Course Prefix and Number: STEC 111  
Credit Hours: 3

Course Title: Clinical Specialties

Clock Hours: 45 hours lecture

Time Increments: semester

Textbook: Fuller, Joanna K.; Surgical Technology Principles and Practice, 7th edition

Course Description:
This course continues from STEC 102 by building on previous learning and providing the student with additional technical knowledge and skills utilized by surgical technologists.

Methods of Teaching: Lecture, discussions, textbooks, handouts, audio-visual, computer programs (Live-OR, Websurg), and hands-on demonstration

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the student will

A. identify and respond to potential environmental hazards in the operating room and implement safety precautions;
B. correctly and safely identify, transport, transfer, and position surgery patients of all ages with special considerations for the potential for bodily injury;
C. recognize, select, prepare and assist with the use of the various types of sutures and other wound closure devices;
D. integrate knowledge of pharmacology to safely use medications, as appropriate to the role of the surgical technologist; and
E. interpret finding from various laboratory and radiographic test.

To achieve the learning outcomes, the student will

1. describe toxic substances in smoke plumes. (A)
2. identify safe use of the smoke evacuator. (A)
3. recognize international hazard communication signs. (A)
4. differentiate between latex allergy and non-allergic dermatitis. (A)
5. describe the symptoms of true latex allergy. (A)
6. identify necessary precautions to prevent latex reaction in allergic patients (A)
7. discuss fuels and sources of ignition commonly found in the OR. (A)
8. identify methods associated with preventing fires in the OR. (A)
9. describe how to respond appropriately to a patient fire. (A)
10. describe how to respond appropriately to a structural fire. (A)
11. identify the practice of standard precautions. (A)
12. identify the practice for transmission-based precautions. (A)
13. describe proper body mechanics for lifting, pulling, and pushing objects. (A,B)
14. discuss various techniques to prevent sharps injuries. (A)
15. describe measures to safely store, transport, and use compressed gas cylinders. (A)
16. identify methods to properly handle and dispose of hazardous waste in the OR. (A)
17. identify precautions to prevent exposure to ionizing radiation. (A,B)
18. identify precautions to prevent patient burns resulting from electrical equipment. (A)
19. describe methods to avoid chemical injury. (A)
20. analyze a chemical label. (A)
21. identify how to incorporate safe body mechanics into patient transport, transfer, and positioning. (B)
22. describe the responsibilities of the surgical tech in patient transport and transfer. (B)
23. use the correct procedure to identify a patient. (B)
24. demonstrate how to assist a patient from a bed to a wheelchair. (B)
25. identify how to ease a patient to the ground in the event of a fall. (B)
26. identify the steps to transport a patient by stretcher safely. (B)
27. demonstrate the transfer of a patient from a bed to a stretcher. (B)
28. identify the proper transport for a pediatric patient. (B)
29. demonstrate the transfer of a patient from a stretcher to the OR table. (B)
30. describe the use of common operating table accessories. (B)
31. demonstrate the transfer of a semiconscious patient from the OR table to a stretcher. (B)
32. describe the consequences of nerve and blood vessel compression. (B)
33. describe the principles of safe positioning. (B)
34. identify methods to prevent shearing injury. (B)
35. describe the stages of decubitus ulcers and how to prevent them. (B)
36. participate in commonly used methods of patient positioning. (B)
37. describe compartment syndrome and how to prevent it. (A,B)
38. describe how to do the following when positioning a patient. (A,B)
   - prevent brachial plexus injury
   - prevent ulnar nerve and cubital tunnel injury
   - prevent injury to the face, ear, and eye during positioning
   - prevent injury to the breasts and genitalia in prone position
   - turn a patient from supine to prone position
39. recognize suture properties and materials by observing and handling suture. (C)
40. identify sutures by package labeling, and select proper sutures. (C)
41. distinguish between inert suture materials and those that cause inflammation. (C)
42. identify and anticipate the need for specific sutures during a procedure. (C)
43. demonstrate proper preparation of sutures for use. (C)
44. properly pass suture-needle combinations. (C)
45. identify the need to maintain sutures on the sterile field in an orderly manner. (C)
46. identify safety precautions to prevent needle-stick injuries during suture use. (C)
47. identify basic needle types and their applications. (C)
48. distinguish between absorbable and non-absorbable sutures. (C)
49. distinguish among different suture sizes. (C)
50. recognize commonly used stapling devices. (C)
51. identify the uses of fibrin glue. (C)
52. discuss the difference between therapeutic and toxic or lethal doses, using correct terminology. (D)
53. correctly identify the parts of a drug label. (D)
54. explain the “six rights” of drug handling. (D)
55. describe the correct method for receiving and passing drugs to and from the sterile field. (D)
56. describe the categories of drugs used intraoperatively. (D)
57. identify the parts of a syringe and explain the importance of syringe safety features. (D)
58. identify basic laboratory test and their indications. (E)
59. identify basic radiographic tests and their indications. (E)
60. identify the components of a complete blood cell count. (E)
61. recognize normal and abnormal values on a complete blood cell count. (E)
62. describe the normal electrocardiogram recording. (E)
63. describe proper precautions associated with radiation studies. (E)
64. participate in hands-on practice with sutures, needles, syringes, dressings, tubes drainage systems, medication, and the dressing of various surgical sites. (A,C,D)
65. utilize various methods to move patients from stretcher to OR table and back. (A,B)

