

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

**NURS 4234 ISSUES IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE  
Summer 2016 Syllabus  
Tyler Campus**

Katherine Hensley, PhD, RN  
Office: BRB 2300  
253-229-6809  
[khensley@uttyler.edu](mailto:khensley@uttyler.edu)

Casey Faigle, MSN, RN  
Teacher Assistant  
281-714-5621  
[cfaigle@patriots.uttyler.edu](mailto:cfaigle@patriots.uttyler.edu)

**On-line web course**

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

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

### **SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS**

Two didactic hours

### **PREREQUISITES**

Successful completion of all third level courses for generic and BSN-completion students

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This on-line 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.

### **Recommended:**

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

American Nurses Association. (2010). *Guide to the Code of Ethics for nurses: Interpretation and application*.

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses/Code-of-Ethics-2015-Part-1.pdf>

D. M. Fowler, (Ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author.

American Nurses Association. (2015). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (3rd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author.

### **Student Accountability:**

1. **Attendance is required for all quizzes** which will be taken on your own computer at home on the Blackboard testing site, in accordance with the course schedule. All quizzes will be given on Monday afternoon on the designated Monday on the course schedule, and the quiz will be open from 2PM-2:45 PM.
2. Students are responsible for reading all course materials, viewing the weekly Tegrity and all other lectures, and completion of course assignments.
3. Students are responsible for reading all course Announcements posted to Blackboard, and are strongly encouraged to check the Announcement site every day for recent messages.
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 is obtained from faculty. There will be a 10 point penalty each day for assignments submitted after the due date.**
5. All submitted written material (papers, assignments, examinations, etc.) are the property of the School of Nursing.
6. All nursing students are required to use their UTT Patriot student email accounts for all correspondence with faculty.
7. Communication with faculty will be via email or scheduled appointment. Email communication should include NURS 4234 in the title of the email.

### **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/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf> and University Student Handbook.pdf.

### **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.

Quiz #1	10%
Quiz #2	10%
Quiz #3	10%
Quiz #4	10%
Quiz #5	10%
Quiz #6	10%
Quiz #7	10%
Ethics Analysis Paper	18%
Legal Assignment	10%
3-2-1 Assessment	2%

2. **Assignments:** See Course Schedule for Ethics Analysis Paper and Legal Assignment 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, pp. 48-49.](#)

3. 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.

### **QUIZ AND QUIZ REVIEW POLICY**

1. Attendance for quizzes is mandatory.
2. If absence for a quiz is necessary, the student is responsible for notifying the faculty prior to the quiz with an acceptable reason.
3. Quizzes will be made available at the time the quiz is scheduled. (Please see course schedule)

4. **Make-up quizzes** will only be given at the discretion of the faculty member and **may be in a different format than the original quiz**. Failure to notify the course faculty of the need to take the quiz on an alternate date will result in a grade of 0 for that particular quiz.
5. **Exam reviews** will be conducted at the discretion of the faculty and may be scheduled with the faculty within **10 school days** after the exam. Arrangements to review the exam should be scheduled with faculty via email.

### **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 College 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*.

### **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**

#### **Module 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. (2010). *ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*.
3. American Nurses Association. (2015). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (3rd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author
4. Bb supplementary readings, Greenscreens, Tegrity's, videos, and power points.

## **Module 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 supplementary readings/videos/ppts, etc.

## **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.
5. Submit a written assignment that presents resolution of ethical dilemma.

### **ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 7
2. Bb supplementary readings, videos, ppts, etc.
3. Ethics Analysis Paper – see Bb for details

## **Module 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 supplementary readings, videos, ppts, etc.

## Module 5

### SOCIAL AND GENDER 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, videos, ppts, etc.

### 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
3. Cultural Competency Certification – see Bb for details

## 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, videos, ppts, etc.

### **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 supplementary readings, videos, ppts, etc.

### **Module 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 supplementary readings, videos, ppts, etc.

### **Module 8**

#### **EMPOWERMENT FOR PATIENTS AND NURSES**

**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, videos, ppts, etc.

**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 facing health care delivery systems around the globe.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Textbook: Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 13
2. Bb supplementary readings, videos, ppts, etc.

