NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
NUR 201 – PSYCHIATRIC NURSING (4 CR.)

Course Description

Focuses on the care of individuals/families requiring clinical treatment. Uses all components of
the nursing process with increasing degrees of skill. Includes math computational skills and basic
computer instruction related to the delivery of nursing care, alterations in behavior, eating
disorders, mood disorders, anxiety, chemical dependency and dementias. Provides supervised
learning experiences in college nursing laboratories and/or cooperating agencies. Lecture 2 hours
per week, Laboratory 8 hours per week. Total 10 hours per week (4 Credits).

General Course Purpose

This course prepares students to apply the nursing process to the care of clients with psychiatric
problems. This course covers Psychiatric Nursing content under the framework of Maslow’s
Hierarchy of Needs which focuses on physiological and psychological integrity. All students will
take a comprehensive final examination at the end of the course.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Pre-requisites: Eng 111, NAS 161, NAS 162, SDV Elective, HLT 141, PSY 201, NUR111 or
NUR 115

Co-requisites: NUR 150, NUR 180, PSY 202, HLT 250

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Utilize the nursing process, critical thinking strategies and Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs to
   manage the care of psychiatric clients and their families.

2. Analyze etiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, and treatment of major
   behavioral/psychiatric disorders.

3. Assess the psychiatric clients’ and their family’s ability to manage safe and effective care in
   the home and community.

4. Communicate effectively with culturally diverse clients with mental health issues.

5. Utilize the teaching/learning process in providing safe and effective nursing care for the
   psychiatric client across the life cycle.
6. Utilize quantitative reasoning and accepted standards for safe administration of medication for the psychiatric client.

7. Provide nursing care that promotes and supports the emotional, mental, spiritual and social well-being of the psychiatric client and family.

8. Use information and technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error, and support decision making in the psychiatric setting.

9. Integrate evidence based practice with clinical decision making/critical thinking and patient/family preferences and values for delivery of optimal health care in the psychiatric setting.

10. Analyze legal & ethical issues including neglect and abuse in psychiatric nursing.

11. Provide nursing care for the psychiatric client in a manner consistent with accepted legal and ethical principles for registered nurses.

12. Plan/participate in community mental health education programs. (Is this Done?)

**Major Topics to be Included**

1. Introduction to psychiatric nursing,
2. Overviews of behavior and psychosis
3. Mood disorders
4. Anxiety disorders
5. Personality disorders/substance abuse
6. Mental health across the life cycle
7. Legal/Ethical Issues, including Abuse