

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERIC BACHELOR of SCIENCE in NURSING

NUR 3301
HEALTH POLICY & PROFESSIONAL ISSUES
Fall 2019
Lenore Cortez, MSN, RNC



ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Nursing & Rehabilitation Sciences

COURSE NUMBER

NUR 3301

COURSE TITLE

Health Policy and Professional Issues

CREDITS

Three Semester Credit Hours (3-0-0)

Online Class: Meets completely online using Blackboard

PREREQUISITE COURSES

NUR 1341, NUR 1363

CO-REQUISITES

None

PRE-REQUISITE SKILLS

Accessing internet web sites, use of ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are an expectation of the Generic BSN program. Computer requirements are further delineated in the Department of Nursing Undergraduate Student Handbook. Tutorials for ASU Library and for Blackboard are available through RamPort. The ASU Nursing Program Undergraduate Student Handbook should be reviewed before taking this course (<http://www.angelo.edu/dept/nursing/handbook/index.html>).

COURSE DELIVERYThis is an online course offering. <http://blackboard.angelo.edu>**BROWSER COMPATIBILITY CHECK**

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the browser used to access course material on his/her computer is compatible with ASU's Blackboard Learning System. The faculty reserve the right to deny additional access to course assignments lost due to compatibility issues. Students are responsible for reviewing the guidelines posted in this course regarding accessing Blackboard assignments. Problems in this area need to be discussed with faculty at the time of occurrence, either via a phone call (preferred) during posted acceptable hours for calling, or via email notification during times outside those posted for calls.

Be sure to perform a browser test. Select the "**Technology Support**" tab from the Blackboard homepage (<http://www.blackboard.angelo.edu>). Then select "**Test your Browser**" option located under the Browser Test header.

Please see computer requirements for BSN classes at this link:

http://www.angelo.edu/dept/nursing/student_resources/computer_requirements.php

FACULTY

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Lenore.cortez@angelo.edu

OFFICE HOURS*

M – 9:00 A – 1:00 P (Lecture 1:00 P – 3:50 P)

T – By appointment (2nd 8 weeks lecture from 2:00 P – 4:50 P)

W – 9:00 A – 1:00 P

Th – 9:00 A – 1:00 P (2nd 8 weeks lecture from 2:00 P – 4:50 P)

F – Meetings, by appointment

*Office hours may change due to meetings and appointments so if you require a specific day/time please preschedule. To schedule an appointment, please email (This is best!) or call my cell phone. My office hours will change mid-semester with the addition of an 8-week course that I am teaching.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course evaluates pertinent trends and issues impacting professional nursing, quality of care, access to care and the delivery of health care.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students analyze political, societal, ethical, cultural and economic factors that impact health care and professional nursing practice. Assignments elicit critical thinking related to public health and nursing practice delivered in a diverse population.

BSN PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the program of study for the Generic BSN, the graduate will be prepared to:

BSN PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
1. Integrate nursing and related theories into the planning and/or delivery of safe nursing care.
2. Engage leadership concepts, skills, and decision-making in the planning and/or implementation of patient safety and quality improvement initiatives.
3. Identify and appraise best research evidence to improve and promote quality patient outcomes.
4. Utilize technology to access information; evaluate patient data, and/or document care.
5. Participate in political/legislative processes to influence healthcare policy.
6. Engage in effective collaboration and communication within interdisciplinary teams.

BSN PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
7. Design and/or implement health promotion & disease prevention strategies for culturally competent care.
8. Demonstrate standards of professional, ethical, and legal conduct.
9. Practice and/or coordinate, at the level of the baccalaureate prepared nurse to plan, and/or implement patient centered care.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student Learning Outcome By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	Assessment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:	Mapping to BSN Program Outcomes	Mapping to BSN Essentials	Mapping to QSEN
1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of health care policy, finance, and regulatory environments, including local, state, national and global health care trends.	Discussion Boards, quizzes	1,2	1,6	EBP
2. Describe how health care is organized and financed, including the implications of business principles, such as patient and system cost factors.	Discussion Boards, quizzes	4,5	1	EBP, TC
3. Compare the benefits and limitations of the major forms of reimbursement on the delivery of health care services.	Quizzes	4	1	QI
4. Examine legislative and regulatory processes relevant to the provision of health care.	Current Health Topics Assignment	4	1,5	EBP, QI
5. Describe state and national statutes, rules, and regulations that authorize and define professional nursing practice.	Discussion Boards, Current Health Topics Assignment	1,2,4	6	EBP

