

INTRODUCTION TO NURSING

(Core Course in Nursing)

(2 Units)

As an introductory course only it will provide for a grounding in the study of nursing. It will consider such themes, issues, methods and problems as are thought to be both basic and common to general nursing activities. It should provide a basis upon which subsequent knowledge and experience can be built according to students' individual requirements.

Some of the themes will be covered perfunctorily only and will be complemented by the fortnightly sociology seminar as applied to nursing (Mondays 12.00-1.00), to be developed in more depth throughout the subsequent four years of study.

There will be discussions on the nature of nursing as a field of academic study, of its relationship to health and illness and to practices in the clinical field.

Traditional nursing training followed medicine's lead by concerning itself essentially with diseases and their symptoms; this course will explore a re-orientation of nursing towards a functional model of optimal health in relation to individuals and populations. While the implications of this re-orientation may produce contradictions between what is understood at theoretical level and what is practised, the explanatory nature of the course should help students to locate themselves and to integrate new knowledge into existing structures when and where opportunities present themselves.

Venue of Course: Wednesday morning sessions at Fraser Lodge for part of the first term and all of the second term. Wednesday afternoon sessions at Middlesex Hospital School of Nursing (Elizabeth Meerabeau and Cynthia Clamp) and Thursday and Friday practice on the wards.

First term work will provide for oral and written experience.

Two written assignments: to be handed in by the end of term.

- (1) Collect scrap book over a period of five weeks (1/11/82-4/12/82), collecting three articles per week from newspapers commenting on issues of health and ill-health. Accompany this collection with a paper of about 500-1000 words commenting on the articles and on the issues that they raise, and indicating the nature of the trend.

(Grades will be apportioned according to the variety of newspapers used and substance of arguments. The daily reading of a quality newspaper is essential for a course in Nursing.)

(2) Compare and contrast the following books:

Nightingale, F.	Notes on Nursing
Bally, M.	Nursing and Social Change
Bullough, U.B.	The Care of the Sick
Armstrong, E.C.	Nursing: In Sickness or in Health.

Oral Experience:

Themes:

Each student is expected to contribute.

December 8th:

1st Session:

My experiences on the wards - their effect and meaning.

2nd Session:

Discussion on newspaper assignments.

What does the assignment say to nurses?

How does it change perceptions.

3rd Session:

Discussion on changes having taken place in Nursing.

Discuss the implication of the books read.

4th Session:

Preparation for second term.

Marion Ferguson
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