

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER  
SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**NURS 4234 ISSUES IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE  
Fall 2015 Syllabus  
Longview Campus**

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Room 228

**Monday 2:00 pm - 3:45 pm**

## **NURS 4234 Issues in Professional Practice**

### **SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS**

Two didactic hours

### **PREREQUISITES**

Successful completion of all third level courses for generic and LVN students

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course synthesizes the ethical/legal concepts related to the roles of the registered nurse. Emphasis is on professional values and value-based behaviors as a member of the profession.

### **COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Assume responsibility for continuing professional development.
2. Analyze the level of self-knowledge needed to carry out the professional role and leadership skills necessary to the delivery of care in a complex society.
3. Utilize nursing knowledge and the decision making processes derived from evidenced based research findings to address contemporary issues and problems in health care.
4. Debate moral/ethical/legal/regulatory issues that impact nursing practice and the health care delivery system.
5. Describe the impact of health policy, finances, and regulatory agencies on the delivery of healthcare.
6. Appraise health care issues through utilization of the processes of critical thinking and interpersonal caring to diverse populations across the lifespan.
7. Synthesize professional standards that support moral/ethical/legal principles in response to global health care needs.
8. Integrate knowledge, skills and attitudes to address nursing practice issues that reflect ethical decision making.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Burkhardt, M. A., & Nathaniel, A. K. (2014). *Ethics & issues in contemporary nursing* (4th ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. (ISBN: 978-1-1331-2916-5)

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. (ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5)

#### **Recommended:**

American Nurses Association. (2015). *Code of ethics for nurses with interpretative statements*. Silver Spring, MD: Author.

American Nurses Association. (2010). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (2nd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance during lecture is a professional expectation and will be monitored by course faculty. Refer to the university catalog for the policy regarding student attendance and possible student consequences. Students are responsible for all course assignments and content covered in class including announcements.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

University policies regarding students' rights and responsibilities, absence for religious observance, absence for university-supported trips, services to students with disabilities, grade replacement, state-mandated course drop policy, social security and privacy, and emergency evacuation may be found at <http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf> and University Student Handbook: <http://www2.uttyler.edu/mopp/>

### **Disability Statement**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria apply to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to: [cstaples@uttyler.edu](mailto:cstaples@uttyler.edu). Additional information may also be obtained at the following UT Tyler WEB address: [www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices)

### **EXAMINATIONS/ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:**

Completion of NURS 4234 is based on satisfactory attainment of all course criteria. Any student failing to meet the course objectives and expectations must repeat the course and may not progress to the next level and/or meet graduation requirements.

1. **Course Grade Calculation:** Students will have course grades calculated based on the weighted calculation of exams and other required course work. The weighted calculation must be 75% or above to pass the course.

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Ethics Analysis Paper	20%
Participation Grade	10%
Legal Assignment; Cultural Certification	10%
(each worth 50 points for a total of 100 points)	

2. **Participation Grade:** Each student will be required to participate in four of five planned activities which will be announced. Each activity will be worth 25 points. **Participation grades may not be made up.**
3. **Assignments:** See Class Schedule for Ethics Analysis Paper, Legal Assignment, and Cultural Competency Certification due dates/times. See Blackboard for specific information and requirements for assignments. **Assignments must be submitted on time to avoid late points.** **Evidence of plagiarism on any submitted assignment may result in failure of the course and/or removal from the nursing program.** See Scholastic Conduct and Discipline Policy in the current School of Nursing (SON) [Guide for Baccalaureate Students, p46.](#)
4. **Extra Credit:** Students will have an opportunity to earn two (2) extra points added to their final course grade for participating in a special activity. Activities will be posted on Blackboard.

5. Final course grades will be assigned according to the following scale: (an average of 74.5 - 74.9 will not be rounded to 75)

A	90 -100
B	80-89
C	75-79
D	60-74
F	59 and below

Approved FO: Fall 1999

### **PAPER/ASSIGNMENT RE-GRADING POLICY**

Student assignments will not be re-graded.

