

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL**  
**School of Health and Environment**  
**Approved Elective Course Descriptions for Registered Nursing Students 2007**

**Approved Sociology Courses - Choose one**

[48.225 Sociology of Disability](#) Credits: 3

This course is organized around several key questions that will be used to help engage students in the study of the concept of disability from a variety of sociological and interdisciplinary perspectives. Specifically, the course will explore representations of disability in popular culture and medical discourses to discuss disability as a social construct. By looking at various literary and cultural representations of disability, this course will also investigate the construction of the disabled body, how this becomes politicized, and the implications of these constructions. By analyzing books, movies, television, cartoons, and the internet, we will look at how disability is represented in these "texts" and the possible influences on perceptions and definitions of disability. The class will also explore how people with disabilities might think of themselves in light of these representations. Question which we will explore include: What is a disability? How do sociologists and others study the concept of disability? How do we come to know what we know? What is the role of gender, race, class, sexuality, and age in our daily lived experiences and how do these things relate to the construction of the disabled body? What is the relationship between various issues surrounding disability and social policy?

[48.234 The Study of Minorities](#) Credits: 3

Examines the process of immigration and majority-minority relations in the United States over the last century with particular emphasis on the process of adaptation in a pluralistic society. The treatment of minority groups in other societies is examined as well.

[48.240 Introduction to Gender Studies](#) Credits: 3

This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to the field of gender studies. A variety of topics are presented, such as gender stratification, work and family, sexual identities, media representations of women and men, women's movement, and violence against women. Feminist theories and methods are also introduced.

[48.350 Social Service](#) Credits: 3

An examination of the structure of social welfare services in America. Attention is directed at the functions that welfare and mental health institutions serve in American society; the attitudes and values that surround these institutions; and the role of the social worker within them.

**Approved Psychology Courses - Choose one**

[47.209 Social Psychology](#) Credits: 3

Presents an introduction to the study of social behavior in interpersonal relationships, groups, organizations, and the community: Diversity in regard to groups of peoples, cultures, and views is emphasized. Topics include non-verbal communication, social attraction, attitudes and attitude change, group dynamics, prejudice, labeling, stereotyping, interpersonal influence, and applications to social problems. Pre-Req/Co-Req: 47.101 General Psychology

[47.272 Abnormal Psychology](#) Credits: 3

Presents an introduction to the study of various patterns of mental, behavioral, and personality disorders with consideration of issues of diagnosis, etiology, and treatment in terms of contemporary theory, research, and practice.

[47.345 Health Psychology](#) Credits: 3

An examination of psychological aspects of human health, both physical and mental, and the processes of adjustment and growth. Consideration is given to the interplay of health and illness with emphasis on psychological methods of overcoming and preventing illness and of enhancing physical and emotional well-being.

[47.351 Human Sexuality](#) Credits: 3

Addresses the biological, psychosocial, and attitudinal aspects of human sexuality through lectures, discussions, films from a variety of perspectives.

**Approved Nutrition Courses – Choose one**

[36.481 Clinical Nutrition](#) Credits: 3 Principles of normal nutrition and physiology applied to clinical problems; altered nutrient requirements in human disease Prerequisite: 36.371 and 35.206 Human Nutrition – Discuss RN status with faculty

[36.372 Obesity & Weight Control](#) Credits: 3

Etiology, pathophysiology, and treatments of obesity, anorexia nervosa, and bulimia are reviewed. Role of hereditary, neurological, metabolic, and environmental mechanisms are discussed. Particular emphasis on obesity.

### **Approved Technology/Informatics Courses - Choose one**

[31.203 Comp Technology in Health Care](#) Credits: 3

A lecture-hands-on course designed to help students better understand the role of computers and technology in the health care arena. Using PC based software e.g., word processing, databases, spreadsheets, presentation graphic software, and Internet based technologies students will explore how these applications can be applied to health care, and their relationship to the technologies currently used in different areas of health. Discussions of what the future may hold for health care technology will also be included. Hands-on assignments will help students become more proficient with PC based software. *Health Education Majors only, or permission for other SHE students.*

[32.531 Health Informatics](#) Credits: 3

Introduces the student to how health science (theory and practice), computer science (hardware) and information science (software) are integrated in the management of health care data into information and knowledge. Overview of current and future technologies for the management of health care information will be presented. Comparisons of how different health care facilities manage information will be discussed. *Prerequisite Ability to use a computer and application software.*