Course Requirements: To earn a grade of “C” or higher the student must earn 75% of the total points for the course and meet all of the following course requirements.

- minimum score of 75% on each test
- each first test grade is the scored grade
- demonstrate acceptable techniques of patient transport, transfer, and positioning
- demonstrate correct handling of suture and wound closure devices

Outcome Assessment Methods: Written Exams and Skills Evaluations for Transporting, Transferring, Positioning, and suture techniques.

Course Grading Scale:

A- 90% or more of total possible points and demonstrated techniques of patient transport, transfer, positioning and correct handling of suture and wound closure devices
B- 80% or more of total possible points and demonstrated techniques of patient transport, transfer, positioning and correct handling of suture and wound closure devices
C- 70% or more of total possible points and demonstrated techniques of patient transport, transfer, positioning and correct handling of suture and wound closure devices.

D- 60% or more of total possible points and demonstrated techniques of patient transport, transfer, positioning and correct handling of suture and wound closure devices.

F- less than 60% of total possible points or failure to demonstrate techniques of patient transport, transfer, positioning and correct handling of suture or wound closure devices.

**Attendance Policy:** The college attendance policy, which is available at [http://www.bpcc.edu/catalog/current/academicpolicies.html](http://www.bpcc.edu/catalog/current/academicpolicies.html), allows that “more restrictive attendance requirements may apply to some specialized classes such as laboratory, activity, and clinical courses because of the nature of those courses.” The attendance policy of the Surgical Technology program is described in the Surgical Technology Clinical Handbook.

**Nondiscrimination Statement**

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**Title VI, Section 504, and ADA Coordinator**

Sarah Culpepper, Coordinator
Disability Services, D-112
6220 East Texas Street
Bossier City, LA 71111
Phone: 318-678-6539
Email: sculpepper@bpcc.edu
Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, excluding holidays and weekends.

**Equity/Compliance Coordinator**

Teri Bashara, Director of Human Resources
Human Resources Office, A-105
6220 East Texas Street
Bossier City, LA 71111
Phone: 318-678-6056
Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, excluding holidays and weekends.

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Title VI, Section 504, and ADA Coordinator
Sarah Culpepper, Manager
Career Services, F-246
6220 East Texas Street
Bossier City, LA 71111
Phone: 318-678-6539
Email: sculpepper@bpcc.edu
Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, excluding holidays and weekends.

