



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

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The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at  
<<http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>>.

Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

### Description: Nursing Older People

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
NUR	2500	67275	2, 2007	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

**Academic group:**

FOSCI

**Academic org:**

FOS004

**Student contribution band:**

National Priority Nursing

**ASCED code:**

060311

### STAFFING

Examiner: Wendy Kyle

Moderator: Lyn Forrest

### REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: NUR2100 or (NUR2020 and NUR2030)

### OTHER REQUISITES

Recommended Prior Study: NUR1020, (NSC2000 or NSC2180)

### RATIONALE

The world's population is ageing and nursing is required to respond to the specific health care needs of the older person. Nurses are the predominant group of health care professionals caring for this group of people, particularly in the acute hospital, community settings and residential aged care facilities. As the present demographic trend indicates a significant proportion of people requiring nursing care in all health care settings are likely to be over 65 years of age, therefore it is essential for nurses of the future to receive appropriate educational preparation for nursing older people.

### SYNOPSIS

This course provides the theoretical basis for nurses caring for older people. The emphasis will be on the core values underpinning nursing older people which are to respect personhood at all times and the right to quality care in all settings. After a foundation of understanding global ageing and the ageing process, the students will be expected to critically reflect upon ageism and how this may potentially impact on one's behaviour. The common challenges to old age and the specific nursing care interventions in relation to the challenges will be explored. Contemporary care structures and how to manage the care continuum will be examined. Students will apply the knowledge gained from NUR2100 and other prior courses to the physical and mental disorders and diseases which commonly manifest in the older person. Added to this professional knowledge base will be the positive messages related to ageing as part of life and an exploration of legal,

professional and ethical issues. Nurses with an understanding and appreciation of the complexities of old age in different nursing care contexts, establish a solid foundation for enhancing their capacity for nursing older people.

## OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge and respect of the rights of the older person to enable the older person to maintain control over their environment, manner of living and health care (Written Assignment & Exam);
2. plan and deliver evidence-based nursing care relevant to older people in a variety of settings (Written Assignment & Exam);
3. plan and deliver nursing care that incorporates respect and understanding of the older person's individual beliefs, background and choices plan and deliver evidence-based nursing care relevant to older people in a variety of settings (Written Assignment & Exam);
4. plan and deliver nursing care which incorporates physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual aspects/knowledge pertaining to the older person (Written Assignment & Exam);
5. apply his/her knowledge of safe and therapeutic care when planning and providing nursing care for the older person (Written Assignment & Exam);
6. identify and respect the natural networks of the older person and involve them in that person's care (Written Assignment & Exam);
7. communicate and network with multidisciplinary teams of health professionals skilled in aged care when planning, delivering and assessing care of the older person (Written Assignment & Exam);
8. act as an advocate for the positive aspects of ageing (Written Assignment & Exam);
9. understand the complexity of gerontological nursing and be aware of its importance as a clinical specialty (Written Assignment & Exam).

## TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Global Ageing (demographics and epidemiology; social, political and economic influences; positive contributions of older people; discrimination; cultural diversity), The Ageing Process (theories of ageing; holism; healthy ageing); Common Challenges of Old Age (frailty; co-morbidities; acute and chronic illness; symptom presentation differences; misdiagnosis/ differentiating illnesses; cognitive impairment; mobility; pain; polypharmacy; loss; isolation and loneliness; relocation; loss of independence/personhood) and Specific Nursing Interventions related to the Common Challenges of Old Age (fostering independence; health education and promotion; early intervention programs; comprehensive health assessment; managing disruptive behaviours; palliative care; nutrition and hydration; working with networks).	70.00
2. Care structures and managing the care continuum across contexts (health education and promotion; acute and subacute structures; community/family/ professional care structures; general	15.00

- community facilities; primary care structures; day care; respite care; rehabilitation/restorative structures; residential care; palliative care; transitional care).
3. Legal, professional and ethical issues (professional codes of conduct and ethics; advanced health directives; balancing duty of care and duty of risk; issues of restraint and elder abuse; end of life planning and decision-making) and positive messages related to ageing as part of life (the older person's contributions to society eg voluntary and paid work; lifelong adult learning; contributions to family functioning and structure; productive living). 15.00

### **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).

Brown, D & Edwards, H 2005, *Lewis's medical-surgical nursing: assessment and management of clinical problems*, Elsevier, Sydney.

