

***NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE  
DIVISION OF ALLIED HEALTH***

**SYLLABUS**

***ALTH 101: Introduction to Allied Health  
FALL, 2003***

*Instructor: Sue Hill Crowley, MS, RN*

**Course Description:** ALTH 101 provides an overview of traditional health care delivery systems and current social, economic, and political influences. It introduces students to health occupation role expectations and addresses consumer health needs, trends, and issues. This course is a pre-requisite for students planning to apply for NIC's Pharmacy Technology Program, and may transfer to another institution to meet requirements for an introductory course in the health careers field.

**A. Prerequisites:** None

**B. Credit Hours:** 1 credit (15 contact hours)

**C. Required Text:** (Previous editions of text are acceptable)  
Stanfield, P.S. (2002). Introduction to the Health Professions (any ed.). Jones & Barlett: Sudberry, Massachusetts.

**D. Course Outcomes & Measurement:**

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe how the scientific process & critical thinking apply to working effectively in the health professions.
  - a. Attendance & participation
  - b. Career paper
  - c. Midterm & final exam
2. Describe your potential health career within the context of the overall health care system structure—its past, present, future.
  - a. Attendance & participation
  - b. Career paper
  - c. Midterm & final exam
3. Identify the general skills requirements and characteristics of effective health care workers.
  - a. Attendance & participation
  - b. Career paper
  - c. Midterm & final exam

**E. Course Objectives & Topic Outline**

1. Define what the terms scientific process & critical thinking mean.
2. Differentiate fact from opinion in selected readings.
3. Describe the active learning process as it applies to reading health related literature.
4. Describe the historical evolution of perspectives on human health & illness.
  - a. Devils to dimensions of wellness
  - b. Evaluate personal health risk factors & lifestyle behaviors

5. Describe U.S. health care delivery system structures and the contributions each makes to the health of the community
  - a. Identify six levels of health care service
  - b. Continuum of Care: Primary, secondary, tertiary prevention
  - c. Medical model of diagnosis/problem solving
  - d. Private & governmental agencies
  - e. Formal and informal organizational structures
  - f. Local & regional examples of health care agencies
6. Identify the impact of social, political, & technical developments on the health care system of today and tomorrow.
  - a. Social:
    - a) Aging population—drug costs; increased service needs; long term care; the Living Will, advanced directives, durable power of attorney
    - b) Access to health care—the uninsured & underinsured (1) Ethical decisions re: limits to service use
    - c) Consumer movement—self determination
    - d) Complimentary health care practices
    - e) Ethical issues: right to life—right to die—right to choose
  - b. Political:
    - a) Cost containment efforts
    - b) Epidemiological concerns
    - c) In the wake of 9/11
    - d) Privatization vs. Governmental universal health care coverage—is health care a right or privilege?
    - e) Citizen pressures re: Medicare & social security
  - c. Technical:
    - a) Success & effectiveness
    - b) Ethical decision-making
    - c) Specialization
    - d) Cost
    - e) Fragmentation
  - d. Economics
    - a) Private Insurance
    - b) Governmental insurance
    - c) Managed care
7. Analyze national standards for Health Care Workers
  - a. Communication skills
    - a) Cultural competence
    - b) Empathy
    - c) Active listening
    - d) Clarity & flexibility
    - e) Congruence
    - f) Objectivity

- b. Teamwork abilities
  - a) Cooperation
  - b) Assertive communication skills
  - c) Conflict management
  - d) Employability skills
- c. Legal & Ethical Responsibilities
  - a) Scope of practice
  - b) Confidentiality
  - c) Patients' Bill of Rights
  - d) Documentation
  - e) Boundaries

F. **Evaluation Criteria (see guidelines for each of the following):**

Class Attendance & Participation.....	15 %
Career Paper .....	30 %
Take Home Exam.....	20 %
Final Exam.....	35 %
<b>Total percentage points.....</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**Grading Scale:**

Students must maintain a minimum grade of "C-" (2.0) in each Human Services course in order to progress in their program. The faculty of Human Services program has adopted the following grading scale:

<b><u>Letter</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b>	<b><u>Grade Point</u></b>
A	93-100%	4.0
A-	90-92%	3.7
B+	88-89%	3.3
B	83-87%	3.0
B-	80-82%	2.7
C+	78-79%	2.3
C	75-77%	2.0
C-	70-74%	1.7
D+	68-69%	1.3
D	63-67%	1.0
D-	60-62%	.7
F	59-0%	.0

**Rounding of Grades:**

During the semester grades will not be rounded to the next highest number. Scores will be recorded to two decimal places. Final grades will be rounded utilizing the tenth column only. For example 75.5 becomes 75.

