Welcome and Introduction

Welcome, to Health Care Policy Development! My name is Dr. Linda Rath and I will be your course instructor. I have had years of policy experience primarily at the local and state levels, and am committed to the profession of nursing and to improving healthcare through policy initiatives. I am excited and happy to be part of this course as we all strive to become better nurse advocates.

In this course we will examine the role of nurse leaders in conducting and applying research to shape health care policy from the local, state, national and international levels. The goal is to develop your knowledge, ability and confidence in influencing policy decisions related to the health of world citizens. You will discover your own innate ability to make a difference as a doctoral-prepared nurse. I look forward to meeting, sharing and learning with you in our virtual classroom.

This is a hands-on course in which you will be an active participant in your learning process. You will consider economic, socio-political, and other forces on policy formulation and access to care. The structure of this course has been categorized into specific modules to assist you in organizing your time and efforts. Each module will describe a particular goal toward understanding and contributing to policy development with examples and supplemental materials all geared toward proficiency in the content. The modules will identify objectives, areas of focus, and recommended readings.

Peruse the Blackboard site and review each section carefully. If you have any questions, make a note of them and post them in our Course Questions Discussion Board Forum.

Please refer to the information contained in this Syllabus anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information. You will need to download a free Adobe Reader to view PDFs. A list of basic technical requirements is included later in this Syllabus for your convenience.

Welcome to the class!

Instructor Contact Information

Faculty: Linda L. Rath, PhD, RN, NNP-BC
Office: BRB 120
Office Hours: Online and by appointment
Course Email: lrath@uttyler.edu
Phone: 903-565-5526
Fax: 903-566-1981
If you experience any problems that you are not able to resolve by accessing the Information Technology Support Services at ITSupport@patriots.uttyler.edu, please contact your faculty at the contact information listed above.

Course Title
NURS 6352 Health Care Policy Development

Course Description
The role of the nurse leader in conducting and applying research to shape global health care policy is explored. Students will consider local, national and global health policy within the context of global consequences. The impact of economic, socio-political, and other forces on policy formulation and access to care is considered.

Credit Hours: 3 sch

Prerequisites: Acceptance into the doctoral program or with permission of the instructor(s).

Course Goals and Objectives
Upon successful completion of the course, the student will able to:

1. Analyze how health care policy originates and progresses to completion.
2. Explore issues inherent in negotiation and collaboration necessary for the development of health care policy.
3. Critique nursing’s contributions to the health care policy development process at the local, national, and global level.
4. Analyze the utilization of research and evidence-based nursing practice in shaping the health policy agenda.
5. Explore the economic, socio-political, ethical, and governmental factors impacting health care delivery, financing, and availability.

Course Calendar/Schedule
The course calendar can be accessed in the Syllabus/Calendar area via the Course Calendar link.

Textbook Information, Other Readings and Materials
The required textbooks for this course are:


You may purchase your textbooks from UT Tyler Bookstore. Online purchase and shipping is available. Additional Readings and Materials will be provided or recommended as we move through the course.
Course Outline

Module 1 - Nursing's Role in Policy and Policy Development, Analysis & Political Strategies

- Fundamentals of the policy process
- Policy development
- Policy analysis
- Policy evaluation

Module 2 - Communication- A Key to Successful Policy Development & Implementation

- Political strategy to affect policy change
- Communicating policy needs, actions, and outcomes to stakeholders
- Negotiation and arbitration as part of policy formation
- International collaboration and coalition building
- Social and cultural aspects of policy formation

Module 3 -The Affordable Care Act and Health Care Finance

- Historical influences on health care finance
- Organization and delivery of health care
- Health care financing – comparison of US and others
- Healthcare reform

Module 4 Globalization and Health Care Policy

- Global policy challenges
- Geopolitical influences on nursing care delivery
- Distribution of wealth and ethical implications of global health policy
- Global health challenges and needed policy interventions

Module 5: Practical Policy Application

- Health Care Chaos – Opportunities
- Course Summation

Grading Information and Course Requirements

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:
Introductory Policy Issue Paper 15%
Policy Analysis Exercise 20%
Policy Development and Implementation Prospectus 30%
Global Health Policy Summary 20%
Course Participation 15%

These series of assignments provide a simulated “walk through” of the steps of policy development and implementation. The following is a brief overview; please see the complete assignment particulars and grading criteria in the Assignments tab.

