Critical Issues in Professional Nursing
Winter Term I, NRS 410-7  3-Credit Hours
Doane College –Grand Island

Course Specifics:
This course will explore critical issues, both enduring, pressing contemporary issues and future challenges impacting the professional practice of nursing. Students will expand their knowledge of current and emerging issues that affect flexibility and preparation to adapt to a changing society, technological and scientific innovations. Throughout this course you will further your understanding and defining of a professional nursing practice and your own philosophy of nursing. This class will provide a forum for discussion and reflection related to important issues that nurses face across the health care continuum.

Course Objectives
Explore, analyze and evaluate critical issues impacting professional nursing practice.
Develop strategies for personal application to your nursing practice and philosophy.
Evaluate your professional responsibilities in relationship to the issues and determine what you will change in your professional practice and how you use the nursing process.
Challenge thought processes to incorporate creativity and innovative methods to problem solve critical issues, application to practice and to the nursing profession.
Enhance cognitive and critical thinking skills as read, discuss and write your ideas concerning critical issues and the profession of nursing.
Broaden your understanding of the practice of nursing leading to the ability to focus, unite and advocate with nursing colleagues for the profession and healthcare.

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

Adjunct Professor:
Kay Kiechel-White BA, MAA, RN
kay.kiechelwhite@doane.edu
Cell phone number will be provided at first class

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

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, of the other students and the nursing profession. You will bring 2 articles/resources per each topic per weekly
assignments. You will have written at a minimum 2 statements/comments per article that will be shared during class. 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) reflection/ application papers regarding assigned critical issues:** Purpose is to further develop critical thinking, enhance cognitive skills and use reflection 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. A reflection/ application paper guideline and a paper rubric will be provided to guide your writing process. The title document and reference document are not included in the 3-5 pages of content.

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:

- 100 points: Class Preparation & Participation
- 100 points: Application papers and reference documents in APA format.

Your grade is the total of points gained and divided by 200. Example: if you received 95/100 points for the class preparation and 90/100 points for the application papers, you would add 95 + 90 = 185 divided by 200 = 92.5 or 93 which is an A.

**Grading scale**

- 97-100 % = A+
- 93-96 % = A
- 89-92 % = B+
- 85-88 % = B
- 81-84 % = C+
- 76-80 % = C
- 70-76 % = D
- Below 70% = F

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.
Course Schedule:

WEEK 1, October 22, 2014: Orientation, hand-outs, rubrics and guidelines will be provided for class participation, articles/comments assignments and reflection/application papers. As a class you will choose from a list of Critical Issues your choices for student choice topics. You will be provided an article about Critical Thinking and Nursing and What is Nursing as foundational articles.

TOPICS for Week 1:
   1. Educated Consumers and Consumer/client/patient expectations (2 articles)

   2. Patient/family centered care in shift from in-patient to out-patient to home care-the changing healthcare environment. (2 articles)

   3. What is Nursing? (Bring 2 articles)

**ASSIGNMENT:** Bring two articles to class related to each of the topics. Be prepared to discuss “what you learned” and how it impacts your professional practice. You will write at a minimum 2 statements/comments for each article on what you learned and how it applies to your practice. The statements are based on your analysis of the article. You will be using “I” statements. The articles and your comments will be given to me at the end of class. **

Week 2, October 29, 2014:

Student Choice: (2 articles)

Faculty Choice: Education Dispute-Entry into Practice: ADN, BSN, MSN, And Dr. of Nursing (2 articles)

Topic:
What is a nursing philosophy? (2 articles)

Week 3, November 5, 2014

**Reflection/Application paper:** Communication, Collaboration, And Civility: Professional Colleagues, Interdisciplinary Colleagues & Patients/families in practice settings and in the community.

**We will discuss the above topic during class**

Week 4: November 12, 2014

Student Choice: (2 articles)

Faculty Choice: Evidence Base Practice, Evidence Base Research, Advances Science Research (2 articles)
Topic: Technology, Innovation, Creativity and Work Redesign (2 articles)

Week 5: November 19, 2014
Reflection/Application Paper: Critical Thinking, Problem solving, Nursing Process, and Asking Why: Critical issues/elements as part of professional nursing practice
We will discuss topic as above.

Week 6: November 26, 2014:
Reflection/Application Paper: Professional Nursing Safety: Care of Self and Care of Nursing Profession.
*****We will not meet this week***

Week 7: December 3, 2014
We will discuss Week 6 Topic: Professional Nursing Safety: Care of Self and Care of Nursing Profession

Student Choice: (2 articles)

Faculty Choice: (2 articles) Self-awareness, resilience, reflection

Week 8: December 10, 2014
Reflection/Application Paper: Personal Nursing Philosophy: Throughout this class we will be discussing the professional practice of nursing and the critical issues nursing experiences. As a practicing nurse, it is important to reflect on your own philosophy. As health care, nursing, communities and our world changes, you will determine what is core to your philosophy and perhaps what changes are needed that reflects your ideas regarding yourself and your practice.

We will discuss this topic and insights gained during this 8 week course.