American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School: Public Service & Health
Course Number: NURS401
Course Name: Caring for Today's Veterans
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 weeks
Prerequisite: None

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Instructor Information

***Instructor*:**
Email:

Course Description (Catalog)

This course will address the veteran culture and the healthcare issues facing today's military veterans. Content will be drawn from the most current evidence-based literature and research related to the health care needs of this population. Special emphasis will be placed on veterans from the conflicts of the last two decades, including traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress syndrome. This course is open to students outside of the nursing major.

Course Scope

The focus of this course is on developing an understanding of the unique health care needs of military veterans, particularly those who have served in combat areas. Nurses and other healthcare team members are in position to assist these service members in utilizing the resources available to them by virtue of their service. This course provides opportunities for students to interact with veterans and learn about veterans' resources in their own communities.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to
1. Investigate the components of the unique veteran culture
2. Analyze the main issues facing today's combat veterans
3. Discuss the history of combat injuries in recent wars and the reasons for improved survival rates
4. Assess the multiple systems in which veterans may seek healthcare
5. Identify veteran service organizations in your local area
6. Explain the symptoms of mild traumatic brain injury and their relationship to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and suicide
7. Describe the primary physical injuries of today's war veterans
8. Evaluate the unique healthcare issues facing women veterans
8. Analyze ways in which veterans have been portrayed in the media
9. Recommend ways in which nurses can be leaders in promoting veterans' health issues

Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Materials

Required Readings
There is no textbook for this course. All course readings are from open-source materials and the World Wide Web, and are linked in the weekly lessons inside the classroom.

Evaluation Procedures

Reading Assignments

This course requires a time management plan and the self-discipline to follow it. You are responsible for managing your time, completing assignments on time, completing the readings, and making inquiries as needed to complete the course effectively. This is an eight-week course, which means the material must be learned in a short period of time. This requires dedication and diligence on the part of each student.

Reading assignments will be graded through evaluation of Forum responses and exams.

Forum Assignments

Introductory Forum

Your introductory Forum is considered by the university to be your official entry into the classroom. You must participate in this Forum by 11:55, Eastern Time on Sunday of the first week of class. Your initial response must be a minimum of 250 words. Read below for more information about other Forum assignments in this course.

Weekly Forums

The interaction that takes place within the Forum is an essential component of this course. Each week, you will be required to interact in asynchronous mode with your fellow students. Each week's Forum contains a question that is relevant to the content for the week. The questions posed in the Forum will encourage you to think more deeply about the weekly lesson content. Your initial posting each week should be between 100-250 words. Your responses to your classmates should be meaningful and contribute to the overall growth of knowledge about the topic under discussion. The rubric by which each Forum posting will be graded is in the "Getting Started" Lesson within the classroom.

For your Forum assignment each week you will be responsible for the following:

1) Research and respond to the question that is posted. Your post should be substantive and relevant to the question that is posed.
2) Respond to at least two of your classmates. If the class size is small, this required number may be changed at the discretion of your instructor. Your responses to your classmates(s) constitute a significant portion of your Forum grade, so be sure that they are meaningful responses that contribute to the overall quality of the weekly discussion and encourage "out of the box" thinking.. Just saying "I agree…." is not acceptable.
3) If you cite any resources in the course of preparing your response, you need to reference them at the end of your post, just as you would in a paper.

4) Since the discussion is asynchronous, you are not required to be online at a specific time with either the professor or your classmates. However, as you can see, it will be difficult for your classmates to respond in a timely manner above if you do not post your initial response early. Therefore, with the exception of Week 1, the initial posting in each week's Forum is due by 11:55 PM ET Wednesday of that week. The Forum rubric includes point deductions for late submission of both your initial post and your responses. If you have questions or need additional guidance, you should email me at the college email address and I will get back to you with an answer.

Remember that all times in this classroom are Eastern Time (Daylight or Standard, as applicable)

Reflection Forum
The Reflection Forum will serve as the reflective journaling component of this course. In this Forum, I will post a question, or possibly a presentation, during the weeks that are indicated in your syllabus. As with the other Weekly Forums, you should try to post your initial response to the question by Friday and make comments on each other's' posts. In the Reflection Forum, you will be graded for your attendance and participation, not on the content of your discussion. This is different than in the classroom Forum, which does have a rubric for content quality. Because the chat room is intended for reflection and thoughtful sharing, I want all of you to feel free to share openly without concern about getting a grade for what you write.

Homework Assignments
You will have several assignments in this course that involve research or visiting sites outside of the classroom. These assignments are explained in detail in the Assignments section of the classroom.

Exams/Quizzes
There are no exams or quizzes in this course

Research paper
You will have a research paper to prepare and submit for this course. Instructions for this paper are in the Assignments section of the classroom. The paper is due at the end of Week 7.

You will need to submit your papers through Turnitin.com, which is an anti-plagiarism website. Instructions for accessing this website are given at the end of the syllabus.

Grading of papers will be graded using the APUS undergraduate assessment rubric, available in the classroom.

Grading scale

Grade Instruments	Percentage

Introductory Forum	**2%**
Forum submissions	**17%**
Reflection Forums	**10%**
Assignments (exclusive of research paper)	**35%**
Research paper	**35%**
End of course survey	**1%**
Total	**100%**

8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the Student Handbook to reference the University's grading scale.

