

## Master Syllabus

### 1. Course Information

**College:** College of Nursing and Health  
**Department:** Nursing  
**Course Title:** The Languages of Health Data  
**Course Designation and Number:** HLT 203  
**GE Area(s):** (Lists all area(s) that apply.)

VI: College Component

Writing Intensive:  Yes  No

For WI Courses:  All sections  Selected Sections are WI.

**Method(s) of Instruction:**  Lecture  
 Discussion  
 Web-enhanced  
 Web-only  
 Other (Explain below.)  
Multimedia presentations

Includes Lab:  Yes  No

**Prerequisites:** None

### 2. Objectives

#### **GE Program Objectives:**

- Sharpen critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills;
- Learn about the aesthetic, ethical, moral, social, and cultural dimensions of human experience needed for participation in the human community;
- Increase knowledge and understanding of the past, of the world in which we live, and of how both past and present have an impact on the future.

#### **GE Area VI Objectives:**

- Link general education more closely with study in the major, thereby making more apparent the applicability and transferability of general competencies to specialized study.

#### **Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:**

This course introduces students to the mathematical, social, political, financial, and cultural influences on communication regarding health. Students will be guided in their examination of social and cultural influences on health communication. They will identify legal mandates regarding communication about health such as benchmarking and HIPPA regulations. The importance of standardized languages used in health care for the purposes of data collection and analysis will be covered. Ethical concerns regarding communication about health data including confidentiality, privileged communication, informed consent will be explored. Students will learn to calculate health related data such as morbidity and mortality rates, dosages, portions, target heart rates, etc. They will learn to interpret health statistics and research data. They will examine messages and outcomes of media communications about health.

Upon completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Interpret health statistics for decision-making purposes.
2. Demonstrate calculations required for making decisions about health care.
3. Identify abbreviations and symbols used to communicate in health care
4. Analyze data regarding health information.
5. Compare financial approaches to managing health care.
6. Demonstrate effective communications to relevant health care professionals
7. Describe the standardized languages used in health care for reimbursement purposes.
8. Identify resources for communicating about health with people of other cultures and languages.
9. Discuss political, legal and ethical considerations about communication regarding health.

### **For WI Courses: WAC Objectives**

This is a writing intensive section of a general education course. The purposes of the WI components are:

- To improve students' writing proficiency—their ability to develop ideas and transmit information for an appropriate audience in an organized, coherent fashion while writing with appropriate style and correct grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling.
- To encourage students to use writing as a learning tool to explore and structure ideas, to articulate thoughts and questions, and to discover what they know and do not know, thereby empowering students to use writing as a tool of discovery, self-discipline, and thought.
- To demonstrate for students the ways in which writing is integral to all disciplines, essential to the learning and conveying of knowledge in all fields.

This WI section includes writing assignments totaling approximately 1500 words which will be evaluated for content, form, style, correctness, and overall writing proficiency and give students the opportunity for revision and improvement. Assignments may take many forms and include a mix of formal writing (e.g., a number of short papers evaluated in both draft and final form, a long assignment broken into smaller parts, thus allowing for multiple drafts, feedback, and revisions,) and informal writing (e.g., journals, logs, short responses to lectures, essay examinations).

The specific WI assignments for this course will be identified by faculty teaching the course and may include in-class writing assignments analyzing data, web-board discussions of health “languages” and a formal paper on the impact of HIPPA on data collection and management for health care.

### **3. Suggested Course Materials**

National Institute of Medicine

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthstatistics.html>

Barbara Hazard Munro PhD (2002). Statistical Methods for Health Care

Bert Spilker PhD, MD (1994). Medical Dictionary in Six Languages. Philadelphia: Lippincott.

USDHHS (2000). Health People 2010 National Health Goals. Available online at [www.healthypeople.gov](http://www.healthypeople.gov)

United States Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Science Panel on Interactive Communication and Health (1999). Wired for health and well-being: the emergence of interactive health communication. Thomas R. Eng and David H. Gustafson, Editors. Washington, D.C.: Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

USDHHS (2001). Making Health Communication Programs Work. National Cancer Institute, NIH Publication # 02-5145. Washington, DC.

### **4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation**

Faculty will choose from the following: quizzes, examinations, papers, presentations, class attendance, class participation, and special assignments.

### **5. Grading Policy**

All GE courses are graded A-F.

WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory.

### **6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments**

Week 1: Standardized languages in health care

Week 2: Reimbursement formulas

Week 3: Health data collection, Morbidity and mortality rates  
Week 4: Calculating readability for health materials  
Week 5: The media and health care: Messages and outcomes  
Week 6: Analyzing quality of web-based health data  
Week 7: Communicating health information, Communicating with health care professionals  
Week 8: Social and cultural influences on health communication  
Week 9: Legal mandates regarding communication about health (Benchmarking)  
Week 10: Ethical concerns regarding communication about health data (Confidentiality, privileged communication, and consent)

Typical assignments include the following:

Calculations for dosages, portions, weight management, target heart rates, BMI

Complete NIH PubMed tutorial at

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/pubmed\\_tutorial/m1001.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/pubmed_tutorial/m1001.html)

Graph health data using national standards

Calculate health care costs and insurance benefits

Interpret health statistics and research data

Determine frequencies and incidences of major health problems related to health

## **7. Other**

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- Instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance policy