### **GRADE REPLACEMENT POLICY**

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the Office of the Registrar by the **Census Date** (see [Academic Calendar](#) for date) of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Failure to file intent to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate overall grade point average. Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three course repeats; graduates, for two course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.

### **EXAMINATION AND EXAMINATION REVIEW POLICY**

Test integrity is a very important part of the nursing program to assess student knowledge, retention and preparation for the NCLEX and practice. Excessive student absences on test days threaten test integrity. The following process for course examinations will be followed within each nursing course on the Longview Campus:

1. Students who miss two or more exams will be required to provide a written statement from their physician (Students with extenuating circumstances are encouraged to communicate with their course faculty member at least 24 business hours before the exam)
2. There will be three make-up exam days on the Longview Campus for all courses. For Fall 2015, the dates are all Fridays (Sept 25, Oct 23, and Dec 4, 2015).
3. Make-up exams will be provided in an alternate format
4. Students are responsible for monitoring and acknowledging email from faculty regarding makeup date, time, and location details.
5. If student does not show up for makeup exam by designated date and time, the student will receive a zero on the exam.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

1. Students are expected to assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted as assignments and examinations.
2. Students are advised to review the Scholastic Conduct and Discipline Policy in the current SON [Guide for Baccalaureate Students](#) and [UT Tyler Student Conduct and Discipline Policy](#). These policies are fully endorsed and enforced by all faculty members within the School of Nursing.
3. Plagiarism, cheating and collusion are unacceptable and if found violating any of these standards the student will be disciplined accordingly (see *Guide for Baccalaureate Students* for definitions).
4. The SON has the right to dismiss students from the program for any infraction of a legal, moral, social, or safety nature, pursuant to the procedures detailed in the *Regent's Rules*.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS IN NURS 4234**

1. Participation in class discussions, which involves interaction with faculty and other students in class, is required.
2. Students are expected to have read the content and be prepared for discussion prior to class according to the stated unit learning outcomes.
3. Students are responsible for all course assignments and content, including announcements, posted to Blackboard.
4. Lecture outlines will be posted to Blackboard no later than Tuesday, 12 pm, the week prior to class.
5. Specific information and requirements for the Ethics Analysis Paper and other course assignments will be posted to Blackboard.
6. **Late assignments** will only be accepted at the discretion of faculty:  
**There will be a 5 point penalty for assignments submitted after the due time unless special permission obtained from faculty.**  
**There will be a 10 point penalty each day for assignments submitted after the due date unless special permission obtained from faculty.**
7. All submitted written material (papers, assignments, examinations, etc.) are the property of the School of Nursing.
8. All nursing students are required to use their student Patriot email accounts for all correspondence.

### **STUDENT DRESS CODE**

**General:** It is the philosophy of the SON that the student has a responsibility to be neatly groomed and modestly dressed. Appearances should promote good health, safety and general well-being of the student. Clothing should avoid brevity and/or design that are offensive to the dignity and rights of others. School officials have the right and responsibility to counsel with the student or take any other corrective action. Types of clothing (other than those specified in this document) may be worn at the direction of the nursing instructor for special events.

**Classroom:** Casual or every-day business wear is recommended. This includes but is not limited to the following: slacks or skirt; sweater, blouse, and shirt. Jeans as well as conservative shorts (mid-thigh or longer) may be worn, but avoid overly frayed or soiled items. Shoes must be worn. See items to be avoided below.

**Professional Presentations, Ceremonies/Graduation:** Business or dressy day social: suit, dress, dressy separates, jacket, tie, nice fabrics, dress shoes. Avoid denim, jeans, t-shirt or other casual clothes. For workshops/seminars attended by students, professional/business attire will be worn.

**Items to be avoided in all School-related Functions (including but not limited to):** Overly frayed, worn or soiled garments; costume look, transparent blouses, bare midriff shirts, tank tops, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, overtly sexual styles, gang colors or logos, facial or body piercing, obscene slogans or pictures, bedroom wear, short-shorts, short skirts, or clothing that may be offensive to others.

