

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

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

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

American Nurses Association. (2010). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (2nd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author.

Course Schedule:

Classes are on-line unless noted on schedule.

Week	Class Date	Course Module	Chapters	Due Dates/ Notes
1	5/23	Course Introduction – CLASS Module 1 and 2: Ethical Theory Ethical Principles Values and Moral Development	2,3,4,5	CLASS in Tyler 0800 – 0900 BRB 1025
2	5/30	Module 3: Ethical Decision Making Module 4: Economic Issues	6, 7, 15	
3	6/6	Module 5: Social and Gender Issues, Transcultural and Spiritual Issues	16,17,18	EXAM # 1 (modules 1-4) June 6 at 0800
4	6/13	Module 6: Technology Issues Self Determination	10,11	
5	6/20	Module 7: Professional and Relationship Issues	9,12	Submit ETHICS Paper no later than 1700 June 24 via assignment link blackboard
6	6/27	Module 8: Empowerment, Global Consciousness	13,19,20	EXAM # 2 (modules 5,6,7) June 27 at 0800
7	7/4	Module 9: Health Policy	14	
8	7/11	Module 10: Jurisprudence		
9	7/18	Module 11: Legal	8	Legal assignment due 7/18 by 1700
10	7/25	No content this week		EXAM # 3 (modules 8,9,10,11) July 28 at 0800

Important Dates:

6/6 – Exam 1 covering modules 1,2,3,4

6/20 – **Issues paper due by 1700**

6/27 – Exam 2 covering modules 5,6,7

7/11 – last day to drop a course with a W

7/18 – **Legal assignment (discussion board) due**

7/28 – Exam 3 covering modules 8,9,10

Student Accountability:

1. **Attendance is required for all exams** which will be taken in the School of Nursing Computer lab using ExamSoft in accordance with the schedule. Students will be required to present their UTT ID prior to taking the exam. Students in Longview will take exams in the Longview computer lab.

2. Students are responsible for reading all course materials, viewing the weekly Tegrity lectures or videos, and completion of course assignments.
3. Students are responsible for reading all course Announcements posted to Blackboard
4. **Late assignments will only be accepted at the discretion of faculty:
There will be a 5 point penalty for assignments submitted after the due time unless special permission 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. 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. Faculty will respond within 24 hours to all emails.

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/syllabuspolicies.pdf> and University Student Handbook: <http://www2.uttyler.edu/mopp/>

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. Additional information may also be obtained at the following UT Tyler WEB address: 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 greater to pass the course.

Exam 1	23%
Exam 2	23%
Exam 3	23%
Ethics Analysis Paper	21%
Legal Assignment	10%

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 will result in course failure at the discretion of the faculty. Further disciplinary actions may include removal from the UT School of Nursing in accordance with policy. 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.

EXAMINATION AND EXAMINATION REVIEW POLICY

1. Attendance for exams is mandatory.
2. If absence for an exam is necessary, the student is responsible for notifying the faculty prior to the exam with an acceptable reason.
3. Exams will be made available at the time the exam is scheduled to begin. Students will be allowed entry to the computer lab after an exam has been started **ONLY** with faculty discretion.
4. All hats/caps must be removed during exam time. No hoods may be pulled up over head during exams. All personal items such as cell phones, purses, books, backpacks, notebooks and briefcases will be left in the front of the room during testing.
5. Silence will be enforced during the test. In order to avoid distraction, no one will be permitted to leave the room until testing is completed.
6. **Make-up exams** will only be given at the discretion of the faculty member and **may be in a different format than the original exam.** Failure to notify the course faculty of the need to take the exam on an alternate date will result in a grade of 0 for that particular exam.
7. **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 School of Nursing 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*.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

General: It is the philosophy of the SON that the student has a responsibility to be neatly groomed and modestly dressed. Appearances should promote good health, safety and general well-being of the student. Clothing should avoid brevity and/or design that are offensive to the dignity and rights of others. School officials have the right and responsibility to counsel with the student or take any other corrective action. Types of clothing (other than those specified in this document) may be worn at the direction of the nursing instructor for special events.

Classroom: Casual or every-day business wear is recommended. This includes but is not limited to the following: slacks or skirt; sweater, blouse, and shirt. Jeans as well as conservative shorts (mid-thigh or longer) may be worn, but avoid overly frayed or soiled items. Shoes must be worn. See items to be avoided below.

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*. <http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/Tools-You-Need/Code-of-Ethics.pdf>
3. American Nurses Association. (2010). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (2nd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author
4. Bb supplementary readings

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

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

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

Module 5 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 postings: Components of the Nursing Practice Act to be reviewed for class discussion

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

Module 6: 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

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

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

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 facing health care delivery systems around the globe.

ASSIGNMENT:

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

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

**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

**Module 11
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

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

**Student Affirmation Form
NON-CLINICAL COURSE**

- 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 Summer 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). 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

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 Summer 2016

Approved: UG Studies: 5/11