

**PTEC 156**  
**Psychiatric Technician Program Napa Valley College**  
**Mental Illness Semester Syllabus, subject to change as necessary**

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(or by other arrangement)

**Class Schedule:** Monday-Wednesday: 0630-1300 clinical;  
Tue 1430-1630, Thur. 0700-1100 lecture

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### **Course Description: understanding Mental Health**

- This is the third course in a series of a three semester program designed to prepare the student for eligibility for licensure as a Psychiatric Technician. The course covers the role of the Psych Tech in mental health settings and includes psychopharmacology; management of assaultive behavior; client's rights; the psychosocial and psychophysiology of mental illness; axis 1, axis 2 types of disorders; group therapy; crisis interventions; substance abuse; domestic violence and leadership/supervision skills.
  - Approach to the Material: through therapeutic support and patient's rights, it is our responsibility as health care providers to ensure that people with mental health needs receive individualized care and rehabilitation.
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### **Student Learning Outcomes - By the conclusion of the course you will be able to:**

1. Accurately perform and document basic nursing skills, basic physical and mental assessments and interventions while prioritizing patient care.
  2. Student will ethically advocate for patients with mental illness and developmental disabilities in all settings, assuring patient's rights, privacy, dignity and confidentiality.
  3. Student will develop leadership and supervision skills and identify need for crisis intervention using the least restrictive measures.
  4. Able to effectively participate in a therapeutic environment and communicate in a professional and respectful manner.
  5. Be prepared to pass the state board exam for licensure as a psychiatric technician.
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## **Course Design** - Each lesson for this course has:

- An introduction
  - Lecture section with power point handout
  - Discussion or group work requirements that may include brief classroom presentations and group work
  - Exams; which may include matching; multiple choice; essay or fill in the blank questions
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## **Materials:**

- Textbooks: Varcarolis' Foundations of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing 8th edition
  - Other Readings: supplemental readings will be specific to lesson plan
  - Syllabus: PTEC 156 available on the web site
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## **What successful students should expect to do in this course:**

### **Responsibilities:**

- Successful students show up for class and clinical on time and ready to participate.
- Successful students have hands-on involvement with clients at their clinical assignments.
- **Successful students read the assigned textbook chapter before the information is presented in class.**
- Also, please **turn off all beepers, cell phones, and watch alarms** that make noise before coming into class; they are a serious distraction in college classes and cannot be tolerated unless they are used to enhance learning.
- Successful students conduct themselves in a professional manner because college is a professional environment; it's just like a job.
- **Be familiar with the clinical performance evaluation on pages 6 and 7 in your student handbook.** Here lie the criteria for which you will be graded in the clinical areas. Make a note of which areas may be difficult or "project" areas: specific skills for you to focus and improve on for this semester.
- **See the above link for NVC's student code of conduct**  
[http://www.napavalley.edu/StudentServices/SRR/Documents/Standards\\_of\\_Student\\_Conduct\\_Policy\\_6310.pdf](http://www.napavalley.edu/StudentServices/SRR/Documents/Standards_of_Student_Conduct_Policy_6310.pdf)
- Thoroughly read over the course objectives and assignment sheet located on the web site for clarification of all work required for completion of the semester and attendance requirements .

- **The college attendance policy is: “Regular attendance in all classes is important for satisfactory academic progress. The Napa Valley College attendance regulations make provisions for a limited number of unavoidable absences, however, a student who is absent for as many times as a class meets each week will have exhausted this provision. An instructor may request verification of those absences. Further absences may cause the instructor to drop the student from the class. Students who do not attend the first class meeting may be dropped or lose priority on the waiting list.”**
  - Per the BVNPT students missing any theory hours must make-up those hours. This may be accomplished with written assignments that cover the material they missed in class. We use the 1000 words for every hour of lecture missed. For clinical, students are only allowed to miss one clinical day (6 hours) per rotation. ALL clinical hours must be made up in the clinical area prior to the end of that rotation and by arrangement of the program director. Absences over 6 hours in a single rotation will result in a clinical grade of F and the student will need to withdraw.
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### **Planning Time:**

- Successful students, those that get A's, B's, and C's, use their time wisely. The standard formula for college coursework is that every one hour of class time will result in two to three hours of homework and study, so a three unit class will do an average of six or more hours of homework (reading, research, studying) per week. As a result, successful students plan their time wisely so that they keep up with assignments. They also meet with the instructor during office hours so that they can get much needed feedback on their work.
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### **Discrimination Policy**

- **All students are treated with dignity and respect in accordance with NVC's Human Resources policies as stated in the link below:**  
<http://www.napavalley.edu/HR/Pages/Policies.aspx>
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### **Plagiarism:**

- Successful students always make sure that their work is original. This is important because the instructor must be able to gauge what the student has learned. Therefore, copying the work of another person, whether an essay, term paper or answers during a test, is considered plagiarism.
  - Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Any time a student uses someone else's work and does not give that person credit, it is plagiarism. Anyone who plagiarizes will receive an “F” on the assignment. If this is repeated, the student will fail the course and can be expelled from the college. If you are "suspected" of plagiarism, you will bear the burden of proof. You must be able to present rough drafts or related materials and discuss the topic intelligently.
  - **See the below link for NVC's academic honesty policy**  
<http://www.napavalley.edu/StudentServices/SRR/Pages/AcademicHonesty.aspx>
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## Special Needs:

- If you have a **physical or learning disability** that may impact your ability to carry out assigned course work, I urge you to contact the staff in the DSPS Center or call 256-7220 to review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Student health services are available for free for those students with **psychiatric emotional or medical needs** at the NVC health clinic in room 2250 @ 256-7780..
- **See link below for NVC's Academic Accommodation's Policy**  
<http://www.napavalley.edu/StudentServices/DSPS/Pages/NVCAcademicAccommodationsPolicy.aspx>

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**Grading:** This course is graded on the following scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 82- 89%

C = 75- 81%

D = must have a 75% average to continue in program

**Students are required to achieve & maintain a grade of 75% or higher on any pharmacology exams or quizzes and 100% on an oral exam before any medications or treatments are administered.** Failure to receive a 75% on a pop drug quiz will result in the medication experience being suspended until a passing grade is achieved on a make-up exam. Students must administer medications on 80% of available clinical opportunities. A student who fails to achieve this 80% experience will not have met the critical objective for this semester and will receive an Unsatisfactory Evaluation. Furthermore, students must maintain a 75% total GPA (grade point average) by mid-term in order to remain in the clinical area. Failure to achieve at least a 75% GPA will result in the student being removed from the clinical experience until they are able to achieve at least a 75% GPA. If however, the student misses more than 18 hours of clinical the student may not be able to meet clinical objectives and may have to drop the course.

- Grades will be based on the following percentages:  
All exams, papers and homework assignments are given a certain equal number of points. The total grade for the semester is based on your point total divided by the total number of possible points.

### **What you can expect when you submit papers or projects for grading:**

- I make every effort to return papers and projects within one week; grades will be posted within 72 hours. Occasionally, other professional obligations make this impossible. I will advise you of this when the work is submitted and let you know when you can anticipate return.

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**Questions about course content**, related issues, grading, study habits, and so forth are welcome. Every reasonable effort will be made to **assist in a student's success**, especially **when that need is clearly communicated**.