



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Understanding Rural and Remote Area Practice						
Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
NUR	5521	41063	1, 2005	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOSCI
Academic org:	FOS004
Student contribution band:	National Priority Nursing
ASCED code:	060399

STAFFING

Examiner: Janet Rankin

REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: MNUR or MNRS or MNRH or MANP or GCNP or PCNP

SYNOPSIS

This course focuses on students' exploration of their practice roles consistent with that of a primary health care practitioner. Students will learn how to assess their rural or remote area practice context from a critical perspective. Students will also be able to determine their professional requirements for intervention at individual, team or community levels and propose strategies to meet these requirements. In addition, students will develop sufficient information technology skills to access continuing professional development [CPD], networking opportunities, and databases as well as acquiring a working knowledge of on-line health practices and communication.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. define the role of a health practitioner within a rural and remote area setting;
2. explain the varying dimensions of the concept 'rural and remote area' health practice;
3. distinguish health issues arising from their local context of practice;
4. critically assess the role of the rural and remote area health professional using a primary health care framework;
5. identify strategies for achieving continuing professional development [CPD] appropriate to their rural and remote area practice setting;
6. develop sufficient skills to access CPD, networking opportunities, databases, Information Technology [IT] resources as appropriate; and
7. acquire a working knowledge of on-line IT health resources and practices for professional purposes.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. DIMENSIONS OF RURAL AND REMOTE AREA: The context of rural and remote health; Classifying 'rurality'; Specific needs of rural communities; Rural Health care within the broader Australian Health Care Context; Economic influences on rural health care; and Institutional, community and multipurpose health services in the rural setting.	40.00
2. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FRAMEWORK: Health defined, determinants of health care, rural health status, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, innovative primary health care initiatives, the health workforce, role of technology in Continuing Professional Development	30.00
3. YOURSELF IN PRACTICE - YOUR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS: Analysis of community, reflection of professional practice, applying Primary Health Care principles, continuing professional development, using information technology to support information gathering and professional networking.	30.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Mascara, C, Czar, P & Hebda, T 2001, *Internet resource guide for nurses and health care professionals*, 2nd edn, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River.

McMurray, Anne 2003, *Community Health and Wellness: A Socioecological Approach*, 2nd edn, Mosby, Sydney.

Wilkinson, D & Blue, I 2002, *The New Rural Health*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Australian Health Ministers' Conference 1996, *National Rural Health Strategy Update*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 1998, *Health in Rural and Remote Australia*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra.

(AIHW Cat No PHE 6)

Baum F, Fry, D & Lennie I (eds) 1992, *Community Health Policy and Practice in Australia*, Pluto Press, Leichhardt, New South Wales.

- Burke, L & Weill, B 1999, *Information Technology for Health Care Professionals*, Prentice Hall, New Jersey.
- Bushy, A 2000, *Orientation to Nursing in the Rural Community*, Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks.
- Hawe, P, Degeling, D & Hall, J 1990, *Evaluating Health Promotion*, McLennan & Petty Ltd, Artarmon.
- Humphreys, J S, Mathews-Cowey, S & Rolley, F 1996, *Health Service Frameworks for Small Rural and Remote Communities - Issues and Options*, University of New England, Armidale.
- National Rural Health Policy Forum 1999, *Healthy Horizons: A Framework for Improving the Health of Rural, Regional, and Remote Australians 1999-2003*, The National Rural Health Policy Forum and the Nat, Canberra.
- O'Connor, ML & Parker E 1995, *Health Promotion: Principles and Practice in the Australian Context*, Allen and Unwin, St Leonards.
- Siegloff, L 1997, *Rural Nursing in the Australian Context*, Royal College of Nursing Australia, Deakin.
- Summers, J & Smith, B 2004, *Communication skills handbook: how to succeed in written and oral communication*, 5th edn, John Wiley & Sons, Brisbane.
- (Revised)

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	30.00
Directed Study	25.00
Private Study	110.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT ASSGT	50.00	50.00	18 Apr 2005
SELF EDUCATION ASSGT	50.00	50.00	14 Jun 2005

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To complete an assessment item satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for that assessment item.
- Penalties for late submission of required work:

If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 10% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no examination in this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 9 Marking criteria are provided in course material as marking sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.
- 10 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must dispatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the dispatch date, if requested by the Examiner.
- 11 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. If requested, students will be required to provide a copy of assignments submitted for assessment purposes. Such copies should be dispatched to USQ within 24 hours of receipt of a request to do so.
- 12 The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.
- 13 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media.