This third edition of a two-time AJN Book of the Year Award winner contains two new theories, including self-reliance theory and transitions theory.

It revises and updates all other content, and provides ladders of abstraction for each theory to guide students in their appropriate use. This highly accessible book integrates nursing theory with well-defined practice areas, identifies purpose and basic concepts, foundational literature, relationships among concepts, and use in practice. Chapters are organized by central theories, each of which is covered in depth. Comprehensive bibliographies at the end of each chapter facilitate more in-depth research. The book remains an essential text for theory and research courses in master's and doctoral nursing programs.

New to the third edition:
- Presents two new theories: self-reliance theory and transitions theory
- Deletes two theories no longer in use: community empowerment and family stress/adaptation
- Updates and revises all other content from the second edition
- Guides students in appropriate use of theory per level of complexity