

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO  
OFFICE OF EXTENDED STUDIES (1-800-232-1749)  
COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

**NURS 320-932 Basic EKG Interpretation  
Revised Spring 2012  
Adjunct Professor – Linda Sullivan**

**SEMESTER HOURS:** 2

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to the basic concepts of EKG and arrhythmia recognition. Letter graded.

**PREREQUISITES:** BIO 341, BIO 350.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Walraven, G. (2011). Basic Arrhythmias. Seventh Edition. Upper Saddle River, N.J. Pearson Education, Inc. **ISBN-13: 978-0-13-500238-4, ISBN-10: 0-13-500238-9**

Huff, J. (2012). EKG Workout: Exercises in Arrhythmias Interpretation. Sixth Edition. Philadelphia, PA. Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins. **ISBN-13: 978-1-4511-1553-6, ISBN-10: 1-4511-1553-9**

These books may be purchased from any textbook supplier.

**OTHER COURSE MATERIALS:** You will need a set of calipers which can be purchased from your local uniform shop or office supply store. A calculator would be helpful but not required.

**COURSE GOALS:** Upon completion of this course, you will be able to accurately identify the major landmarks in an EKG strip. Students should not expect to be able to diagnose all EKG strips. Your diligent effort and frequent practice will help to fine tune this clinical skill for your nursing practice.

**OBJECTIVES:** You will be able to:

1. Interpret those arrhythmias categorized as basic including the sinus rhythm, atrial ectopics, junctional ectopics, and ventricular ectopics.
2. Recognize appropriate interventions for each of the basic arrhythmias.
3. Describe and evaluate the nursing methods for a client with continuous cardiac monitoring.
4. Accurately measure and compute atrial and ventricular rates within + or - 5 beats per minute.
5. Accurately measure all intervals and waves within + or - 0.04 seconds.
6. Identify an underlying rhythm and any ectopics in the rhythm strip.
7. Accurately describe a regular rhythm even if the ectopics are irregular since the ectopics interrupt the regularity of the rhythm.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

1. Functional Anatomy of the Heart	7. Junctional Rhythms
2. EKG Tracing	8. AV Blocks

3. Leads	9. Ventricular Arrhythmias
4. Monitoring EKGs	10. Pacemakers
5. Sinus Rhythms	11. Myocardial Infarctions
6. Atrial Rhythms	12. EKG Changes

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** There are 12 lessons to complete. There will be a reading assignment, set of key terms, and complete set of study questions. These assignments are not submitted for grading. At the end of Lessons 7 and 12, you will need to submit your practice time on a log. You are expected to spend at least 10 hours total practicing in the Huff book. Record the date and the time spent, describe the activity, and evaluate your progress. A sample of the log format is located in the assignment section. You will submit this log to me as described in the Assignment Tab. I will grade it and then send it back to you with comments.

There are 2 tests to complete. You are required to complete two proctored exams. The first exam will be a midterm covering lessons 1-7; the second exam will be your final test covering all lessons 1-12. The exams are supervised and timed. There are 40 multiple choice questions over the content. Then there are 60 questions pertaining to EKG strips. You may bring a calculator to your exams. You will be allowed two hours to complete each exam. Consult the exam request form under the Exam Information Tab for information on finding an appropriate proctor and securing you exams.

#### **EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

**Each log (2) will be worth 100 points.**

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 or less

**Each exam (2) will count 400 points.**

A = 360-400

B = 320-359

C = 280-319

D = 240-279

F = 239 or less

**Course letter grades will be assigned as follows:**

A = 900-1000

B = 800-899

C = 700-799

D = 600-699

F = 599 or less

#### **Library Services for Distance Education and Off-Campus Students: Obtaining Materials from UNC Libraries**

Off-campus students residing within 50 miles of the UNC campus are required to come to the library and borrow materials in person. Students residing more than 50 miles from campus may request that materials be delivered to them. All requests must include complete citations. We will supply materials from the UNC Libraries, as well as materials from other libraries obtained via Interlibrary Loan. Articles will be delivered via email. Books will be mailed first class. Delivery time by U.S. postal service is

approximately 1 week. It is the responsibility of the student to return books by the date due. UNC does not pay return postage on books. For information on document delivery, call (970) 351-1446.

Requests for materials may be made through the following methods:

Online: <http://www.unco.edu/library/forms/distancerequest.htm>

By email: [library.ocp@unco.edu](mailto:library.ocp@unco.edu)

By fax: (970) 351-2540

### **Student Satisfaction Evaluation**

Participants will be asked to evaluate the course for instructors' knowledge, interest and enthusiasm as well as providing additional information on classes or topics which you would like to see developed as a future offering from UNC.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

### **Honor Code**

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

### **UNC's Policies**

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html>

### **Withdrawal Information:**

If you decide to drop this course, we can process a 90% tuition credit refund IF you notify the Office of Extended Studies (not the Registrar and Records) **within 36 days of the date of your registration in that course and if you have not already submitted any coursework for grading**. Your request may be mailed, e-mailed or faxed, you can come into our office, or you may call us (1-800-232-1749), and complete a Drop/Withdrawal Request Form. The credit will be applied to your UNC account if you currently have a balance due. If you have no balance due, then you will be issued a refund. If you request withdrawal from the course after the end of the 36-day drop period, or if you have already submitted course work for grading, an account credit or refund will not be processed. UNC students may NOT use financial aid dollars to pay for independent study tuition.