### **Attendance & Participation:**

Attendance is expected in all classes. You are beginning preparation for a career where dependability, reliability, motivation, and a positive, caring attitude are expected as basic ethical/professional behaviors. Students attending all classes will receive 3 bonus percentage points. Students will lose one percentage point for one absence; three percentage points for two absences; six percentage points for 3 absences; etc. Role will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students coming in late have the responsibility of making sure they are marked present on the attendance sheet. Chronic lateness will be a factor in obtaining points for attendance & participation.

This class is scheduled to meet for 12 sessions. On time completion of two take-home assignments will count towards additional participation at 1 ½ point each.

### **Paper Guidelines:**

Students will complete a three-page paper (double spaced; typed or computer generated) describing a health career of interest to them. At least two written references must be used (Internet sources are fine--include Internet address and date accessed). Interview or job shadowing experiences may be used to enhance the information obtained from written references if you choose (e.g. local salary, qualifications, etc.). ***In addition, describe briefly (1/2 page) one additional health career identified in your textbook.*** This paper will be graded on a 100-point scale based on the following:

Content, including the following subheadings--70 points; 10 points for each:

1. Nature of the work
2. Working conditions
3. Employment opportunities
4. Qualifications
5. Earnings
6. Personal Response: What tasks/aspects of the career sound satisfying or dissatisfying? Why? What personal characteristics do you have that would support your success in this health career? What concerns do you have about your ability to function well in this type of role?
7. Reference List (on separate page, using consistent format)

Style/written presentation--30 points

Grammar/spelling/punctuation

Neatness/legibility

### **Take Home Exam:**

Class notes, text, and additional references may be used to complete this assignment. Check schedule for due date.

**Final Exam:** Comprehensive. Complete test review scheduled the week before.

**General comments about assignments:**

All assignments are due as scheduled. Late papers will result in a 10 % loss of points and will not be accepted after one week. Please double check paper guidelines and make sure you have covered all requirements. Please see the instructor for any needed clarification prior to due date.

**Disability Statement:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NIC provided services and accommodations to students who experience barriers in the educational setting due to learning, emotional, physical, mobility, visual or hearing disabilities. For more information please contact Sharon Daniels-Bullock in the Disability Support Services Office in the Colleges Skills Center, Kildow 101. Telephone: 769-7794.

**G. Class Schedule (subject to change)**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC SCHEDULE</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	
1	8/25	Intro/Syllabus Overview Scientific Process/Critical Thinking	Purchase Text Review Syllabus	
2	9/1	Historical Perspectives & Future Perspectives: Healthy People 2010	Due: Chapter 1	For Next week: Read Wellness Handout
3	9/8	Personal risk factors & lifestyle behaviors	<b>Due: Wellness Written Assignment</b>	
4	9/15		<b>N/A</b>	
5	9/22	Overview of Health Care System	Stanfield: Ch. 2	
6	9/29	Impact of Social/Political/Technical Dev.	Due: Chapter 4; 5	
7	10/6	Economics of Health Care	Due: Chapter 3	For Next Week: Team Player Style Assessment
8	10/13	Standards for Health Care Workers Team Roles & Functions	<b>Due: Team Player Style Analysis</b>	For Next Week: <b>Take Home Exam</b>
9	10/20	Correct Midterm exam at beginning of class; Characteristics of Effective Health Care Providers; Health Career Planning	<b>Due: Take Home exam—to be corrected in class</b> Chapter 6	
10	10/27	National Standards for Health Care Workers	<b>N/A</b>	
11	11/3	Legal & Ethical Issues	Hand out: National Health Care Skill Standards	
12	11/10	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
13	11/17	Discussion: National Health Care Skill Standards	Bring handout	
14		Review for Final Exam	<b>BE THERE!</b>	
15		Final Exam & Course Evaluation		