1. **Introductory Policy Issue Paper** (15%)
   
   Develop an introductory level policy issue paper [e.g. policy brief] that identifies the problem/issue for which there is no standing policy. Identify your position and the policy actions that you would like to see happen.

2. **Policy Analysis Exercise** (20%)
   
   Conduct a policy analysis that identifies the specifics of your policy proposal, including the stakes and stakeholders, implicit values, ethical considerations, beneficiaries of the policy and outcomes.

3. **Policy Development and Implementation Prospectus** (30%)
   
   Prepare a brief and compelling presentation for policymakers about your policy. This presentation is to be no more than 5 minutes in length, recorded via webcam, with an attached PowerPoint and one page talking points paper to be presented to your classmates and faculty.

4. **Global Health Policy Summary** (20%)
   
   Choose one significant problem that affects global health—it may be specific to a certain disease or diseases, population or gender, country/nation or any or all of the above. Address the prevalence, affected population, causes & solutions, and nursing’s role in mitigating this problem.

5. **Course Participation** (15%)
   
   You will be expected to respond to assigned Discussion Board forums as described in the Weekly Assignments. You will also be expected to participate in an interview with a nursing leader experienced in the policy arena. Methods of participation include live interaction or with prior submission of questions and critique of interview recording.

**Five (5) points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late.** The assignments’ due dates/times are listed in the Course Calendar. Late assignments are accepted only if arrangements have been made with the course instructor prior to assignment due date. The final assignment for the course will not be accepted late.
Assignments

Reading Assignments

- Assigned readings in doctoral education are the beginning, not the endpoint. These readings will point you in the direction of continued reading and pondering of your scholarly thoughts. Each participant is responsible for completing the reading assignments in a timely manner. Schedules are listed in the Course Calendar.
- Discussion and written assignments are made with the assumption that required reading assignments are completed prior to completion of discussion and written assignments.

Written Assignments

- All written assignments are to be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted in a timely manner. Due dates/times are listed in the Course Calendar.
- Please note that all written assignments must be submitted by midnight Central Standard Time on the due date.
- All written assignments should be submitted through the Assignment tab. If your web connection is down for some reason, please contact your instructor by telephone to make arrangements to get the assignment submitted within the posted time period.
- **Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work.**
- Late assignments will receive point reductions, 5 points per each day late (see Grading Information and Course Requirements section within this Syllabus).

SafeAssign

- SafeAssign is a feature provided by Blackboard that is designed to detect plagiarism or non-original student work. I will enable this feature so that when you submit papers, they are automatically sent through SafeAssign. The program checks your work against a comprehensive database of source material including previous students’ work and other papers and materials found on the web. An originality report will be generated that indicates the percentage of non-original material (text that matches existing sources) found in your paper. The purpose of using SafeAssign in your course is to ensure you are writing original papers and to encourage you and other students to properly attribute all sources used.

Assignments/Projects Turn-In Process

All assignments and projects will be submitted through the Assignment tab. Use the following process to prepare and submit assignments:

- Prepare your assignment using Microsoft Word. Name your assignment with the following convention: Last name, first initial_assignment title (ex. JonesS-Policy Issue Paper)
- Number 4-click Submit when all attached files (your completed assignment files) are uploaded

When assignments are received, I will open them in Microsoft Word and use the Track Changes feature for grading. This will enable me to make edits, comments, ask questions, etc. I will then return your assignment through the Grade Center. I will make an announcement when papers are returned to remind you to check the My Grades tab. To see comments about your assignment, click on your grade.
Email

To communicate by email within the course with other participants or all participants, click the Tools tab link on the left side of the Blackboard frame. Click Send E-mail to send a message. You have the option to send messages to All Users or Select Users in the course, including the instructor(s). If you need further instructions on how to send email messages from within Blackboard please click the Help for Students tab.

Questions or problems other than technical problems (see Technical Information in this Syllabus) may be submitted to the email address above.

I will make every effort to respond quickly to your emails within 24 hours during the school week. Emails sent on the weekend will be addressed on Monday [or Tuesday after a Monday Holiday!] Occasionally, I may be traveling, and it might take longer to respond. If my schedule will make me unavailable to answer emails for any period, I will post an announcement so that you can plan accordingly. One caveat: technical problems in email systems may slow down responses!! My priority is communicating with you, so if there are any problems, we will work to solve them.

Discussions

The Discussion Board 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, a listing of general subject categories (forums) will appear in a table format.

To respond or post comments in a forum, click on the forum title then click New Thread. Or, you may reply to a thread. All threads (topics) pertinent to a general subject category will appear as links under that subject category folder. The instructor has control of what general subject categories are available for discussion in the course. Students may introduce and name threads under the general subject or may reply to the threads of other students. That is why it is called “Discussion.” At the instructor’s 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. If there are restrictions on your access, you will know in advance what these restrictions are and why they are in place.

Students can and will usually be expected 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 that allow either a response, or perhaps editing and deletion options. If the edit icon or the trash can (delete icon) doesn't appear, the student does not have editing or deletion privileges.

For the purposes of this course, you may be assigned to groups for discussion. When you click on the Communication icon on the left, you will also see Group Pages as one of the new tab options. Click on the Group Pages tab, and it will display all the options assigned to the group. Only those who are
assigned to that group will see and have access to this folder. This allows the students to communicate and post information on any projects assigned to them.

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

**Participation Expectations and Discussion Assignments**

A Rubric for how postings will be graded is provided in the next section of this Syllabus.

- Each participant is responsible for participating in the asynchronous discussions of each module. This participation will include posting answers to questions posed by the instructor and replying to other participants’ postings.
- Discussion postings should be made in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the Course Schedule. Please note that all discussion postings must be completed by midnight Central Standard Time on the due date.
- Participants should plan on entering the Discussion area several times a week in order to read and comment on others postings. Posting answers to the questions posed in the Discussion area should be done in advance of the deadline in order to allow other participants to have the opportunity to comment.
- Quality of answers is as important as quantity. A participant's comments should add to the discussion. Comments should be supported as required with references cited appropriately. The instructors and/or participants may use synchronous chats as the need arises.

Note: When posting to the discussion area, please type in your comments directly into the Discussion Board. Do not type your comments into a document and then attach it to the discussion-this method is difficult for some students to access. You may type your comments into a Word document, then copy and paste it into the Discussion Board.
**Discussion Board Postings - Grading Criteria**

The purpose of the discussion board in an online doctoral program is to take the place of the class interchange that would occur in a face-to-face class. It is your opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the assigned readings and your ability to supplement those readings with expanded exposure to related (and sometimes contrary) information that you will seek in your self-directed quest to understand and be informed. To that end, we will expect you to share ideas you have gained from the literature, noting the source when appropriate and interpreting into your own words. We will also expect that you will use a more complex thought process to dissect and analyze what you read in the literature and in the discussion thoughts of your fellow students as you offer your own insights. We do not care if you use big words or a lot of words (remember, the world values parsimony), but we are eager to read your thoughtful insights into the questions and statements, your analysis of the words and ideas, and your recommendations for future pathways for nursing and healthcare. The following information will give you some guidelines and allow you to see thinking process we will use to assign a grade to the discussion board exercises.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria/Points</th>
<th>&lt;80</th>
<th>80-89</th>
<th>90-100</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Format and logical progression of posting.</td>
<td>Spelling and grammar errors detract from the substance of the posting; random thoughts with no sense of a plan to reach a logical conclusion. No clear main idea or direction for flow of information</td>
<td>Midpoint</td>
<td>Form is superior; obvious attention to proofreading and grammar. Main idea is stated early and clearly; argument or ideas are built using a logical progression of thoughts which are stated clearly and succinctly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depth and relevance of post to the topic at hand.</td>
<td>Posting shows superficial thinking based on personal experiences or opinions only, there is little consideration of contributions to the topic in the literature or from colleagues. Literature support is not relevant to the topic or major literature contributions are missing. Post strays from topic with much irrelevant information and does not address the intent of the assignment. No references cited.</td>
<td>Midpoint</td>
<td>Posting clearly shows evidence of critical thinking and analysis to a substantial depth expected of a doctoral student. Ideas offered are relevant to the topic and show the ability to extrapolate complex ideas from various sources into a coherent argument or statement(s). Two or more relevant references cited; cited references are appropriate and indicative of the best knowledge on the topic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to the learning community</td>
<td>Posting is largely aimed at self-expression without consideration of the reader. There is no room for dialogue or disagreement and no acknowledgment of the potential contributions of others. The posting is a rehash of old ideas without consideration of how these can advise the future. No evidence is found of making the material consumable or reader-friendly.</td>
<td>Midpoint</td>
<td>Posting shows an astute awareness of the needs of the learning community with an interest in their growth and knowledge acquisition; attempts to move colleagues into meaningful dialogue and presents creative approaches that area open to discussion. Post contributes to the progression of nursing as a scholarly community but is presented in a clear, enlightening, and engaging way.</td>
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Student Resources

PhrnDz Café
The PhrnDz Café is open and is a place for you to connect with your student colleagues, find out what is going on in the way of scholarships, grant opportunities and other announcements. Take a break and join others for a cup of coffee or tea.

Digital Library Resources
You will utilize the Robert R. Muntz Library, at the University of Texas at Tyler. Many of the database subscriptions funded by student fees give you access to full text journals that you will need for your review of the literature in each course. Please take the time to set up your account and get familiar with the resources available. They are awesome.

Technical Information

Technical Support
If you experience technical problems or have a technical question about this course, you can obtain assistance by emailing itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu

When you 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 got the error message

Blackboard support is available for students 24/7. For Blackboard assistance, Click on the ‘Help for Students’ tab.

Plug-ins and Helper Applications
UT Tyler online courses use Java, JavaScript, browser plug-ins, helper application and cookies. It is essential that you have these elements installed and enabled in your web browser for optimal viewing of the content and functions of your online course.

- Macromedia Flash Player allows you to view content created with Macromedia Flash such as interactive web applications and animations.
- Shockwave Player allows you to view content created with Macromedia Director such as games and interactive 3D simulations.
- RealPlayer allows you to view and listen to streaming video and audio.
QuickTime Player allows Mac and Windows users to play back audio and video files.

Windows Media Player allows you to view, listen and download streaming video and audio.

Adobe Reader allows you to view, save, and print Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files.

Sun Java Runtime Engine (JRE) allows you to use interactive tools on the web.

PowerPoint Viewer 2003 lets you view full-featured presentations created in PowerPoint 97 and later versions.

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

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.uttyler.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, posted on the University Academic Calendar, 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 (Undergraduate Students Only)
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 federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services office in UC 3150, or call (903) 566-7079.

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 must 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.

Academic Dishonesty Policy
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 to report all observed cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor. Please understand that the online technology that has so greatly enhanced our ability to find and use other people’s words has also made it much easier to track and discover those who do.

Last Day to Drop Any or All Classes
Spring 2015 – March 23 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 student’s name, 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.

Student Roles and Responsibilities
Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings, participating in the online discussions and thoughtfully considering the implications of policy on the health of citizens. Successful completion of the course requirements will demonstrate evidence of content mastery.

Netiquette Guide
"Netiquette" is network etiquette, the do's and don’ts of online communication. Netiquette covers both common courtesy online and informal "rules of the road" of cyberspace. Review and familiarize yourself with the guidelines provided. (URL: http://www.learnthenet.com/learn-about/netiquette/index.php)

Navigation
To efficiently and effectively participate in this course, an understanding of how the course is arranged, how to access information, and how to contribute to the learning environment is essential. If you have any questions about how to navigate the course, go to the Help for Students tab.

Completion Time
Online courses require the same amount of time as those that meet face-to-face. Plan to spend six to ten hours a week on this course. This includes reading, participating in the discussions, and completing assignments. The amount of time will vary from individual to individual.

You will have access to most of the course materials from the start of the semester to the end. You may look and study ahead, or go back and review, at any time during the course. All assignments have set due dates. The latest time of submission is midnight Central Standard Time on the specified date.

Course Evaluation
UT Tyler may ask you to complete a voluntary evaluation to help them make improvements and adjustments in their overall online learning forums.

Also, an end-of-semester evaluation specifically for this course will be made available for you to complete in the last weeks 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.

Getting Started
Please refer to the information contained in this Syllabus anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information.
Epilogue

I am delighted to have you in the course. Many challenges and opportunities related to health policy await. Through the utilization of knowledge related to nursing and health care, research and leadership, you have the ability to help shape crucial health policies. Nursing has much to offer and the process of policy development will be greatly enhanced by nurse leaders like you.