Student Learning Outcome By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	Assessment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:	Mapping to BSN Program Outcomes	Mapping to BSN Essentials	Mapping to QSEN
6. Explore the impact of socio-cultural, economic, legal, and political factors influencing health care delivery and practice.	Discussion Boards, Current Health Topics Assignment	3	1,5	TC
7. Examine the roles and responsibilities of the regulatory agencies and their effect on patient care quality, workplace safety, and the scope of nursing and other health professionals' practice.	Discussion Boards, quizzes	3,4,5	2	TC, S, QI
8. Discuss the implications of health care policy on issues of access, equity, affordability, and social justice in health care delivery.	Discussion Boards, Current Health Topics Assignment	6,7	5	TC, I
9. Use an ethical framework to evaluate the impact of social policies on health care, especially for vulnerable populations.	Discussion Boards, Current health Topics Assignment	6,7	1,5	EBP
10. Articulate, through a nursing perspective, issues concerning health care delivery to decision makers within health care organizations and other policy arenas.	Current Health Topics Assignment	2,5,6	2,4	PCC, S, EBP, QI
11. Advocate for consumers and the nursing profession.	Current Health Topics Assignment	5, 9	4	TC, EBP, QI

BSN Essentials: I: Liberal Education for Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice; II: Basic Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Care and Patient Safety; III: Scholarship for Evidence Based Practice; IV: Information Management and Application of Patient Care Technology; V: health Care Policy, Finance, and Regulatory Environments; VI: Interprofessional Communication and Collaboration for Improving Patient Health Outcomes; VII: Clinical Prevention and Population Health; VIII: Professionalism and Professional Values; IX: Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice

QSEN Competencies: Patient-Centered Care (PCC), Teamwork and Collaboration (TC), Evidence - based Practice (EBP), Quality Improvement (QI), Safety (S), Informatics (I)

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington DC: American Psychological Association.

Shi, L. & Singh, D. A. (2018). *Delivering health care in America. A systems approach.* (7th ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning. (978-1-284-12449-1)

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
- High Speed Internet Access
- Webcam (Logitech highly recommended)
- Logitech USB microphone headset
- Refer to Angelo State University's Distance Education website for further technology requirements: http://www.angelo.edu/distance_education/
- All students are required to have access to a dependable computer with a reliable Internet Service Provider (ISP or internet connection). Students taking traditional, online, and web supported courses must have a computer that meets minimum requirements recommended by Information Technology (IT). Computer hardware and software that are less than the specifications may cause technical problems interfacing and working with Blackboard TM.
- If you run into problems with Blackboard TM or your internet service, you must address the issue immediately. One of your first contacts should be Information Technology. IT services are available around the clock so please do not hesitate to call them for computer problems (325 -942-2911). You may e-mail them as well @ helpdesk@angelo.edu. If you come across problems with your computer that cannot be corrected in a timely manner, **it is your responsibility** to secure access to a reliable computer and keep up with the materials being presented. Missing an assignment due to computer problems is not an acceptable excuse for missing the work.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

NONE

NUR 3301 Health Policy Fall 2019 Course Calendar

Week/Date	Lesson/Unit	Assignments & Evaluation of Learning Objectives
Week 1 Aug. 26 –	Introduction to Policy and Politics in Nursing, Part 1	Reading —Chapters 1 (p. 1- top of 22) and 13 in your textbook Video(s)

Week/Date	Lesson/Unit	Assignments & Evaluation of Learning Objectives
Sept. 1		Post Introduction to Peers in General Discussion (ungraded)
Week 2 Sept. 2 - 8	Introduction to Policy and Politics in Nursing, Part 2	<p>Reading— Chapters 2 & 4 in your textbook Articles: -Dzubak (n.d.). Healthcare today: A review of reform, and how it impacts nurses -Spaulding, Gamm, & Menser (2014). Physician engagement: Strategic considerations among leaders at a major health system</p> <p>Video(s) Quiz #1**</p>
Week 3 Sept. 9 – 15	Health Care Delivery & Financing, Part 1	<p>Reading—Chapters 1 (p. 22-37) & 9 in your textbook Video(s) Review Current Health Care Topic Assignment directions and Sign up for topic on Wiki</p>
Week 4 Sept. 16 - 22	Health Care Delivery & Financing, Part 2	<p>Reading –Chapter 6 in your textbook Article: Clark (2018). Beyond the bedside</p> <p>Video(s) Group Discussion*</p>
Week 5 Sept. 23 – 29	Quality of Care	<p>Reading—Chapter 12 in your textbook Article: -Elsevier (2016). Standardized handoff report form in clinical nursing education: An educational tool for patient safety and quality of care -Ericksen (2008). Violence in the workplace: How to care for your own safety while providing care to your patients</p> <p>Video(s) Quiz #2**</p>
Week 6 Sept. 30 – Oct. 6	Nurses Taking Action	<p>Reading— Articles: -Fuller (2017). Lessons of a nurse advocate -Hwang (2016). Unnecessary risk -Law (2016). Making your voice heard -Liyakasa (2011). Model nurse and patient advocate -Schaeffer (2017) Nurses + policy = a win for</p>

