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, philosophy of nursing and being a leader. 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 using critical thinking for personal application for your nursing practice, philosophy and leadership. Challenge thought processes to incorporate creativity and innovative methods to problem solve critical issues, apply to practice and for the nursing profession. Enhance cognitive and critical thinking skills as read, discuss and write your ideas concerning critical issues impacting profession of nursing. Broaden and cultivate 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 & Location:  Doane Grand Island
Thursday: 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
* First in Class start of this course is June 4th, 2015
* Meet in class: June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25 and July 23-July 23 is last class held for this course.
* Out of class: July 2nd, July 9th, and July 16: Reflection papers will be submitted via email to kay.kiechelwhite@doane.edu

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 1 article/resource per each topic per weekly assignments. You will have written at minimum 1 brief paragraph 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. You will choose a source for each topic that will provide new insights and knowledge regarding the topic. You will include application to your professional practice in verbal discussion as well as written assignments. Assignments may be sent electronically. A class participation rubric & writing assignment guideline is provided.

**Write 4 short (3-4 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 3-4 pages of content. You will use basic APA guidelines.
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: Course begins in class: June 4:

WEEK 1, June 4: 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 foundational articles: Critical Thinking and Nursing and What is Nursing.

TOPICS for Week 1:
1. Educated Consumers-impact to practice (1 article)
2. Patient/family centered care shift from in-patient to out-patient to home care-the changing healthcare environment. (1 article)
3. What is nursing? (Bring 1 article)

**ASSIGNMENT: Bring one article to class related to each of the topics.** Be prepared to discuss “what you learned” and how impacts your professional practice. You will write at minimum 1 brief paragraph for each article of 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, June 11, 2015:

Student Choice: ________________________________ (1 article)

Faculty Choice:
Education Dispute-Entry into Practice: ADN, BSN, MSN, And Dr. of Nursing (1 article)

What is a nursing philosophy? (1 article)
Week 3, June 18, 2015:
**Reflection/Application paper:** Communication, Collaboration, And Civility
*We will discuss the above topic during class*

Week 4: June 25, 2015:
**Student Choice:** ______________________ (1 article)

**Faculty Choice:**
Evidence Base Practice, Evidence Base Research, Advances Science Research (1 article)
Technology, Innovation, Creativity and Work Redesign (1 article)

Week 5: July 2, 2015: **Not in class**
**Reflection/Application Paper:** Submit to educator by email
Critical Thinking, Problem solving, Nursing Process, and Asking Why

Week 6: July 9, 2015: **Not in class**
**Reflection/Application Paper:** Submit to educator by email
Professional Nursing Safety: Care of Self and Care of Nursing Profession.

Week 7: July 16th, 2015: **Not in class**
**Reflection/Application Paper:** Submit to educator by email
Personal Nursing Philosophy: Throughout this course 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.

Week 8, July 23, 2015-Final Class: **Meet in class**

**Faculty Choice:**
(1 article) Self-awareness, resilience, reflection

Discuss Weeks 5, 6 and 7 topics