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Course Content Outline:

Chapter 7: Environmental Hazards

I. Risk and Safety
   A. Safety Standards and Recommendations

II. Risks Related to Medical Devices and Energy Sources
   A. Compressed Gas Cylinders
   B. Electricity
   C. Ionizing Radiation
   D. Magnetic Resonance Imaging

III. Chemical Risks
   A. Toxic Chemicals
   B. Smoke Plume

IV. Biological Risks
   A. Disease Transmission in the Perioperative Environment
   B. Sharps Injury
   C. Human Factor
   D. Postexposure Prophylaxis
   E. Transmission-Based Precautions
   F. Hazardous Waste
   G. Latex Allergy

V. Musculoskeletal Risks
   A. Causes of Musculoskeletal Injury
B. Injury Prevention in the Environment

Chapter 18: Moving, Handling, and Positioning the Surgical Patient

I. Transporting and Transferring the Patient
   A. Body Mechanics
   B. Principles of Safe Patient Transport and Transfer
   C. Patient Identification
   D. Assisting the Ambulatory Patient
   E. Assisting the Inpatient
   F. Transporting Pediatric Patients

II. Positioning the Surgical Patient
   A. Rationale
   B. Duties of the Surgical Technologist
   C. General Operating Table
   D. Patient Injuries and Positioning
   E. Normal Range of Motion
   F. Other Injuries and Accidents
   G. Conditions that Increase the Risk of Injury
   H. Surgical Positions

Chapter 21: Management of the Surgical Wound

I. Hemostasis
   A. Process of Coagulation
   B. Hemostatic Drugs and Agents
   C. Autotransfusion
   D. Thermal and High-Frequency Coagulation
   E. Pneumatic Tourniquet

II. Sutures
   A. Studying and Learning Suture Use
   B. Regulation of Sutures
   C. Structure and Properties of Suture
   D. Natural Absorbable Suture
   E. Synthetic Absorbable Polymers
   F. Absorbable Biopolymer Suture
   G. Nonabsorbable Suture
   H. Surgical Needles
   I. Suture, Storage, Packaging, and Dispensing
   J. Suturing Techniques
   K. Suture Handling Techniques
   L. Surgical Stapling and Ligating Devices
   M. Synthetic Tissue Adhesives

III. Tissue Implants
   A. Important Terms
   B. Grafts
C. Synthetic Implants

IV. Wound Drainage and Dressings
   A. Wound Drainage
   B. Dressings
   C. Simple and Composite Dressings

V. Wound Healing and Complications
   A. Classification of Wounds
   B. Process of Wound Healing
   C. Phases of Healing
   D. Conditions that Affect Wound Healing
   E. Wound Complications

Chapter 22: Minimally Invasive Endoscopic and Robotic-Assisted Surgery

I. Minimally Invasive Surgery
   A. Principles of Minimally Invasive Surgery
   B. Advantages of Minimally Invasive Surgery
   C. Potential Disadvantages of minimally Invasive Surgery
   D. Risks Associated with Minimally Invasive Surgery
   E. Surgical specialties
   F. Common Features
   G. Preoperative Preparation of the Patient
   H. Minimally Invasive Surgery Imaging System
   I. Operating Instruments Used in Minimally Invasive Surgery
   J. Techniques Used in Minimally Invasive
   K. Tissue Expansion at the Surgical Site
   L. Hemostasis
   M. Risks Associated with Electrosurgery
   N. Specimen Retrieval
   O. Endoscopic Setup
   P. Flexible Endoscopy
   Q. Reprocessing Endoscopes and Instruments

II. Robotic Surgery
   A. Principles of Robotic Surgery
   B. Robotic Movement
   C. Classification of Robots
   D. da Vinci Surgical System
   E. Advantages and Disadvantages of Robotic Surgery
   F. Training for Robotics
   G. Surgical specialties and robotics
   H. Components of the Robotic System: Structure and Purpose
   I. da Vinci Instruments
   J. Surgeon’s Console
   K. Vision System
   L. Setup and Sequence for Robotic Surgery
   M. Special Roles of the Surgical Team
Chapter 12: Perioperative Pharmacology

I. Origin of Medicines

II. Drug Information Resources

III. Drug Standards and Regulations
   A. Approval and Safety
   B. Quality
   C. Control and Classification
   D. Pregnancy Categories