**Module 9****HEALTH POLICY ISSUES****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, videos, ppts, etc.

**Module 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 supplementary readings

3. Legal Assignment – see Bb for details (Tort Reviews)

## Module 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. BON web site: <http://www.bon.texas.gov/>
2. Bb supplementary readings, videos, ppts, etc.

**Class Schedule:**

- 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 College 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 College of Nursing
- I will not accept or access any unauthorized information related to any exam administered during my enrollment in the College 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, 2016

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 first day of class.**

### **Social Networking Policy**

Online social networking mediums, such as Facebook® and MySpace®, etc. may be effective modalities for students to connect in positive ways. However, students must be aware of, and, sensitive to, the information and pictures they post (of themselves and others).

The **purpose** of this policy is to outline the privacy and confidentiality issues related to students' postings to ensure safeguarding of The University of Texas at Tyler (U.T. Tyler), College of Nursing's identity, integrity and overall reputation, in an effort to prevent violations of confidentiality and privacy.

**Social Networking** (definition) – Any activity that involves interaction with other individuals/users in an online environment, *i.e.*, Facebook®, Twitter®, MySpace®, Flickr®, Friendstar®, Classmates.com®, LinkedIn®, Xanga®, Bebo®, etc. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_social\\_networking\\_websites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_social_networking_websites)). In addition, the use of other electronic devices to record pictures, images, and other information or data that may be stored, reviewed, or shared with others either immediately or at a future date are considered social networking.

For purposes of this policy, this interaction includes, but is not limited to, browsing other users' profiles/personalized web pages, browsing other users' photos, reading messages sent through social networking forums, and engaging in online messaging services, such as instant messaging or email that is in any way related to U.T. Tyler or the College of Nursing or activities conducted while in attendance at the University. The following provides guidance as to what type of behavior is inappropriate relative to online social networking. These guidelines are not all inclusive; rather, they are intended to be used as a foundation for sound decision making.

Students are encouraged to refer to the following which was prepared by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN): *A Nurse's Guide to Professional Boundaries* located at: [https://www.ncsbn.org/ProfessionalBoundaries\\_Complete.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/ProfessionalBoundaries_Complete.pdf)

### **Confidentiality and Privacy**

**Violations of confidentiality include but are not limited to:**

1. Photocopying patient documents, removing patient documents from the clinical site, and postings of patient information on Internet social networking sites (Facebook®, MySpace®, Twitter®, YouTube®, etc.) as well as online blogs and journals.

2. Contacting patients/patients' family members through a social networking system.
3. Photographing in any clinical setting. Taking and/or posting any picture taken within a clinical facility without written permission of the facility or patient (even if the patient's identity is not disclosed) is a breach of the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA)*.
4. Discussing/posting any patient information related to the clinical facility one is assigned on Internet social networking sites or in a public place.
5. Social networking, texting, email, and other recreational computer use is prohibited during class or clinical time.
6. Using U.T. Tyler, College of Nursing's name, logo, or other information in one's personal social networking profile. Pictures of oneself should not be posted wearing U.T. Tyler nursing attire. Social networking mediums, blogs, Twitter® and Internet/electronic mail, all are considered public domain.

Failure to comply with the above guidelines will result in disciplinary action which can include dismissal from the program. Any student found in violation of the above mentioned policies and/or any policies related to conduct unbecoming a University of Texas at Tyler student, is subject to procedural disciplinary action as outlined in the U.T. Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs: Specifically Sec 8-801 and 8804:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/documents/8Student%20Conduct%20and%20Discipline.pdf>

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

NURS 4234 Fall 2016

Approved: UG Studies: 5/11