NRS 410 Critical Issues in Professional Nursing
Autumn Term: August-October, 2016, Three credit hours
Required course for the RN to BSN Program
Doane University Lincoln

Course Specifics:
Build knowledge of current and emerging issues that affect health care delivery and an awareness of the need for the nursing profession's readiness and flexibility to adapt to a changing society and scientific innovations.

Course Objectives
Explore, analyze and evaluate current and emerging issues, such as the social, political, economic and environmental factors that impact professional nursing practice, health care providers, healthcare systems and our world.
Develop and adapt strategies for personal application to your nursing and/or healthcare practice, philosophy leading to flexibility and adaptability to the ever changing health care environment.
Challenge current thought processes to use creativity and innovative ideas and methods to problem solve critical issues.
Enhance cognitive and critical thinking skills as read, discuss and write concerning your perceptions, analysis and ideas concerning current and emerging issues.
Broaden your understanding of issues impacting health care delivery leading to the ability to focus, unite and advocate with multidisciplinary colleagues leading to improving health and wellness in the workplace and community.

Class Meeting Time:
Thursday evenings: 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Doane University Lincoln Campus

Adjunct Professor:
Kay Kiechel-White RN, BA, MAA
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 with participation of each student: Purpose to engage in meaningful dialogue for each critical issue as relates to health care, health care delivery, your work place and 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 and health care profession
Each week you will be assessing yourself, professional practice, workplace environment, health care delivery and the community as well as the impact of social, political, economic and environmental factors at the local, national and global level. You will identify current and potential emerging issues impacting your practice, work colleagues and work place. You will critically think about potential solutions to these identified factors. Each week you will reflect on new knowledge gained, what you are learning and use critical thinking to determine creative solution/applications that you will use to enhance your practice, the workplace, health care delivery and/or community. You will bring out in discussion, new knowledge gained as well as “what you learned” by sharing your interpretation, analysis and insight regarding identified issues. You will include application to your professional practice in verbal discussion as well as written assignments. You will be assessing how you currently think, act and believe and determine based on what you are learning, how you might change how you practice. Assignments may be sent electronically. A class participation rubric & writing assignment guideline is provided.

**Write 1 (3-5 pages minimum) reflection/ application paper:** Purpose is to further develop critical thinking, enhance cognitive skills and use reflection regarding enduring professional nursing, health care delivery, health care profession and pressing contemporary issues that impact health care 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. 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**

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<td>93-96%</td>
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<td>89-92%</td>
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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, August 18th: Orientation, hand-outs, rubrics and guidelines will be provided for class participation, articles/ written paragraph assignments and reflection/application paper. You will be provided foundational articles: “American Hospital Association Environmental Scan 2016”, “Gallup’s Top 10 Well-Being Discoveries of 2015”, “57 Million Deaths in Perspective”, Top 10 Trends shaping the health industry in 2016”, “Identified trends from Davos 2015”, “ANA Professional Issues Panels List”, “Climate and Health”, “Obesity: we need to move beyond sugar” and “Nurses Take on New and Expanded Roles in Health Care”.

Each week you will be assessing yourself, professional practice, workplace environment, community as well as the impact of social, political, economic and environmental factors at the local, national and global level. You will identify current and potential emerging issues impacting your practice, work colleagues and work place. You will critically think about potential creative solutions to these identified factors. Each week you will reflect on new knowledge gained, what you are learning and use critical thinking to determine innovative solutions that you will use to enhance your practice, the workplace, health care delivery and/or community. We will begin this discussion beginning class 2.

Week 2, August 25th:
Complete reading foundational articles of week one. Complete reading week 2 foundational articles: “Components of the Innovative Process”, “Understanding the Forces That Influence the Adoption and Spread of Health Care Innovation”, “Building a Culture of Innovation in Nursing” and Definition Handout. View You Tube video: Do You Think?
We will discuss in class new knowledge gained and what you learned from reading the foundational articles. You will write at a minimum 3-4 paragraphs regarding what new knowledge you gained, what you learned as well as your perception from the articles assigned for week one and two. Please include any questions you might have to enhance
our discussion. During our class discussions you will have the information to refer to aide your interactions. You will give the written paragraph assignment to me at the end of class.

**Week 3, September 1st:**
Assignment: Review and explore the following 2 websites & topics:
1. [www.ahrq.gov](http://www.ahrq.gov): Review the tabs to explore what information is available for your knowledge and analysis. Go to tab: For Professionals: go to Health Care Innovations Exchange-explore the various offerings.

Write at minimum 3-4 paragraphs about new knowledge gained, what you learned and how you believe reflects your current work environment, area you live, health care delivery and your practice. Please bring to class 4.

**Week 4: September 8th:** We will continue on-going discussion from week 1 and 2. We will view and discuss the AHRQ and The Commonwealth Fund web sites/information. We will explore your ideas and perceptions regarding this information, your practice, work place, healthcare delivery system/model and share thoughts about proactively problem solving potential solutions to current and emerging issues.

**Week 5: September 15th:** Please critically think about and identify what are the social, political, economic and environmental issues that impact your work place, health care delivery/model of your work, your professional practice and your community. The issues may be global, national, regional and/or local. Please write at a minimum, 2-4 paragraphs regarding your analysis of current and/or emerging issues impacting healthcare. Class discussion will be focused on what you have determined from your research. Potential research tools: Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Nebraska Department of Economic Development-Nebraska Continuum of Care, your local newspapers, Facebook, your workplace, department, unit-goals for 2016 plus any of the web sites/articles shared for this course.
Week 6: September 22nd:
Interactive discussion based on last week assignment: take identified issues and analysis to propose innovative solutions for workplace, practice and community. You will take what you have learned from the articles, web sites, assignments and discussions to formulate creative solutions. Please write your potential solutions to guide your discussion.

Week 7: September 29th:
Google: Anna Young-Co-Founder Maker Nurse, explore her website
Explore innovative ideas, solutions via web sites during class:
www.innovations.cms.gov
www.gatesfoundation.org
www.rand.org
www.ana.org
www.forbes.org

Week 8: October 6th:
Reflection/Application Paper:
Class discussion will focus on your reflection and application paper-sharing your perceptions, ideas and solutions.