

4-23-1999

# Cultural Care Theory: Creative Interpretation & Application

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## Recommended Citation

Michele Bowels, Jessie Richardson, Jane McClellan, Kate Mason, Terri Farr, and Tyra Watson (1999). *Cultural Care Theory: Creative Interpretation & Application*.

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## CULTURAL CARE THEORY: CREATIVE INTERPRETATION & APPLICATION

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Research conducted in nursing in recent decades supports the significance of culture when caring for clients. Madeline Leininger's Cultural Care Theory is studied in the first required nursing course in the baccalaureate nursing program. This scholarly project is a combination of projects from two small student groups. Students researched the literature, interpreted the theory, applied the theoretical concepts to a variety of practice scenarios, and presented the creative interpretation in the classroom. The two groups, one from fall 1997 and one from fall 1998, collaborated during spring 1999 to combine the skits that apply all the major concepts in Cultural Care Theory to three different cultures. Student actors operationalized adult learning principles such as: building on prior learning, collaborating with peers, wise use of time, and active participation in learning activities relevant to nursing practice. Multiple opportunities were available in the Community Health Nursing course to apply this learning to the clinical setting. Several students in our groups have also completed the Transcultural Nursing course, a nursing elective in the baccalaureate program. Continued study will progress into the summer months as the group works with faculty and the resources of the Learning Resource Center and media technologies to create a refined videotape that will be used by all group members and faculty as a teaching aide.