Academic Unit: School of Nursing

Course Prefix: NUR 714

Course Title: Health and Vulnerable Populations

Term Offered: Fall

Credit Hours/Contact Hours: 3 credit hours/45 contact hours

Course Prerequisites: Admission to the DNP Program, NUR 700

Mode of Instruction: In-person Lecture

Course Description: The social and political factors that lead to health disparities in vulnerable and underserved populations in the US and globally are examined. A critical analysis of multiple risk factors and the combined effect on health status provides an understanding of the needs of the vulnerable. Epidemiological concepts and methods are introduced to analyze population data and identify effective measures for prevention and control of disease. Current and future innovative approaches to improving health care delivery systems are discussed.

Course Purpose: As a DNP student you will examine and evaluate the sociodemographic patterns, epidemiological evidence, and major policies that jeopardize the health equity of vulnerable populations across the life span. You will become increasingly confident to assume the role as a collaborative change agent to promote social justice as an advocate and to assume political action. You will gain confidence to analyze and interpret population focused epidemiology. Topics of interest in the coursework include disaster planning and recovery, childhood ecology, families at risk, adults and older adults with chronic health conditions. The content includes a variety of local to global perspectives on social responsibility, racial and ethnic disparities, community and social determinants of health.
Student Learning Outcomes: The successful student will be prepared to:

Clinical Practice and Prevention (DNP Essentials I, VIII)

1. Analyze epidemiological data to develop primary, secondary and tertiary interventions for prevention & control of disease.

2. Partner with community leaders in disaster preparedness to reduce risks in special populations.

Communication (DNP Essentials I, II, III, IV, VI)

3. Communicate research evidence to guide collaborative, interprofessional practice in caring for the vulnerable populations.

Critical Reasoning (DNP Essentials I, III, VII)

4. Synthesize relevant health data, methods of data collection and rates of events to assess the severity of health problems.

Leadership (DNP Essentials II, V)

5. Disseminate research based evidence to advance health promotion and health protection in vulnerable populations.

Professionalism, Professional Values (DNP Essentials II, VIII)

6. Examine the role of the DNP in promoting social justice and ethical practice.

Global Health (DNP Essentials I, III, VII)

7. Analyze social, political and physical determinants affecting health disparities in global communities.

Course Structure/Approach
Bb Learn platform is used for the delivery of assignments, asynchronous online discussions, and exploration of selected issues. The health of vulnerable populations is examined through application of epidemiological concepts, discussions and a scholarly paper. The scholarly paper/presentation will be included in the portfolio requirements for the DNP.

The following instructional methods are used to achieve learning outcomes: Text and electronic readings; discussion forum; written assignments; Web based activities; multimedia resources; collegial collaboration
Textbook and Materials

Required:

Access to internet sources: CDC Principles in Epidemiology; Columbia University National Center for Disaster Preparedness, University of Washington Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (hyperlinks in course)

Recommended Materials

Topical Outline:
Indicates Outcome

• Models of care for vulnerable populations
• Social determinants of health
• Health care access/coverage
• Quality of care for vulnerable populations
• Risk factors (individual, community)
• Addressing race/ethnicity as disparities
• Approaches to eliminate health disparities
• Policy evaluation for vulnerable populations
• Community initiatives (local and global) to resolve health inequities
• Political action to address social justice (local and global)
• Disaster preparedness for vulnerable populations
• Evaluating and summarizing epidemiologic evidence into practice
• Disseminating evidence to advance approaches to resolve disparities
• Developing a professional ethic to promote social justice

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

I. Discussion Boards 30%

II. Epidemiology Portfolio/3 parts 30%
a) Web based epidemiology courses
b) Population case studies reviews
c) Disaster preparedness reviews

III. Scholarly Paper/Professional Presentation 30%

IV. Collaboration 10%
Total 100%

Letter grades will be assigned following the standard School of Nursing scale:
Grading Scale:

A  93-100%
B  84-92% (a grade of “B” or above is a passing grade in this course)
C  75-83%
F  < 75%

A grade of 84% or better is required to pass a DNP graduate course. If a student earns less than 84% in a DNP graduate course, the student must repeat the course. Therefore, a graduate course with a C or less must be repeated.

Students are also required to earn a score of 84% or better on the scholarly project or paper in each DNP course, which will be submitted in the portfolio for partial fulfillment of the graduation requirements for the Doctor of Nursing Practice. If a student earns less than 84% on the course scholarly project or paper, the student will not pass the course and the course must be repeated.

Course Policies: There is strict adherence to the NAU Student Handbook and the NAU Graduate Nursing Student Handbook.

1. Each student is accountable and responsible for knowledge and skills obtained in the prerequisite courses.
2. Each student is expected to complete all readings and all assignments.
3. All written work must be submitted in APA 6th edition format and style.
4. Microsoft WORD (.doc or .docx) is the required word processing program for submitting papers and assignments as attachments. Do not use .pdf for your work.
5. Assignments are due as noted in the Course Schedule.
6. Extenuating circumstances (i.e., circumstances beyond the student’s control) resulting in late assignments will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. You must contact the course instructor in advance (via Course Messages) or ASAP in the event of an emergency. Unexcused lateness will result in a 5% per day penalty for late work.
7. It is expected that students conform to and comply with the Northern Arizona University’s Graduate Student Handbook and the SON Graduate Student Handbook.
9. Oral or written material belonging to another author which is not properly documented and which is represented as the student’s own work constitutes plagiarism. Any student who plagiarizes will be given a grade of zero on the paper/assignment. See the APA manual for the format for in-text and end-of-text referencing.

University policies: See the following document for policy statements: http://nau.edu/university-policies/