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Semester effective:

Upper Division General Education (UDGE) 3010 Critical Thinking for Health Professionals (3 Units)

Prerequisites: Admission to the Dental Hygiene Completion Program

Hours and Units Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 Outside of class hours. (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description: Application of research methods and statistical techniques to the critical evaluation of current scientific literature. Evidence-based decision making and development of critical thinking skills will be discussed.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Textbook:

Alfaro-LeFevre, Rosalinda. *Critical Thinking, Clinical Reasoning, and Clinical Judgment: A Practical Approach*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., Elsevier, 2019.

Additional Required Materials: American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Membership

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Differentiate between critical thinking, critical reasoning, and clinical judgement.
2. Appraise principles of emotional intelligence and factors influencing critical thinking ability
3. Synthesize scope of practice, diagnosis and clinical decision-making
4. Justify the decision-making process on evidence-based practice
5. Draw valid conclusions using critical reasoning knowledge and skill

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I           What are Critical Thinking, Clinical Reasoning, and Clinical Judgment?
- A. Critical Thinking: Not Simply Being Critical
  - B. What's the Difference between Thinking and Critical Thinking?
  - C. Critical Thinking: Some Different Descriptions
    - a. A Synonym: Reasoning
    - b. Common Critical Thinking Descriptions
  - D. Critical Thinking, Clinical Reasoning, and Clinical Judgment
  - E. Problem-Focused Versus Outcome-Focused Thinking
  - F. What about Common Sense?
  - G. What Do Critical Thinkers Look Like?
- Unit II           Critical Thinking and Learning Cultures

- A. Five key strategies
- B. Applying principles of emotional intelligence
- C. Communication Strategies
- D. Factors influencing Critical thinking ability
- E. Focusing on Outcomes

Unit III Clinical Reasoning, Decision Making, and Judgment

- A. Principles of Clinical Reasoning
- B. Decision-making and Standards and Protocols
- C. Scope of Practice, Diagnosis and Decision-making
- D. Paying Attention to Context
- E. Unfolding Dynamic Reasoning
- F. Strategies for developing Clinical Judgment

Unit IV Ethical Reasoning, Professionalism, Evidence-Based Practice, and Quality Improvement

- A. Moral and Ethical Reasoning
- B. Research
- C. Evidence-Based Practice
- D. Quality Improvement

Unit V Practicing Clinical Reasoning, Clinical Judgment, and Decision-making Skills

- A. Clinical Reasoning Skills
- B. Assessing Systematically and Comprehensively
- C. Checking Accuracy and Reliability
- D. Drawing Valid Conclusions
- E. Managing Risk Factors
- F. Setting Priorities
- G. Determining Patient Centered Outcomes
- H. Evaluating and Correcting Thinking (Self-Regulating)

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class

The students in the class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Read from relevant textbooks, peer-reviewed journals, and current periodicals, approximately 50-100 pages per week
2. Conduct a literature search on a clinical problem and write a report on your findings.
3. Final assignment/term project: work with a small group to prepare and present a presentation on a clinical health concern.

Methods of Instruction

1. Lecture presentation, online discussions and case study analysis
2. Presentations of major projects followed by discussion and evaluation.

**Methods of Evaluation**

1. Written Critical Evaluation of a current scientific research.
2. Literature Search based on research problem.
3. Exams (multiple choice, short answer, essay questions).
4. Problem solving exercises.
5. Oral presentation on research.
6. Small group work

**Supplemental Data:**

TOP Code:	4999.00: Other Disciplinary Studies
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Not Applicable
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	I: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	NO
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	NO
Taft College General Education:	NONE

Discipline:	Health or Interdisciplinary Studies, Dental Technology
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