of the assignment and a reflection/reaction to the assignment; i.e. what were your thoughts as you completed the assignment.

Other Papers:
- **Undergraduate Students:** Write a 4-6 page typed, double-spaced, paper on two topics of interest from the course outline. One paper is to be completed by March 5; the second paper should be submitted by April 30th. Papers should be in APA format. Recent scholarly references (at least 4) are required. Papers will be graded as follows:
  - Content is applicable and accurate (50%)
  - Readibility, clarity, logical flow of ideas (20%)
  - Spelling, grammar, punctuation (10%)
  - Use of at least 4 recent scholarly references (10%)
  - Correct application of APA style per the Undergraduate APA guide (10%)

- **Graduate Students:** Write a 10-12 page typed, double-spaced, paper on two topics of interest from the course outline. One paper is to be completed prior by March 5th; the second paper should be completed by April 30th. Papers should be in APA format. Scholarly references (at least 8) are required. Papers will be graded as follows:
  - Content is applicable, accurate, and presents a synthesis of ideas (50%)
  - Readibility, clarity, logical flow of ideas (20%)
  - Spelling, grammar, punctuation (10%)
  - Use of at least 8 scholarly references (10%)
  - Correct application of APA style per the 5th edition of the APA style manual (10%)

**Note:** Scholarly references are defined as those references which are or have been published within the last 5 years or are classic works; these references have been published in peer reviewed journals or published on university or governmental web sites. Basic textbooks ARE NOT considered scholarly references. Preference is for articles which provide evidence for best practice through research.

Presentations (Graduate and Undergraduate Students):
Students will present one of their papers. Presentations will be done on April 16th and April 23rd. Each presentation should be no more than 10 minutes (allowing time for questions). Since it is expected that this is essentially a presentation of your paper, the 30 points due on the presentation will be assigned as follows:
- Audiovisuals and/or Handouts (10 points)
- Well-organized (10 points)
- Interesting (5 points)
- Speaking presence (5 points)
COURSE OUTLINE

January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Holiday

January 22—Nursing Care at the End of Life
A. Need for improvement in current care
B. The Hospice and Palliative Care Model
C. Social and economic factors that influence current care
D. Personal Growth at end of life
E. Assessment of Quality of Life
F. Nursing presence at end of life

Suggested readings/resources:

Required Reading/Activity:
Kaufman text – pp. 1-60

Watch Wit, a 2001 movie starring Emma Thompson. This is available in the UK AV library on 6th floor and at many video stores. Reaction paper due on 1/29.

January 29th – Discussion of previous readings + Pain Management
A. Barriers to pain relief
B. Pain Assessment
C. Pharmacological therapies
D. The nurse’s role in pain management

Suggested readings/resources:


February 5th – Symptom Management
A. Common end of life symptoms
B. Symptom Assessment
C. Pharmacological therapies
D. Non-pharmacological therapies

Suggested readings/resources:


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**February 12th** – Cultural Considerations in End-of-Life Care  
A. Components of cultural competence  
B. Cultural assessment  
C. Self-Assessment  
D. Culture and communication  
E. Culture and decision-making  
Suggested readings/resources:  
**Required Reading:** Kaufman text. pp. 147-161. Reaction paper due February 19th.

**February 19th**—Ethical Issues in Palliative Care Nursing  
A. Ethical theories  
B. Decision making  
C. Dilemmas at the end of life  
D. Standards of professional nursing practice  
Suggested readings/resources:  
**Required Reading:** Kaufman text. pp. 166-173. Reaction paper due February 26th.

**February 26th** – Communication  
A. Effective communication  
B. The communication process  
C. Factors influencing communication  
D. Interdisciplinary team communication  
Suggested readings/resources:  

**March 5th**—Loss, Grief, & Bereavement  
A. Theoretical models  
B. The grief process  
C. Grief Assessment  
D. Bereavement Interventions  
E. The nurse and loss  
Suggested readings/resources:  

***First Paper Due***

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March 19th -- Movie Night. We will watch Dying at Grace as a group.

Reaction Paper Due March 26th.

March 26th -- Preparation for and Care at the time of Death
A. Death as a physical, psychological, social and spiritual event
B. Patient and family preparation
C. The care of the imminently dying patient
   1. Symptom control
   2. Recognizing imminent death
   3. Resuscitation
D. Death
E. Post-mortem care

Suggested readings/resources:

April 2nd — Special Considerations in Pediatric Palliative Care
A. Developmental stages and the impact of illness upon development.
B. Incorporating the family and the ill child into the care team.
C. The unique nature of hope in pediatrics.
D. Personal and professional boundaries in relation to pediatric palliative care.

April 9th — Special Considerations in Pediatric Palliative Care
A. Pain Management in Pediatric Palliative Care
B. Loss, Grief, and Bereavement

April 16th and April 23rd — Presentations

April 30th -- Achieving Quality Care at the End of Life
A. Challenge for nurses
B. Discuss cost considerations in providing quality care at the end of life.
C. Nurses role in change
   1. Change in clinical care
   2. Change in health care systems
D. Models of Excellence in Palliative Care

Suggested readings/resources: