Welcome!

Welcome to Contemporary Healthcare Ethics! Your instructors for this course are Dr. Gloria Duke and Dr. Pamela Lake. Please refer to the “Faculty Info” tab in Blackboard for information about each of us. We are excited about working with you in our virtual classroom! We have tried to design the course in a way that you will enjoy examining the ethical issues that you face in today's health care settings. You will gain a foundation of knowledge related to these complex issues and learn how to utilize an ethical decision making process when dealing with these dilemmas.

This is a very interactive and hands-on course in which you will discuss ethical theories, principles and policy issues. The structure of this course has been modularized to assist you in organizing your time and efforts. Each module will cover specific weekly content, with examples and supplemental materials. The modules will specify required reading, writing, group work, and discussion assignments.

Read through each section carefully. If you have any questions, make a note of them and we will address them in the class Discussion Board. Each faculty member will have their own group and respective discussion boards. Please refer back to the information contained in this Syllabus anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information.

One final note, if you are unfamiliar with accessing the Internet or have questions regarding technical requirements, please review the Blackboard Online Check Tool and Student Resources for Hybrid and Online Courses links found in the Getting Started Instructions. In addition, you can access the UT Tyler website for general information about UT Tyler and its student services and policies, which will be reviewed briefly later in this Syllabus.

Introduction

Is this your first time to take a Web-based online course? If so, you will find it dramatically different from your previous experiences. There is no face-to-face contact with your instructor and fellow participants. You may feel you are working alone. You may feel confused and anxious because you can't ask questions and receive immediate feedback. Relax! You are not alone, and any anxiety you feel will go away as you become familiar with this environment. You may even begin to prefer this environment because of the flexibility that it affords you in managing your time and the learning materials. One thing that is very important with this type of course is communication. Please feel free to contact your instructor whenever you are experiencing difficulties, or when you have a question. We are available by phone, fax or e-mail and prefer to intervene early, before major problems emerge.

We want to stress to both experienced and inexperienced online course participants that the key to successful completion of this online course, or any online course, is organization. The syllabus and course schedule describe in detail our expectations as
your instructors, including required textbooks, grading policies, assignments, and projects, and a schedule of readings and assignment/project due dates. Details about each weekly assignment will be under each of the 5 modules located on the Blackboard site. This is not a self-paced course. Deadlines exist because the course is offered within the UT Tyler semester course schedule and to help you successfully complete the course in a timely manner.

As mentioned in the Welcome section, the course has been designed in modules or units to assist you in organizing your efforts. Each instructional module requires that you read assigned text, respond to discussion questions, and perform other tasks or projects, such as supplemental readings and/or review of websites in the subject.

Course Description

Contemporary Healthcare Ethics provides a thorough grounding in ethical theories and principles as reflected in current health care issues and policies. Students are introduced to a variety of frameworks for ethical decision-making and policy analysis. Current trends in the political, economic, and legal spheres of the contemporary health care arena are analyzed through the use of case studies. Participants will read assigned materials, engage in online dialogue, and evaluate research in the topic of ethics.

Course Prerequisites

Admission into the Master of Science in Nursing program or permission of the Associate Dean for Graduate Nursing Programs.

If you are taking this course as part of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program and have not completed a degree plan, please contact your program advisor or Dr. Barbara Haas (bhaas@uttyler.edu or 903.566.7021) for additional requirements and procedures.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Relate ethical theories and principles to professional practice and health policy development.
2. Investigate current and future political/legal and economic issues as they relate to the ethics of professional practice and health care delivery.
3. Systematically analyze bioethical, policy and legal issues related to the ethics of professional decision-making in specific dilemmas.
4. Propose appropriate interventions for the resolution of specific professional dilemmas.
5. Actualize caring individually and collectively, by exploring ways to improve the health of individuals, families, aggregates, and families at local, state, national, and international levels.
6. Utilize a systematic ethical framework to analyze a current health policy specific to the student's professional role and clinical population.

**Navigation**

In order to effectively participate in online learning, it is imperative that you understand how your course is arranged and how to access and contribute information. If you have a question regarding the navigation within this course, please refer to the Blackboard Help for Students available under the Tools area.

**General Course Requirements and Guidelines**

**Assignments**

- Each graded assignment will have specific guidelines and grading criteria under the “Grading Criteria” tab in Blackboard. Review these guidelines and criteria several times prior to beginning and submitting your assignments.
- Each student is responsible for completing the assignments in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the Course Calendar.
- If you believe you will not be able to submit an assignment on time, please notify your faculty before the assignment is due! An exception may be granted and requests are for rare incidences only.
- Late assignments will receive a 5 point deduction for each day that it is late unless prior arrangements with the faculty have been made.
- Discussion and written assignments are made with the assumption that required reading assignments are completed prior to completion of discussion and written assignments.
- Assignments are to be submitted electronically.
- All written assignments are to be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted through designated Assignment links.
- If your web connection is down for some reason, please contact your course faculty to make arrangements for submission. Papers will be run through SafeAssign, a plagiarism detection program.

- **Plagiarism is a serious academic offense.** Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work. Academic dishonesty, such as unauthorized collusion, plagiarism and cheating, as outlined in the [Handbook of Operating Procedures](#), University of Texas at Tyler, will not be tolerated. University regulations require the instructor to report all suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. In the event disciplinary measures are imposed on the student, it becomes part of the students' official school records. Also, please note that the handbook obligates you, the student, to report all observed cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor.
- The College of Nursing **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:** Students are expected to assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all academic
work submitted as homework, examinations, papers, etc. The graduate program at U.T. Tyler seeks to create a climate that encourages its members to act as responsible adults in an academic community. Generally, institutional disciplinary measures are invoked only in response to conduct that adversely affects the University’s pursuit of its educational mission and objectives. Penalties may range from a warning to probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Behaviors that could subject a student to disciplinary action include all forms of academic dishonesty. Refer to the CON Graduate Student Guide for specific statements related to plagiarism, etc.

Completion Time

You should expect to spend as much time on an online course as you do in a traditional face-to-face course. As a rough estimate, you should plan to spend four to six hours per week on this course. The actual amount of time will vary from individual to individual. This estimate includes the time you spend in reading, discussions, and assignments.

Assignments/Projects Turn-In Process

Use the following process to submit assignments through designated Assignment links:

- Name your assignment with the following convention: last name (no space) first initial, assignment title (ex. LastF_Assignment title; PittB Ethical Issues Paper).
- Click on "View/Complete Assignment".
  - Number 1-shows the assignment instructions.
  - Number 2-is where you add your comments and attach your completed assignment.
  - Number 3-when all attached files (your completed assignment files) are uploaded, click submit.
  - You have successfully turned in your assignment when an exclamation point (!) is displayed in the Grade Center for that assignment.

When assignments are received, your instructors will open them in Microsoft Word for grading. This will enable the instructors to make comments, ask questions, etc. The instructors will then return your assignment through the Tools Area, Check Grades link, or via email. An announcement will be posted when papers are returned to remind you to check the Student Grade Center. To see comments about your assignment, click on your grade.

If you need more instructions on how to submit files through the Assignment link, please click this link.

Email and Course Discussion Processes

Email
All electronic mail communication related to this course will utilize your student e-mail (patriots) account. To communicate by email within the course with other participants or all participants, click the “Tools” tab on the left. Click “Send Email” to send a message. You are able to send messages to All Users or Select Users in the course, including the instructors. If you need more instructions on how to send email messages within Blackboard please select “Blackboard Help for Students” located in the Tools area of the course. Contact Campus Computing Services (903.566.5555) or Technical Support (ITsupport@patriots.uttler.edu) if you experience problems with the student email system. Notify your instructor if you are unable to receive student email.

Questions or problems other than technical problems (see Technical Requirements posted later in this Syllabus) may be submitted to the instructors’ email addresses. You will receive quick responses to any emails you send during our office hours. Generally speaking, we check our email inbox at least once a day during the workweek, less frequently on the weekend, and rarely after 6 p.m. any day. If our schedules will make us unavailable to answer emails for a day or two, we will send an announcement so that you can plan accordingly. One caveat: technical problems in email systems may slow down responses!!

Discussions

The Discussions feature in Blackboard is an online discussion forum in which students and faculty can communicate asynchronously (anytime) via message postings.

When you click the Discussion Board tab on the left, a listing of categories will appear. One general forum will be utilized to address course questions that may apply to all students. In addition, you will find a link for each instructor’s section. All other forums will be posted in these instructor sections. Instructors will post questions in a table format called forums, named for each corresponding module. Click on the appropriate forum.

All threads (topics) pertinent to a general subject category will appear as links under that subject category forum. The instructors have control of what general subject categories are available for discussion in the course. At the instructors’ discretion, students may or may not have the option of starting a new thread under the general subject categories and may or may not be able to edit their comments after they have been posted. Students can (and will be required to) respond to threads in the course discussion. To respond to a thread:

- In the Discussion Board area, you will see a list of forums.
- Click on a forum link to open it and view the contents within.
- Open a message
- Click Reply to respond to the message

Your response will now appear in the table, along with your name as author and date/time of posting. Icons will appear to the right allowing either a response, or perhaps
editing and deletion options. If the edit icon or the trash can (delete icon) doesn't appear, the student doesn't have editing or deletion privileges.

Check the Discussion Board section often. Since the discussion is asynchronous, other responses will be submitted after your post. Be sure to check each time you log into the course to view any added material.

**Grades and Grading**

Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments:

- A - 90-100
- B - 80-89
- C - 70-79
- D - 60-69
- F - Below 60

The work you will perform for this course is weighted as follows:

- Discussion Board: 10%
- Modules 2 & 3 Teaching Project: 20%
- Debate: 20%
- Paper: 35%
- Values Survey: Cr/NCr
- Journal: 15%

The student must achieve an average of 80% to successfully complete the course. If the student desires validation of learning regarding any assignment, she/he is encouraged to discuss the matter with the faculty.

If a student withdraws after the deadline date for an automatic "W", a course grade will be assigned.

**Textbooks**

The required textbooks for this course are:

**ISBN 13:** 978-1-4338-0561-5

You may purchase your textbooks from [The UT Tyler Bookstore](#). Online purchase and shipping are available.

**Technical Assistance:** If you are having technical problems, please call or email IT Support.

Campus Computing Center
Business 101
3900 University Blvd
Tyler, TX 75799
(903) 566-5555
itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu

When you call or email IT Support, be sure to include a complete description of your question or problem including:

- The title and number of the course
- The page in question
- If you get an error message, a description and message number
- What you were doing at the time you received the error message

You may also visit the Help Tab in Blackboard for useful information or check out [On Demand Learning Center for Students](http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm)

**Course Evaluation**

An end of semester evaluation specifically for this course will be made available for you to complete in the last week of instruction. Your comments and recommendations will be considered seriously as the course is updated. Your input throughout the semester contributes to our commitment to improve continually the quality and relevance of this course.

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Students Rights and Responsibilities**
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:
[http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)
Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.utttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services
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

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Last Day to Drop Any or All Classes
Spring 2014 – March 26, 2014
Courses may be dropped online through MyUTTyler until 4 p.m. on the last day of online (early) registration. After that time, all drops and/or withdrawals must be completed through the Registrar’s Office, either in person, by fax or by mail. Faxed or mailed drop/withdrawal requests must include the students name, student ID number, course(s) to be dropped, date, student’s signature, contact phone number and copy of a photo ID (driver’s license, student ID, etc.). Requests should be mailed to UT Tyler Registrar’s Office, 3900 University Blvd, Tyler, TX 75799 or faxed to (903)565-5705. Students are advised to meet with their instructor(s) and/or academic advisor prior to dropping any classes. Dropping or withdrawing from classes may affect financial aid eligibility, veteran’s benefits, athletic eligibility, or international student status. Students should consult with those departments prior to dropping or withdrawing.
Getting Started

Please print out a copy of this syllabus and refer back to the information contained herein anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information. Please begin this course by clicking on the Weekly Module button in the left-hand navigation bar, and then choose Module 1.

We look forward to working with you this semester. Welcome!