Crisp, J & Taylor, C (Eds) 2005, *Potter & Perry's fundamentals of nursing*, 2nd edn, Mosby, Sydney.

(Australian Adaptation)

Nay, R & Garratt, S 2004, *Nursing older people: issues and innovations*, 2nd edn, Churchill Livingstone, Sydney.

Tiziani, A 2005, *Havard's nursing guide to drugs*, Elsevier, Sydney.

### **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.

'Nursing Act 1992 (QLD)' (Available: [http://www.legislation.qnc.qld.gov.au/upload/pdfs/Nursing Act 1992.pdf](http://www.legislation.qnc.qld.gov.au/upload/pdfs/NursingAct1992.pdf)).

ANMC 'Code of professional conduct for nurses in Australia' (Available: [http://www.qnc.qld.au/upload/pdfs/practicestandards/Code of professional conduct](http://www.qnc.qld.au/upload/pdfs/practicestandards/Codeofprofessionalconduct)).

ANMC 'National competency standards for the registered nurse' (Available: [http://www.qnc.qld.gov.au/upload/pdfs/practicestandards/ANMC National](http://www.qnc.qld.gov.au/upload/pdfs/practicestandards/ANMCNational)).

Australian and New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc 1995, *Standards of practice for mental health nurses*, The College, Greenacres, SA.

Eliopoulos, C 2005, *Gerontological nursing*, 6th edn, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia.

Mauk, KL 2005, *Gerontological nursing: competencies for care*, Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Sudbury, Mass.

QUT School of Nursing 2004, 'Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing' (Available: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/publicat-nursing.htm>).

Stanley, M, Blair, KA & Gauntlett Beare, P 2005, *Gerontological nursing: promoting successful aging with older adults*, FA Davis Company, Philadelphia.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Examinations	2.00
Lectures	26.00
Private Study	110.00
Tutorials	26.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT	100.00	40.00	24 Jul 2007 (see note 1)
EXAM PARTA MULTIPLE CHOICE CMA	40.00	30.00	END S2 (see note 2)
EXAM PARTB SHORT ANSWER	40.00	30.00	END S2

### NOTES

1. Due date to be advised by the examiner.
2. Examination dates will be available during the Semester. Please refer to the examination timetable when published.

## IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:  
It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and 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.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:  
To satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks or a grade of at least C-. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:  
If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 5% of the total marks available 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 total weighted marks available for the course.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:

The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:

Exams in this course are restricted: Candidates are allowed access only to specific materials during a Restricted Examination. The only materials that candidates may use in the restricted examination for this course are: writing materials (non-electronic and free from material which could give the student an unfair advantage in the examination); Students whose first language is not English, may, take an appropriate unmarked non-electronic translation dictionary (but not technical dictionary) into the examination. Dictionaries with any handwritten notes will not be permitted. Translation dictionaries will be subject to perusal and may be removed from the candidate's possession until appropriate disciplinary action is completed if found to contain material that could give the candidate an unfair advantage.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:

Deferred or Supplementary exams will be held in the next semester exam period.

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 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner.

10 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 despatched to USQ within 24 hours of receipt of a request being made.

11 The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.

12 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media.

13 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non directed personal study.

14 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Students will require access to e-mail and internet access to USQConnect for this course.

- 2 Students can expect that questions in assessment items in this course may draw upon knowledge and skills that they can reasonable be expected to have acquired before enrolling in the course. This includes knowledge contained in pre-requisite courses and appropriate communication, information literacy, analytical, critical thinking, problem solving or numeracy skills. Students who do not possess such knowledge and skills should not expect to achieve the same grades as those students who do possess them.
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