

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

**RNBS 4234.060 WEB COURSE
ISSUES IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
SPRING 2019**

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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.

SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS

Two didactic hours

PRE-REQUISITES & CO-REQUISITES

Prerequisites: Successful completion of [RNBS 3303](#), [RNBS 3312](#), [RNBS 3415](#), and admission to the RN-BSN track. Special permission required from the School of Nursing to take out of sequence. Co-requisites: [RNBS 3333](#), [RNBS 4312](#), and [RNBS 4631](#).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course for the registered nurse (RN) synthesizes ethical/legal concepts required for examination of sound decision making in clinical practice and legal responsibility. The focus is on value clarification, application of ethical theory, ethical decision-making models, and professional ethical standards. Emphasis is on ethical obligations of professional nurses in their roles as citizens, members of a profession, providers of care, and designers and managers of care.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Value life-long learning to continue professional development.
2. Communicate knowledge required by the RB to understand organizational and systems leadership to provide quality care.
3. Determine if evidence from research findings is relevant to address ethical and legal issues in health care.
4. Debate moral/ethical/legal/regulatory issues that impact nursing practice and the health care delivery system.
5. Explain the role of the RN when confronted with issues related to health policy, economic impact, and regulatory agencies
6. Examine the legal and ethical issues of caring for a diverse patient population.
7. Employ professional standards that support the legal and ethical values of the professional nurse to meet global health needs.
8. Develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes that reflects critical thinking related to legal and ethical decision making to provide patient-centered care.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Burkhardt, M. A., & Nathaniel, A. K. (2014). *Ethics & issues in contemporary nursing* (4th ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. (ISBN: 9781133129165)

Recommended:

American Nurses Association, issuing body. (2015). *Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements*. Silver Spring, MD: ANA. (ISBN: 9781558105997)

Note: This can be viewed online at: <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/> (Click on "Know the Code", then scroll down and select either: "YES! I want to "Know The Code" and register to receive additional information", Or "No. I do not wish to register at this time. Take me to The Code now."

American Nurses Association, issuing body. (2015). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (3rd ed.). (ISBN: 9781558106192)

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

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

[University policies](https://www.utt Tyler.edu/mopp/) 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 through the link. University Student Handbook:

<https://www.utt Tyler.edu/mopp/>

EXAMS/ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:

Completion of RNBS 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.

REPEATING A COURSE

Students repeating this course may not use previously submitted assignments nor utilize the same patients for an assignment. Submitting the same or slightly modified assignments from previous semesters is considered self-plagiarism and is subject to academic discipline, including failing the assignment or the course.

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.

Syllabus Quiz	5% (5 points of final course grade)
Introduction Padlet	5% (5 points of final course grade)
Interactive Learning Activities	20% (20 points of final course grade)
Exams (4)	50% (12.5% each-Total of 50 points of final course grade)
Ethical Analysis Project	20% (20 points of final course grade)

2. Assignment: See Canvas for specific information, due date, and requirements for assignment. Assignments must be submitted on time to avoid late point deductions.

3. **Evidence of plagiarism on any submitted assignment may result in failure of the course and/or removal from the nursing program.**

4. Final course grades will be assigned per 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

PROJECT/ASSIGNMENT RE-GRADING POLICY: Student assignments will not be re-graded.

EXAM REVIEW POLICY

1. Completion of all exams and assignments are mandatory to ensure compliance with course expectations.
2. Exams will be administered online through ExamSoft, which will require students to download Examplify.
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 within 10 school days from the posting 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 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.
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 RNBS 4234

1. Students are responsible for all course assignments and content, including announcements, posted to Canvas.
2. **All assignments, activities, and exams are to be completed by the individual student. Other than a group discussion on completed Ethical Analysis Projects, none of the assignments or exams are set up for group participation.**
3. Weekly module content, including virtual classroom lectures, and interactive learning material are posted on Canvas. Students are responsible for viewing the lecture video and any other required videos, then complete the Interactive Learning Activities. To succeed in the course, it is imperative that all materials are reviewed.
4. Specific information and requirements for the course assignments are posted to Canvas.
5. **Late assignments** will only be accepted at the discretion of faculty:
There will be a 5%-point penalty each day for assignments submitted after the due date, unless special permission is obtained from faculty.
6. Submitted written material (papers, assignments, examinations, etc.) are the property of the School of Nursing.
7. Communication with faculty will be via phone, email or scheduled appointment. **Students are required to use their student Patriot email accounts for all correspondence.**
8. **Email communication should include "RNBS 4234" 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 THEORIES 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*.

Note: This can be viewed online at: <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/> (Click on "Know the Code", then scroll down and select either:

"YES! I want to "Know The Code" and register to receive additional information",

Or "No. I do not wish to register at this time. Take me to The Code now."

3. American Nurses Association. (2010). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (2nd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author
(This resource will be referred to in lecture, but any required reading will be provided.)

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

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

EVALUATION: Exam 1

Module 3

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

PROFESSIONAL and RELATIONSHIP 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

EVALUATION: Exam 2

Module 4

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: Textbook-Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 10

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: Textbook-Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 11

GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE 21ST 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: Textbook-Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 13

Module 5

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: Textbook-Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 14

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: Textbook-Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2014): Chapter 15

EVALUATION: Exam 3

Module 6

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

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

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

EVALUATION: Exam 4