Week/Date	Lesson/Unit	Assignments & Evaluation of Learning Objectives
		<p>Arizonians -Tarlman (2007). When should you blow the whistle for ethical reasons?</p> <p>Video(s) Work on Current Health Care Topic Written Assignment</p>
<p>Week 7 Oct. 7 – 13</p>	<p>Evolution of Health Services in the U.S</p>	<p>Reading—Chapter 3 in your textbook Article: Shannon (2016). The nurse as the patient’s advocate: A contrarian view</p> <p>Quiz #3** Work on Current Health Care Topic Written Assignment</p>
<p>Week 8 Oct. 14 - 20</p>	<p>Midterm Week</p>	<p>Current Health Care Topic Written Assignment due Monday at 11:59 pm Complete midterm course survey</p>
<p>Week 9 Oct. 21 – 27</p>	<p>Professional Boundaries and Social Media</p>	<p>Reading – Chapter 5 in your textbook Articles: -Aylott (2011). Blurring the boundaries: Technology and the nurse-patient relationship -Eisenberg (2010). Electronic medical records: Life in the paperless world -Griffith & Tengmah (n.d.). Maintaining professional boundaries: Keep your distance -Westrick (2016). Nursing students’ use of electronic and social media: Law, ethics, and e-professionalism</p> <p>Group Discussion*</p>
<p>Week 10 Oct. 28 – Nov. 3</p>	<p>Policy & Politics in the Community, Part 1 (Hospitals/Long Term Care)</p>	<p>Reading—Chapters 8 & 10 in your textbook Video(s) Quiz #4**</p>

Week/Date	Lesson/Unit	Assignments & Evaluation of Learning Objectives
Week 11 Nov. 4 – 10	Policy & Politics in the Community, Part 2 (Special Populations)	Reading – Chapter 11 in your textbook Articles: Custer (2015). Mental health parity and integration Galvin (2018). Saving through shelter Video(s)
Week 12 Nov. 11 - 17	Policy & Politics in the Community, Part 3 (Outpatient Care)	Reading – Chapter 7 Article: Fryholm (2014). Saving money, saving lives Video(s)
Week 13 Nov. 18 - 24	End-of-Life-Issues	Reading — Article: Parkman & Calfee (1997). Advance directives: Honoring your patient’s end-of-life wishes Video(s) Quiz #5
Week 14 Nov. 25 – Dec. 1	Ethical Decision Making THANKSGIVING	Reading — Articles: -Davis & Williams (2013). Doing the right thing: Ethics applied to nursing practice -Kunyk & Austin (2011). Nursing under the influence: A relational ethics perspective Video(s)
Week 15 Dec. 2 – 8	Putting it all Together	Reading— Chapter 14 Article: Sprayberry (2014). Transformation of America’s health care system: Implications for professional direct-care nurses Video(s) Wrap Up Group Discussion*
Week 16- FINALS Dec. 9 - 13	FINAL EXAM	Wednesday 6:00A – 10:00 P Open for 16 hours only, make arrangements for this as there is no make-up

***Initial discussion posts are due by 11:59pm on Wednesday.**

Responses to peers are due by 11:59pm on Saturday.

****Quizzes open on Monday at 6:00am and close on Sunday at 11:59pm.**

GRADING SYSTEM

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

- A = 90.00-100 points
- B = 80.00-89.99 points
- C = 70.00-79.99 points
- D = 60.00-69.99 points
- F = 0-59.99 points (Grades are not rounded up)

Missed exams, quizzes, & assignments: There are no makeup exams, quizzes or assignments.

Extra credit: There are no extra credit or “re-do” opportunities.

Urgent Concerns: Please email your instructor in advance if a problem arises, there are times when unexpected emergencies occur and considerations may be made; however, an email or phone call must be completed to your instructor PRIOR to the due date or event to be considered.

EVALUATION AND GRADES

Graded assignments, activities and percent of the overall course grade:

Assignment	Weight/Percent
Group discussions (3)	30
Current Health Care Topic Written Assignment (in lieu of midterm)	25
Quizzes (5)	20
Final Exam (1)	25
Total Points	100

TEACHING STRATEGIES

This course is taught completely online through the Blackboard platform.

- Online course lessons
- Web-based discussions
- Multimedia presentations
- Videos
- Writing assignments

- Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (**beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course**) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers.

ASSIGNMENT/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

***Please note: Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located at the end of this syllabus.**

DISCUSSION BOARDS:

There will be assigned discussion board activities for the course that are group work in which students will share experiences and knowledge related to the content. Students will be expected to contribute on multiple days within the week. Specific information on discussion boards and grading rubrics will be available in the Blackboard online course.

Discussion Boards provide an avenue for synthesis of material / information. A Discussion Board is provided in this course as a way to help students’ process course materials, express thoughts, and engage others opinions and ideas in a healthy and productive learning environment. Students are expected to respond to all discussion board assessments using the “**Online Discussion Rubric**” to support individual answers to the assigned questions throughout this course.

CURRENT HEALTH CARE TOPIC WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Students will be given a list of health care/ethics topics and be asked to sign up for the topic of their choice, via Wiki. Students will then locate a scholarly article (dated within the past 6 months) based on their chosen topics. They will read the article and then use APA format to write a 2-3 page paper that includes answers to the questions below. This paper must include the following:

- Title page (does not count towards page limit)
- Reference page (does not count towards page limit)
- Why do you feel this is an important topic related to health policy and ethics?
- Summarize your article
- Do you feel that the article you found gives a good explanation about the topic and how it affects current health care policy?
- What barriers to treatment did you discover? If no barriers, what solutions to the problem were offered in the article?
- Include a paragraph explaining how this topic could affect your future nursing practice.

QUIZZES:

There will be (4) quizzes spread throughout the course. Content will be clearly marked within the Weekly Modules in which the quizzes are deployed and on the Course Calendar. Students must adhere to academic honesty rules and guidelines when taking quizzes and exams. Students must use Respondus Lockdown Monitor in order to take all quizzes.

MIDTERM & FINAL EXAM:

In lieu of a mid-term exam students will have a writing assignment (see Current Event Summary). There will be final exam that is based on material from mid-term through the end of the semester. Students must adhere to academic honesty rules and guidelines when taking the exam.

GENERAL POLICIES RELATED TO THIS COURSE

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in the following documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook located on the ASU website:
<http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>
- ASU Undergraduate Catalog located on the ASU website
https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/documents/catalogs/2015-16_Catalog.pdf
- ASU Nursing Program Undergraduate Student Handbook, located on the Nursing website
<http://www.angelo.edu/dept/nursing/handbook/index.html>

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES

August 26	First day of spring semester
September 2	Labor Day – No classes
September 11	Census Day
October 31	Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the University
November 27 - 30	Thanksgiving Break
December 9 - 13	Final Exams Week
December 14	Commencement

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY & ATTENDANCE

ON-LINE: This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in individual and group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you do have to participate in all course activities i.e. discussion boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. All activities and assignments are listed for Central Standard Time (CST). The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate.

Full participation in the course is a professional expectation and required for successful and satisfactory completion of all course objectives. Online classroom attendance is evidenced by timely participation in the discussion board assignments and other activities assigned in the Modules on BlackBoard. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week, on average. Failure to

participate in a timely manner to any weekly discussion or assigned activity is an absence. Absences diminish the student's ability to meet course objectives and contribute to a failure of the course. Students are expected to check their ASU e-mails daily to ensure that they do not miss important announcements addressed to the student individually and/or to the class.

Course Instructors strive to grade all assignments and papers within one week after the due date. If there is a delay the instructor will post an Announcement on Blackboard. Quizzes will have an automatic score after testing but the instructor will review the test within a week and grades will be modified if any changes need to be made. Students may contact the instructor and discuss concepts missed on the quizzes. For test security reasons, the quizzes or the final will not be available to students after testing is completed. Contact your instructor for any questions you may have regarding exams.

COMMUNICATION

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via Blackboard: It is an expectation of this class that you use formal writing skills giving appropriate credit to the source for your ideas. Follow APA (2010) 6th edition (2nd Printing or higher only) guidelines for referencing.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes.

Virtual communication: Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Skype, Join.me, Google Hangouts, etc.

Classroom communication: Please follow these tips for interacting with your peers in our online classroom.

Use Good "Netiquette":

- Check the discussion frequently and respond appropriately and on subject.
- Focus on one subject per message and use pertinent subject titles.
- Capitalize words only to highlight a point or for titles. Otherwise, capitalizing is generally viewed as SHOUTING!
- Be professional and careful with your online interaction. Proper address for faculty is by formal title such as Dr. or Ms./Mr. Jones unless invited by faculty to use a less formal approach.
- Cite all quotes, references, and sources.
- When posting a long message, it is generally considered courteous to warn readers at the beginning of the message that it is a lengthy post.
- It is extremely rude to forward someone else's messages without their permission.
- It is fine to use humor, but use it carefully. The absence of face-to-face cues can cause humor to be misinterpreted as criticism or flaming (angry, antagonistic criticism). Feel free to use emoticons such as J or :) to let others know you are being humorous.

(The "netiquette" guidelines were adapted from Arlene H. Rinald's article, The Net User Guidelines and Netiquette, Florida Atlantic University, 1994, available from Netcom.)

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

In this class, all assignments need to be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard course site. This is for grading purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at lenore.cortez@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

LATE WORK OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

The course is set up on weekly modules. The week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Please note due dates for specific assignments as they may not all be the same day of the week. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. **Late assignments are not accepted without prior approval of faculty.** Faculty reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is expected on all work. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their educational experiences. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU. All codes and policies are set forth in the University Student Handbook of Angelo State University <http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/> as well as the Department of Nursing Undergraduate Student Handbook <http://www.angelo.edu/dept/nursing/handbook/index.html>.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University's Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. We use the *APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association* as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Safe Assignment or Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS REQUEST

“Disability Services is part of the Office of Student Affairs at Angelo State University. Angelo State’s Office of Student Affairs works to ensure that qualified students with disabilities have

equal access to all institutional programs and services. The office advocates responsibly for the needs of students with disabilities and educates the campus community so that others can understand and support students with disabilities.”

For more information on learning disabilities and how to apply for accommodations through the ASU Disability Services visit <http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

The following includes contact information for Disability Services at ASU:

ada@angelo.edu

Phone: 325-942-2047

Fax: 325-942-2211

Address: Houston Harte University Center, 112, ASU Station #11047, San Angelo, TX 76909

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures)

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.” Please see ASU Operating Policy 10.19.

COPYRIGHT POLICY

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

SYLLABUS CHANGES

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

WEBLINKS:

Board of Nursing for the State of Texas <http://www.bne.state.tx.us/>

BSN Student Resources http://www.angelo.edu/dept/nursing/student_resources/

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are provided the opportunity, and are strongly encouraged to participate in a course evaluation at the end of the semester. Areas on the IDEA evaluation include:

- Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g. factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories).
- Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in nursing.

- Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth.
- Developing ethical reasoning and/or ethical decision making.
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

RUBRICS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

Located on the following pages

End of syllabus.

