Doane College

Nursing 420-Legal & Ethical Issues in Nursing

Instructor:
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Required Text:
Nursing in Today’s World, Tenth Edition

Course Description:
All nurses in today’s health care environment are faced with multiple ethical challenges which are related either directly or indirectly to cost-conscious hospitals, managed care payment plans, nursing staffing problems, the looming nursing shortage, and complex medical conditions that affect not just individuals, but whole communities. This course focuses on the legal and ethical rights, responsibilities, and obligations of the practicing nurse in a rapidly changing health care environment. The Nebraska Health and Human Services Accountability for Professional Conduct of Nurses and the American Nurses Association’s Code of Ethics are used as guides to examine implications for legal and ethical decision-making. Students learn the specific responsibilities and obligations they have to those they serve and develop a professional self-definition as a practitioner of the art and science of nursing.

At the end of this course the student will be able to identify and discuss the following course objectives:

Course Objectives:

1. Discuss the various approaches to financing and managing costs in the health care.

2. Explain why it is important for nurses to be knowledgeable about and involved in the political process.

3. Describe the philosophy behind community-based care.

4. Outline a process for establishing an evidence-based nursing practice in an institutional setting or in your own personal practice.
5. Discuss liability in relationship to nursing practice, including situations in which liability is shared by employers or supervisors.

6. Discuss how ethics relate to commitment to the patient, commitment to personal excellence, and commitment to nursing as a profession.

Class Format:

Nursing 420 will be a combination of discussion, class presentations, and interactive discussions. The instructor will introduce subjects, initiate discussions and guide those conversations. Subject matter for discussion will include the topics as listed in the syllabus, in addition to the questions submitted and discussed by the students.

Additional information regarding the class presentations and discussion questions (as listed in the grading criteria) will be provided during the first class meeting.

Expectations:

When questions arise it is important that students use the course instructor as the primary resource of information. If a student experiences confusion or distress, they are expected to contact the course instructor for assistance.

Please feel free to call and/or e-mail me at any time. Phone contact via text message may provide the quickest response to your concern. I am more than willing to assist and I will make every effort to provide you with additional help or explanations at any time, just let me know.

All communication devices should be turned off. Please do not use laptops in class except as a tool that augments the classroom learning experience.

This class is meant to be interesting and engaging. The topic is current and it affects every one of you. I want you to be able to understand the course topics and relate them to your current and future practice.

Because of the seminar nature of this class, attendance is required. Students will gain the most from the class through participation in discussions and student interaction. Every student is expected to participate and should be prepared to discuss the required readings for each class. The instructor reserves the right to call on students specifically to engage them, ask follow-up questions and to push them to think deeper.

Your class participation score will be based on your demonstration of your own learning and your contribution to the learning of others. Positive feedback is instrumental in the learning process. There is no such thing as “a stupid question”. Often a student is reluctant to ask a question, yet that may be a question that is of concern to another student.
Course Requirements:

All reading assignments are to be completed prior to class. Class presentations will be scheduled with the individual student and instructor.

Students are expected to attend all classes prepared and to participate in discussions.

Absences must be reported via test or voice mail to the course instructor prior to the beginning of the class. You can also let me know if you are running late.

Class and discussion topics are subject to change at the discretion of the course instructor.

Any changes will be announced to the students as soon as possible either via email or telephone.

All school policies are to be followed as stated in the student handbook.

All course requirements must be met in order to successfully complete the course.

Grading Criteria:

Class Presentation: Discussion related to one legal/ethical issue of an issue that is pertinent to your nursing specialty or interest = 60 points

Submission of 6 research articles pertinent to your nursing specialty or interest and class discussion of those articles (@5 points each) = 30 points

Interactive Discussion: Prior to each class period, submit via Doane e-mail your view on the assigned chapter/s. = 50 points

Class Participation = 10 points

Ethics Paper = 50 points

Total points possible =200 points

195-200 (+perfect attendance) = A+

190-195 = A

180-189 = B

170-179 = C

160-169 = D

Below 159 = F

A grade of 70% must be attained in order to pass the course

Grades will not be scaled
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

Academic integrity is an essential and necessary component of this program.

This policy requires that you immediately and cheerfully offer the benefit of your knowledge and skills to any fellow student who needs your help. If someone helps you, whether a fellow student, the author of a book/article, a family member, a pastor or priest, a coworker or anyone who has assisted you, then please give them credit. That’s called citing a source. Always show respect for the ideas or words of others by giving them the credit. Failure to show respect will result in an “F”.

IMPORTANT NOTE: New regulations under the Higher Education Act require us to verify the identity of a person doing work in a class if we receive assignments, etc. from that student electronically. We can comply with this regulation if our students submit coursework to teachers electronically from their Doane College e-mail address or through Blackboard, because the college issued that address, ID, and password. For that reason, I can only send assignments to your Doane e-mail address, and I can only accept assignments submitted to me from your Doane e-mail address.
### Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Course: Nursing for the Future</td>
<td>Introductions&lt;br&gt;Review Syllabus and Class discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Health Care Delivery Environment</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Understanding the Health Care Environment and Its Financing</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Political Process in Society and in Nursing Organizations</td>
<td>Chapter 2: The Political Process in Society and in Nursing Organizations&lt;br&gt;Chapter 3: The Nursing Process and the Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Appreciating the Development of Nursing as a Profession: Educational Preparation for Nursing</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Exploring the Growth of Nursing as a Profession&lt;br&gt;Chapter 5: Educational Preparation for Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Career Opportunities and Professional Growth Health Care Credentials</td>
<td>Chapter 15: Making Professional Goals a Reality&lt;br&gt;Chapter 7: Credentials for Health Care Providers</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Legal Responsibility and Accountability for Practice</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Legal Responsibilities for Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Ethical Responsibility and Accountability for Practice</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Ethical Concerns in Nursing Practice&lt;br&gt;Chapter 10: Bioethical Issues in Health Care</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Introduction to Leadership and Management Role Conflict Management</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Initiating the Leadership and Management Role&lt;br&gt;Chapter 14: Leading Change and Managing Change&lt;br&gt;Paper Due</td>
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