If the dress code rules are broken and a change of clothes is not available, the student may be removed from the school-related function for the remainder of the day. **Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken for repeated violations of this code.**

Revised: Spring 2011

**FORMS TO BE READ, SIGNED AND SUBMITTED****1. Student Affirmation Form – please access on Bb under Assignments tab**

Each line must be initialed and the form signed and dated for each course every semester. The completed form is submitted to Blackboard.

**2. Confidentiality and Privacy Form – please access on Bb under Assignments tab**

The form must be signed and dated for each course every semester. The completed form is submitted to Blackboard.

**3. Audio/Video-Recording Agreement - see p. 12**

Any student wishing to record a class must sign this agreement no later than the second week of classes each semester. An agreement must be signed for each course every semester. Due to the confidential nature of some course content, the student will provide written documentation of the erasure of any recordings made during the current semester. Failure to return this written documentation to the faculty by the date of the final examination will result in a grade of "I" (Incomplete).

**UNIT STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES****Unit 1  
INTRODUCTION TO COURSE  
ETHICAL THEORY AND PRINCIPLES****OBJECTIVES:**

1. Review course objectives and requirements as outlined in course syllabus.
2. Discuss the ethical principles as they pertain to health care issues.
3. Analyze selected ethical theories as a basis for ethical decision-making.
4. Examine situations in which there is a conflict between two or more ethical principles.
5. Examine the provisions in the *ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses (2001)* as they apply to nursing practice.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapters 2 & 3
2. American Nurses Association. (2001). *ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*. <http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/Tools-You-Need/Code-of-Ethics.pdf>
3. American Nurses Association. (2010). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (2nd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author
4. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 1**Unit 2  
VALUES AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT****OBJECTIVES:**

1. Discuss why values clarification is important both personally and professionally.
2. Differentiate between personal and professional values.
3. Explain the valuing process.
4. Describe methods to work through values conflicts in practice settings.
5. Define essential professional values and behaviors.
6. Analyze the impact of culture on values development.
7. Critique models of moral development.
8. Examine how morality relates to the practice of nursing.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapters 4 & 5
2. American Association of College (AACN) of Nursing Professional Values
3. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 1

### Unit 3 ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Compare and examine critical thinking and the process of ethical decision-making.
2. Recognize how personal emotions impact ethical decision-making.
3. Apply the ethical decision making process to selected ethical issues.
4. Differentiate among the various types of moral problems.
5. Submit a written assignment that presents resolution of ethical dilemma.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 7
2. Bb postings
3. Ethics Analysis Paper - see Bb for details

**EVALUATION:** Exam 1, Ethics Analysis Paper Assignment

### Unit 4 ECONOMIC ISSUES

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Examine trends in health care delivery and financing that have emerged in recent history.
2. Discuss current problems in health care economics.
3. Articulate how decisions are based upon ethics and distributive justice.
4. Compare theories of justice and how resources and services are distributed.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 15
2. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 1

### Unit 5 SOCIAL AND GENDER RELATED ISSUES

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Synthesize current research and other relevant information from scientific and humanistic disciplines with nursing theory for application to culturally diverse groups.
2. Identify issues concerning race and gender that impact nursing.
3. Analyze evidence of victim blaming within the health care system.
4. Discuss ethical issues related to health care of vulnerable populations, such as the poor, the elderly, the homeless, those involved with domestic violence, racial minorities.
5. Identify pros and cons for promoting autonomy for health care decision making among vulnerable populations.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapters 16 & 17
2. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 2

**Unit 5 (cont.)  
TRANSCULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL ISSUES**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Decrease the potential of ethical dilemmas by incorporating human caring and critical thinking skills while providing culturally competent holistic care to diverse populations.
2. Discuss how cultural variations impact the nurse's response to provision of care.
3. Discuss the relationship between spirituality and health care beliefs.
4. Describe the nurse's role in providing spiritual care.
5. Recognize the need to identify own spiritual values and potential conflicts with patient's values.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 18
2. Bb postings
3. Cultural Competency Certification – see Bb for details

**EVALUATION:** Exam 2, Cultural Competency Certification

**Unit 6  
ISSUES RELATED TO TECHNOLOGY**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Analyze the impact of technology on health care.
2. Relate current technology to issues and dilemmas in life-sustaining interventions.
3. Display sensitivity and caring when assisting families to resolve dilemmas related to technology.
4. Apply beneficence and non-maleficence to decisions about technology.
5. Explore personal values related to controversial ethical choices.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 10
2. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 2

**Unit 6 (cont.)  
SELF-DETERMINATION**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Analyze autonomy and paternalism as they relate to patient self-determination.
2. Describe factors that may threaten autonomy in health care settings and situations in which autonomy may be limited.
3. Outline the issues and dilemmas regarding life, death, and allocation of resources.
4. Appraise the nursing role and responsibilities related to informed consent, which reflects both sensitivity and caring characteristics.
5. Interpret the legal and ethical implications of the patient's right to make decisions related to healthcare.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 11
2. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 2

**Unit 7**  
**PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIP ISSUES**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Review the traits of a professional and the professional development process.
2. Explain the relationship between accountability and professional status as well as the mandate for life-long learning and expertise.
3. Integrate nursing roles in structured and unstructured settings and identify potential professional conflicts.
4. Propose solutions to practice setting conflicts that are ethically and legally sensitive.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapters 6, 9, & 12
2. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 2

**Unit 8**  
**EMPOWERMENT FOR NURSES AND PATIENTS**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Describe the concepts of power and empowerment.
2. Distinguish between personal and professional empowerment.
3. Discuss the nurse's role as advocate to empower the patient.
4. Discuss factors that promote and inhibit patient empowerment.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapters 19 & 20
2. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 3

**Unit 8 (cont.)**  
**GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Understand health concerns from a global perspective.
2. Describe the role and ethical responsibility of nursing in addressing local, national, and global environmental issues.
3. Identify specific actions nurses can take to address the concern regarding issues such as disasters, displaced persons, war and violence, toxic chemicals, and other pollutants.
4. Discuss historical events and patterns of health care delivery that have helped to shape Western systems of health care delivery in the United States.
5. Describe trends and challenges of accessibility and financing health care delivery systems around the globe.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 13
2. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 3

## **Unit 9 HEALTH POLICY**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Analyze the nurse's role in the political arena.
2. Evaluate political issues encountered in nursing practice.
3. Discuss the role of ethics in policy making.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 14
2. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 3

## **Unit 10 LEGAL ISSUES**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Differentiate among the major categories of law.
2. Outline the essential elements that must be substantiated to prove malpractice.
3. Differentiate between intentional and unintentional torts in relation to nursing practice.
4. Give examples of how professional nurses can be charged with crimes of criminal and civil law.
5. Explain how statutory law governs and indirectly influences nursing practice.
6. Summarize methods nurses can use to decrease liability.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 8
2. Bb postings
3. Legal Assignment – see Bb for details

**EVALUATION:** Exam 3, Legal Assignment

## **Unit 11 NURSING JURISPRUDENCE**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. State the Mission of the Texas Board of Nursing.
2. Analyze the functions of the Board of Nursing.
3. Interpret statutes and rules that protect the title "nurse".
4. Analyze how the Texas Nurse Practice Act governs nursing practice.
5. Analyze sections of the Nurse Practice Act and discuss its purpose and functions.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Bb postings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 3

**Student Affirmation Form  
NON-CLINICAL COURSE**

- I agree to protect the privacy of faculty, peers, patients, and family members of patients by not inappropriately disclosing confidential information about faculty, peers, patients or their family members that is disclosed to me in my capacity as a University of Texas at Tyler nursing student. In addition, I agree not to inappropriately disclose confidential information about any agency or institution that is disclosed to me in my capacity as a University of Texas at Tyler nursing student. I will adhere to HIPAA guidelines.
- I have/will read the syllabus of this nursing course I am taking this semester, and I understand the criteria established for grading my course work. I understand that my average must be 75 or higher in order to attain a passing grade for the course.
- I agree that I will conduct myself in a manner that exhibits professional values and in accordance with the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses, the Texas Nurse Practice Act and UTT's Student Academic Dishonesty Policy.
- I will maintain and uphold the academic integrity policy of the School of Nursing and will not condone or participate in any activities of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, stealing, or copying another's assigned work.
- I will not recreate any items or portions of any exam for my own use or for use by others during my enrollment in the School of Nursing
- I will not accept or access any unauthorized information related to any exam administered during my enrollment in the School of Nursing.
- I will not allow any other student access to any of my paperwork for the purpose of copying.