Discussion Rubric

Criteria	Levels of Achievement			
	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
Initial Submission	0 Points Did not post.	5 Points Posted beyond 1 day late.	10 Points Initial posting was no more than 1 day late. (Thursday at 11:59pm)	12.5 Points Met submission deadlines for initial postings.(Wednesday at 11:59pm)
Peer Responses Submission	0 Points Does not participate in peer responses OR posted to only one peer after the submission deadline.	7 Points Posted to only one peer by the submission deadline.	10 Points Posted to 2 peers after the submission deadline.	12.5 Points Posted a minimum of 2 peer responses by the submission deadline (Saturday at 11:59 pm)
Frequency	0 Points Does not participate	7 Points Participates 1-2 times and/or on same day.	10 Points Participates 3 times but postings not distributed throughout the week (on 2 days)	12.5 Points Participates 3 or more times throughout the week. (3 days or more)
Initial Assignment Posting	0 Points Posts no assignment.	7 Points Posts adequate assignment with superficial thought and preparation; does not address all aspects of the task.	10 Points Posts well developed assignment that addresses all aspects of the task; lacks full development of concepts/references.	12.5 Points Posts well developed assignment that fully addresses and develops all aspects of the task; included references.
Peer Response Postings	0 Points Posts no follow up responses to others.	7 Points Posts shallow contribution to discussion (agrees/disagrees) does not enrich discussion.	10 Points Elaborates on an existing posting with further comment or observation.	12.5 Points Demonstrates analysis of others' posts; extends meaningful discussion by building on previous posts. Includes at least one cited reference.
Overall Content Contribution	5 Points Posts information that is off topic; incorrect or irrelevant to discussion.	7 Points Repeats but does not add substantive information to the discussion.	10 Points Posts information that is factually correct but lacks full development of concept or thought.	12.5 Points Posts factually correct, reflective and substantive contribution; advances discussion. Adds to current discussion and literature.
References & Support	0 Points Includes no references or supporting experience. > 6 APA errors	7 Points Uses personal experience but no references to readings or research. 3-6 APA errors	12 Points Incorporates some references from literature and personal experience; or does not use any professional references. 1-2 APA errors	15 Points Uses references to literature, readings, or personal experience to support comments. All references were peer reviewed, evidence-based, or professional journal. No APA errors
Clarity & Mechanics	0 Points Posts long, unorganized or rude content that may contain multiple grammar and/or spelling errors or may be	5 Points Communicates in friendly, courteous and helpful manner with some grammatical or spelling errors. ≥ 5 errors	8 Points Contributes valuable information to discussion with minor grammatical and/or spelling errors. < 5 errors	10 Points Contributes to discussion with clear, concise comments formatted in an easy to read style that is free of grammatical or spelling errors.

	Levels of Achievement		
	inappropriate.		

Current Health Care Topic

Written Assignment Explanation

Students will be given a list of health care/ethics topics and be asked to sign up for the topic of their choice, via Wiki. Students will then locate a scholarly article (dated within the past 6 months) based on their chosen topics. They will read the article and then use APA format to write a 2-3 page paper that includes answers to the questions below. This paper must include the following:

- Title page (does not count towards page limit)
- Reference page (does not count towards page limit)
- Introduction to your topic
- Why do you feel this is an important topic in terms of health policy and ethics?
- Summarize your article
- Do you feel that the article you found gives a good explanation about the topic and how it affects current health care policy?
- What barriers to treatment did you discover? If no barriers, what solutions to the problem were offered in the article?
- Include 1-2 paragraphs explaining how this topic could affect your future nursing practice and ways you could advocate for positive change.

All sources and facts must be cited within your letter, using APA format. References must be on a separate page. Minimal direct quotes are allowed. I want to read the information written in your own words. **ASK IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.** A link for Turnitin will be provided so that students can check their letters for plagiarism writing errors prior to submission for grading.

This assignment is in lieu of a mid-term exam.

Current Health Care Topics Written Assignment Grading Rubric

Criteria	Levels of Achievement			
	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
Submission	0 Points Did not submit assignment	10 Points Submitted assignment more than two days late	15 Points Submitted assignment no more than one day late.	25 Points Submitted assignment by deadline.
Content	5 Points Completes task demonstrating poor content indicating lack of effort and does not address all assignment points.	10 Points Completes task with acceptable information answering most parts of the assignment..	15 Points Completes task with good information that answers all parts of the assignment but lacks full depth of content.	25 Points Completes assignment with substantial information that answers all parts of the assignment.
Grammar	5 Points Uses poor grammar and spelling throughout the assignment.	10 Points Uses mostly acceptable grammar and spelling throughout the assignment but has multiple errors.	15 Points Uses good grammar and spelling throughout the assignment with only a few errors.	25 Points Uses excellent grammar and spelling throughout the assignment. No errors.
Writing Style	5 Points Indicates no organization of thoughts. Writing style is rudimentary. >6 APA errors.	10 Points Poor organization of thoughts that causes the reader to be confused by the writer's meaning. No in-text citations used to support ideas. 4-6 APA errors.	15 Points Thoughts are clearly organized but writing style is colloquial versus professional in style. Provides incorrect/incomplete citations to support ideas. 1-3 APA errors.	25 Points Thoughts are clearly organized in an APA formatted paper that is 4-5 pages in length, including a title page and reference page. Cites sources to support ideas. No APA errors.