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Readings	Assignment
1 Feb. 4-10, 2013	Who are today's veterans?	1.Summarize the demographic composition of the U.S. veteran population. 2.Explain the veteran culture and its impact on how veterans seek healthcare services	As listed in the Week 1 Lesson	Introductory Forum Week 1 Forums Interview a veteran
2 Feb. 11-17, 2013	History of combat injuries	1.Identify historical combat-related injury patterns. 2. Explain the physiological effects of toxic chemicals to which combat veterans have been exposed in conflicts.	As listed in the Week 2 Lesson	Week 2 Forum
3 Feb. 18-24, 2013	Traumatic brain injury and PTSD	1.Explain the physiologic reasons for the	As listed in the Week 3 Lesson	Week 3 Forum

		increase in traumatic brain injury during recent conflicts 2.Evaluate the effects of traumatic brain injury on patients and their families 3.Discuss the relationship between PTSD and suicide in the veteran population		Week 3 Reflection Forum Visit a veteran support service center
4 **Feb. 25-Mar. 3, 2013**	Women in the military	1.Discuss the historical roles of women in the military 2.Analyze the significance of nursing's historical role in military conflicts 3.Evaluate the unique healthcare issues facing today's female veterans.	As listed in the Week 4 Lesson	Week 4 Forum Interview a military/veteran nurse or another female veteran
5 **Mar. 4-10, 2013**	Veterans' health care Public health implications	1.Describe the venues at which today's veterans seek health care. 2.Discuss healthcare services available through the VA healthcare system. 3.Evaluate the long-term personal and public health effects of the increased survival rates of recent wars.	As listed in the Week 5 Lesson	Week 5 Forum Research your local VA hospital

6 **Mar. 11-17, 2013**	Resources for veterans	1.Evaluate veterans' resources available in your home community 2.Describe federal resources available to veterans 3.Examine legislative efforts and laws that support veteran needs	As listed in the Week 6 Lesson	Week 6 Forum
7 **Mar. 18-25, 2013**	Veterans in the media	1.Evaluate the historical portrayal of veterans in the film industry 2. Share your impressions with your classmates		Week 7 Forum View movie(s) about veterans Research paper due
8 **Mar. 25-31, 2013**	Supporting our veterans	1.Evaluate resources that are available to promote veteran health 2. Identify ways that nurses and other healthcare providers can promote the health of veterans 3.Consider how healthcare providers can help returning combat veterans and their families in the transition to home	As listed in the Week 8 Lesson	Week 8 Forum Week 8 Reflection Forum End of course survey

Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

Drop/Withdrawal Policy
Plagiarism Policy
Extension Process and Policy
Disability Accommodations

Writing Expectations
Describe your writing expectations.

Citation and Reference Style
Attention Please: Students will follow the _____ as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the _____.

Late Assignments
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette
Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may

not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and <u>especially</u> satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

<u>Disclaimer Statement</u>

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to **librarian@apus.edu**.

- *Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:* The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- *Electronic Books:* You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- *Electronic Journals:* The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- *Tutor.com*: AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course (http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)
The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

Turnitin.com

You are required to submit assignments to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. Typically the course professor will establish a Turnitin.com access code for his/her classes. If the code has not been established, those who wish to use Turnitin.com may ask their professor to establish the code. Please see Turnitin .com instructions and course 'code' below:

Turnitin Student Instructions
There are two (2) parts to the Student Instructions. Please be sure to complete both parts.

PART 1 - Set up your user profile

Step 1   Go to www.turnitin.com
           Click "create user profile" located up at the top right corner
           Select "Student" as your user type and click "next"

Step 2   Enter in the following account information provided by your instructor
           Class name: NURS401 Winter I 13
           Class ID: 5957741
           Class enrollment password: checkup
           click "next"

Step 3   Enter in your student email address

Step 4   Enter in a password - Your password is case sensitive (for example, paSS123 would be different than pass123), must be 6-12 characters long, and contain at least one letter and one number (for added security).

Step 5   Enter in Your First Name, Your Last name, Country of Residence, and State of

Residence. Click "Next"

Step 6   Click "I agree - create profile"

Your user profile is now complete. You will not have to go through this process again.

PART 2 - Upload an assignment to your class

Now view your class and submit assignments

Step 1   Click "return to login page"

Step 2   Enter your email address and password for your personal profile. Click "Login"

You are now viewing your homepage. This lists all of your classes (each having a unique ID)

Step 3   Click the desired class to view the assignments

Step 4   Click the Submit icon to upload your assignment

Step 5   Make sure the "file upload" option is selected. DO NOT CUT AND PASTE YOUR PAPER

Step 6   Your first and last name should be entered for you. Enter the title of the paper or assignment as directed by the instructor.

Step 7   Browse and select the document you wish to submit. Click "Submit"

Step 8   Click "yes, submit" to confirm submission

Step 9   You will receive a digital receipt with a paper ID number for your records

Step 10   Click the "class portfolio" button on the top menu bar. You will see your paper listed along with the submission date.

Selected Bibliography