Nursing 420 - Legal & Ethical Issues in Nursing Practice
Doane Collage - Lincoln Campus
Instructor: Jodi A. Nelson
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Phone: Given on first night of class

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 staff 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 obligation they have to those they serve and develop a professional self-definition as a practitioner of the art and science of nursing.

Credit Hours

3.0 credit hours

Required Texts


Course Objectives

At the completion of Nursing 420, the student will be able to:

1. express an increase of their awareness of the influence of ethics in professional healthcare practice.

2. discuss basic approaches and concepts widely used today in addressing ethical and legal dimensions of professional practice and policy.

3. recognize and cite examples of concrete ethical situations and problems in health professions.

4. gain insight into ethical situations and problems that are unique to their own profession, in contrast to those shared by a wide range of health
professionals.

5. apply a problem-solving method to ethical decision-making.

6. utilize resources useful for in-depth study of professional ethics.

**Learning Strategies**

It is the faculty’s responsibility to provide structure and framework for learning and to give guidance and direction in all learning experiences. Using a variety of teaching strategies (discussion, assigned readings, writing assignments, website resources, class discussions, video clips), the faculty will help the student meet the objectives of the course. **However, learning is the responsibility of the student so active participation is expected.**

**Student Responsibilities for Own Learning**

1. Required assignments should be read (competencies, syllabus readings, and required readings) and MUST be completed weekly.

2. Be prepared to discuss the student competencies for each class and give examples when applicable. You will need to read and have answers for the student competencies to add value to the discussion.

3. Each week you have assignments to complete based on readings. You may need to bring a current event for discussion.

**Assessment of Student Performance**

1. Take Home Questions (2).....................55 points each (110 points total)

2. Class Weekly Assignments (8 classes).......10 points each (70 points total)

   Weekly assignments will be discussed in class as class discussion or as a discussion on Blackboard. You must be present to get credit for in class discussion assignments. Life does continue even though you enroll in a class that requires attendance to earn points for a grade. I recognize this. If you need to miss, I will have an alternative assignment so that you may have the possibility to earn the possible 10 points you missed. I need no explanation as you are adults and have the ability to make choices. This can be used for one in class absence only and not for online discussion assignments missed.

3. Current Event Topic Related to Health Care...10 points each (20 points total)
The following letter grades will be assigned

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**Academic Integrity Policy**

It is important for students to understand the importance of performing with integrity in educational activities. 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.

In other words, 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, a child, a pet, or anyone else, say that they helped you. That’s called citing a source. Always show respect for the ideas or words of others by giving them the credit.

Failure to show necessary respect will result in an F for the assignment and may result in failure of the course.