Critical Issues in Professional Nursing  
Winter Term I, NRS 410 - 3 Credit Hours  
Doan College – Lincoln Campus

Course Specifics:  
This course will explore critical issues, both enduring and pressing contemporary issues impacting the practice of nursing. Students will expand their knowledge of current and emerging issues that affect nursing practice. Students will develop an awareness of the need for flexibility and preparation to adapt to a changing society, technological and scientific innovations. This class will provide a forum for discussion related to important issues that nurses face across the health care continuum.

Course Objectives  
Identify critical issues that may impact the practice of nursing.  
Critically evaluate the issues related to nursing and health care.  
Develop strategies for personal application to your nursing practice and nursing process  
Evaluate your professional responsibilities in relationship to the issues and determine what you will change in your professional practice.  
Develop an understanding of the complexity of the healthcare system by exploring, discussing as well as writing papers regarding critical issues in the nursing profession. Critical thinking skills will be further developed as each critical issue is explored.

Class Meeting Times
Wednesday: 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Adjunct Professor  
Kay Kiechel-White BA, MAA, RN  
kay.kiechelwhite@doane.edu

Resources: Nursing journal articles, health care journals, articles and web sites, newspapers, video’s, interviews, books, nursing professional organizations, nursing and health care professionals, health care organizations and DVD’s.

Course Format
This course will be conducted using the following methods:  
Interactive group discussion: Purpose to engage in meaningful dialogue for each critical issue as relates to health care, your work place and your personal professional work. The discussions will enhance critical thinking and communication skills. Your sharing of your ideas and your insightful questions will further knowledge of self and of the other students. You will bring 2 articles/resources per each topic per weekly assignments. You will bring out in discussion “what you learned” by sharing your interpretation, analysis and insight regarding each topic. A class participation rubric is provided.
Write 4 short (3-5 pages) application papers regarding a critical issue: Purpose is to further develop critical thinking regarding enduring professional nursing issues and pressing contemporary issues that impact nursing practice in general, in each student’s work place as well as their own professional practice. The writing process furthers critical thinking development. An application paper hand-out and a paper rubric will be provided to guide your writing process.

Class preparation, attendance and participation are essential to the learning process and enhancing critical thinking abilities as well as verbal and written communication skills.

Assessment and Class Policies

Students will be able to obtain 200 points as follows:
- 80 points Class participation, each class 10 points.
- 80 points Class preparation, each class 10 points.
- 40 points Application papers and reference documents in APA format.

Students will be excused if email, phone call or text message is received prior to class. If no message it will be unexcused. Assignments must be emailed or left at the Doane College front desk the day of class or as arrangements made with the instructor. Ten points will be deducted for each unexcused absence and if a third class is missed even though excused. Points will not be deducted for first 2 excused missed classes. Ten points will be deducted for late application papers.

Doane College Academic Integrity Policy

The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.

Grading scale

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<td>93-96%</td>
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Course Schedule

WEEK 1, October 23, 2013: Orientation, hand-outs, resources for application papers and course topics for student choice to be determined.

TOPIC for Week 1: Medical Technology: Impact on health care/nursing/patient/family (ex.: new procedures, new cutting edge treatments, new delivery methods, robots providing care, etc.-NOT social media)

**ASSIGNMENT:** Bring two articles to class related to the topic. Be prepared to discuss “what you learned” and how it effects or not your practice. You will write 2
statements on each article of what you learned and how it applies to your practice. The articles will be handed in to the instructor at the end of class. **

Week 2, October 30\(^{th}\), 2013:
Student Choice: #1 #2

Faculty Choice: Recruitment/Retention/lateral/vertical violence: Your role and responsibility

Week 3, November 6\(^{th}\), 2013
Application paper: Delegation

Student Choice Article:

Week 4: November 13\(^{th}\), 2013
Application Paper Student Choice:

Faculty Choice: Evidence Base Practice

Week 5: November 20\(^{th}\), 2013
Application Paper Topic: Communication: Role, why important: patient/family, colleagues, administration

Faculty Choice: Professional Nursing Organizations: Do we need or not?

Week 6: November 27\(^{th}\), 2013
Application Paper Student Choice:

Faculty Choice: Socialization/Mentoring/Preceptor/ Formal/Informal

Week 7: December 4\(^{th}\), 2013
Application Paper: Self Awareness

Faculty Choice:

Week 8: December 11\(^{th}\), 2013
Student Choice: #1 #2

Faculty Choice: