

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

**NURS 4234.061 WEB COURSE  
ISSUES IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE  
Fall 2015**

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**The content of this syllabus/WEB site is subject to change at the discretion of the faculty leaders according to current learning needs**

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

<b>Week Of:</b>	<b>MODULE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
8/24 – 8/30	Module 1	Ethical Principles and Theories
8/31 – 9/6	Module 2	Values Clarification and Development
9/7 – 9/13	Module 3	Ethical Decision Making
<b>9/4/15</b>		<b>CENSUS DAY</b>
9/14 – 9/20	Module 4	Legal Issues
<b>Posted 9/21 @ 6am Closed 9/23 @ 5pm</b>		<b>EXAM 1 – Modules 1-4</b>
9/21 – 9/27	Module 5	Professional & Relationship Issues
9/28 – 10/4	Module 6	Issues Related to Technology
10/5 – 10/11	Module 7	Issues Related to Self-Determination
10/12 – 10/18	Module 8	Global Consciousness
<b>Posted 10/20 @ 6am Closed 10/22 @ 5pm</b>		<b>EXAM 2 – Modules 5-8</b>
10/19 – 10/25	Module 9	Health Policy
<b>10/26/15</b>		<b>LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A W</b>
10/26 – 11/1	Module 10	Economic Issues
11/2 – 11/8	Module 11	Social and Gender Related Issues
11/9 – 11/15	Module 12	Trans-cultural and Spiritual Issue
11/16- 11/22	Module 13	Empowerment for Patients and Nurses
<b>11/23 – 11/28</b>		<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY WEEK</b>
<b>Posted 12/2 @ 6am Closed 12/4 @ 5pm</b>		<b>EXAM 3 – Modules 9-13</b>

**NURS 4234.061 WEB Course - Issues in Professional Practice****SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS**

Two didactic hours

**PREREQUISITES**

Successful completion of all courses through first semester for RN-BSN 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.

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). *Guide to the Code of Ethics for nurses with interpretive statements*. D. M. Fowler, (Ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author. Can purchase in bookstore or through ANA:

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards>

American Nurses Association. (2010). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author. Can be purchased in bookstore or through ANA

<http://www.nursesbooks.org/Main-Menu/Standards/Professional-Development.aspx>

**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.utt Tyler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolices.pdf> and University Student Handbook: <http://www2.utt Tyler.edu/mopp/>

**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	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
Ethics Analysis Paper	25%

2. **Assignment:** See Blackboard for specific information, due date, and requirements for assignment. Assignments must be submitted on time to avoid late points.

3. **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, pp. 44-46.](#)

4. 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.

**EXAMINATION AND EXAMINATION REVIEW POLICY**

1. Completion of exams and assignments are mandatory to ensure compliance with course expectations.
2. Exams will be administered online through ExamSoft. Requires that students download SofTest
3. Exams must be taken within the announced timeframe. Make-up time for an exam will be given at the discretion of faculty. If a student cannot complete an exam during the scheduled timeframe, the student must notify faculty in advance with an acceptable reason. **Failure to notify faculty of the need to take an exam on an alternate date or time will result in a grade of 0 for that exam.**
4. Exam reviews may be scheduled with faculty during office hours within 10 school days from the return of exam grades.

### **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 CON [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 CON 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. Students are responsible for all course assignments and content, including announcements, posted to Blackboard.
2. Weekly content, including Tegrity lectures, are posted on Blackboard. To succeed in the course it is imperative that all materials are reviewed.
3. Specific information and requirements for the course assignments are posted to Blackboard.
4. **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.**
5. All submitted written material (papers, assignments, examinations, etc.) are the property of the School of Nursing.
6. Communication with faculty will be via phone, email or scheduled appointment. Students are required to use their student Patriot email accounts for all correspondence. **Email communication should include NURS 4234 WEB in the subject line. Students are expected to check their university email at least every two business days.** Faculty will respond to email correspondence within two business days.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **Module 1 ETHICAL THEORY AND PRINCIPLES**

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Discuss the ethical principles as they pertain to health care issues.
2. Analyze selected ethical theories as a basis for ethical decision-making.
3. Examine situations in which there is a conflict between two or more ethical principles.
4. Examine the provisions in the ANA *Code of Ethics for Nurses (2015)* as they apply to nursing practice.

#### **ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapters 2 & 3
2. American Nurses Association. (2015). *ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*. [http://www.nursesbooks.org/Main-Menu/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics.aspx?utm\\_source=displayad&utm\\_medium=toolbox&utm\\_campaign=COEpub14&utm\\_term=an&utm\\_content=ordernow](http://www.nursesbooks.org/Main-Menu/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics.aspx?utm_source=displayad&utm_medium=toolbox&utm_campaign=COEpub14&utm_term=an&utm_content=ordernow)
3. American Nurses Association. (2010). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (2nd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author
4. Bb supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 1

### **Module 2 VALUES CLARIFICATION 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 School (AACN) of Nursing Professional Values
3. Bb supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 1

### **Module 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.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 7
2. Bb supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 1

### **Module 4 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 supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 1

### **Module 5 PROFESSIONAL and RELATIONSHIPS 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 supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 2

**Module 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 supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 2

**Module 7**  
**ISSUES RELATED TO 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:**

2. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 11
3. Bb supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 2



**Module 8**  
**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 supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 2

**Module 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 supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 2

**Module 10**  
**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 supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 3

**Module 11**  
**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 supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 3

**Module 12**  
**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 supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 3

**Module 13**  
**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 supplementary readings

**EVALUATION:** Exam 3