**Type your signature and date in the space below**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

NURS 4234 Fall 2015

**APPROVED:**  
University of Texas System-Spring 1996  
Faculty Organization-Spring 1996  
Revised: May 2004, Summer 2005, Summer 2012

**Please access this form on Blackboard/Assignments and submit to Bb first day of class**

### AUDIO/VIDEO-RECORDING AGREEMENT

Any student wishing to record a class must sign this agreement no later than the second week of classes each semester. An agreement must be signed for each course every semester. Due to the confidential nature of some course content, the student will provide written documentation of the erasure of any recordings made during the current semester. Failure to return this written documentation to the faculty by the date of the final examination will result in a grade of "I" (Incomplete).

I have been given permission to record the following class, NURS 4234.  
I understand that, the recordings are for my personal studies only. I realize that lectures recorded may not be shared with other people without the written consent of the faculty member. I also understand that recorded lectures may not be used in any way against the faculty member, other lecturer, or students whose classroom comments are recorded as part of the class activity.

I am aware that the information contained in the recorded lectures is protected under federal copyright laws and may not be published or quoted without the expressed consent of the lecturer and without giving proper identity and credit to the lecturer. I agree to abide by these guidelines with regard to any lectures I record while enrolled as a student at The University of Texas at Tyler.

**Due to the confidential nature of some course content, I agree to provide written documentation of the erasure of any recordings made during the current semester. Failure to return this written documentation to the faculty by the date of the final examination will result in a grade of "I" (Incomplete).**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

NURS 4234

I have erased all recordings made during this current semester in NURS 4234.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Revised with permission from TCU  
Approved FO: 10/06

**Please copy, complete, and turn in first day of class if recording**

**NURS 4234 - Issues in Professional Practice  
CLASS SCHEDULE FALL 2015**

DATE	UNIT	TOPIC	CHAPTER
8/24	1	Introduction to Course Ethical Theory and Principles	2, 3
8/31	2	Values and Moral Development	4, 5
9/4		<b>CENSUS DATE</b>	
9/7		<b>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</b>	
9/14	3	Ethical Decision Making	7
9/21	4	Economic Issues	15
9/28	5	<b>EXAM 1 (Units 1-4) Computer Lab</b> Social and Gender Related Issues Trans-cultural and Spiritual Issues	16, 17 18
10/5	6	Issues Related to Technology Self-Determination	10 11
10/12	7	Professional Relationships and Scholarship Issues	6, 9, 12
10/19	8	<b>EXAM 2 (Units 5-7) Computer Lab</b> Empowerment for Nurses and Patients Global Consciousness in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	19, 20 13
10/22 (Thurs)		Academy of Collegiate Ethics (ACE) event in Tyler Not mandatory – see extra credit assignment	
10/23		<b>Bb SUBMISSION ETHICS PAPER DUE NO LATER THAN 5PM</b>	
10/26	10	Legal Issues <b>LAST DAY TO DROP/WITHDRAW WITH A W</b>	8
11/2	11	Nursing Jurisprudence Legal Issues	
11/6		<b>Bb SUBMISSION LEGAL ASSIGNMENT DUE NO LATER THAN 5PM</b>	
11/9	9	Health Policy	14
11/16		Presentation of Tort Reviews	
11/20		<b>Bb SUBMISSION CULTURAL COMPETENCY CERTIFICATE DUE NO LATER THAN 5 PM</b>	
11/23-11/27		<b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</b>	
11/30		<b>EXAM 3 (Units 8-11) Computer Lab</b>	
12/11		<b>CONVOCATION AND COMMENCEMENT</b>	