IV. Drug Handling and State Practice Acts
   A. Definition of Practice
   B. Responsibility and Delegation

V. Identification of Drugs
   A. Nomenclature

VI. Drug Administration Routes

VI. Drug Action
   A. Pharmacokinetics
   B. Pharmacodynamics
   C. Adverse Reactions to Drugs

VII. Medication Process
   A. Preventing Drug Errors: The Five Rights
   B. Drug Procurement: Prescription and Selection

VIII. Drug Packaging
   A. Glass Vial
   B. Glass Ampule
   C. Collapsible Plastic Bag
   D. Rigid Plastic Container
   E. Glass Bottle or Jar
   F. Peel Pouch

IX. Quality Assurance
   A. Reading a Drug Label

X. Drug Measurement

XI. Delivery Devices
   A. Syringe
   B. Needles
   C. Irrigation Devices

XII. Delivering Drugs to the Sterile Field
   A. Recommended Protocol to Prevent Drug Errors
   B. Glass Vial
   C. Glass Ampule
   D. Drug Reconstitution
   E. Irrigation Fluids
   F. Dry Materials

XIII. Managing Drugs on the Sterile Field
   A. Labeling
XIV. Selected Drugs Used during Surgery and Interventional Radiology
   A. Iodinated and Opaque contrast Media
   B. Hemostatics
   C. Anticoagulants
   D. Antibacterials
   E. Diagnostic Dyes or Substances
   F. Tissue Stains

XV. Common Medications used in Patient Care
   A. Intravenous Fluids
   B. Blood and Blood Product
   C. Systemic Antimicrobials
   D. Antibacterials
   E. Antifungals
   F. Systemic Anticoagulants
   G. Diuretics
   H. Gastric Medications
   I. Drugs used During Labor
   J. Autonomic Nervous System Agents
   K. Cardiac Drugs
   L. Endocrine Drugs
   M. Reproductive System Drugs
   N. Antineoplastic Drugs
   O. Alternative Healing Therapies

Chapter 6: Diagnostic and Assessment Procedures

I. Vital Signs
   A. Temperature
   B. Measuring the Pulse
   C. Respiration
   D. Blood Pressure

II. Electrocardiography
   A. Radiology
   B. Standard Radiography
   C. Contrast Radiography
   D. Fluoroscopy
   E. Mobile C-Arm
   F. Computed Tomography
   G. Magnetic Resonance Imaging
   H. Positron Emission Tomography
   I. Ultrasound

III. Blood Tests
   A. Complete Blood Count
   B. Metabolic Panel
C. Coagulation Tests
D. Arterial Blood Gases
E. ABO Groups
F. Electrolytes

IV. Urinalysis
V. Microbiological Studies
VI. Pathological Examination of Tissue
   A. Tissue Biopsy

VII. Cancer Terms and Concepts
   A. Definitions
   B. Comparison of Malignant and Benign Tumors
   C. Effects of Malignancy on the Body
   D. Diagnostic Methods

VIII. Nuclear Medicine
   A. Radiation Therapy
   B. Cancer Prevention and Screening

Chapter 13: Anesthesia and Physiological Monitoring

I. Important Anesthesia Concepts

II. Anesthesia Principles and Personnel
   A. Physiology of the Central Nervous System
   B. Anesthesia Personnel

III. Anesthesia Evaluation and Preoperative Care
   A. Preoperative Evaluation
   B. Preoperative Preparation of the Patient

IV. Physiological Monitoring During Surgery
   A. Purpose and Rationale
   B. Monitoring Process

V. Methods of Anesthesia
   A. General Anesthesia
   B. Airway Management
   C. Phases of General Anesthesia
   D. Dissociative Anesthesia
   E. Conscious Sedation
   F. Drugs Used in General Anesthesia and Conscious Sedation
   G. Regional Anesthesia
   H. Types of Regional Anesthesia

VI. Physiological Emergencies
   A. Regional Drug Toxicity and Allergic Response
   B. Cardiopulmonary Arrest
   C. Laryngospasm
   D. Anaphylaxis
   E. Shock
   F. Malignant Hyperthermia
   G. Hemorrhage
H. Hemolytic Reaction
I. Deep Vein Thrombosis

Reviewed by: A. Smith, August 2017