Course Prefix / Number: NUR 4990

Course Title: Nursing Law & Ethics

Course Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Name: Linda Tibbits MA, RN

Contact Information: email ltibbits@uwf.edu  office phone 850-473-7762

Prerequisites or Co-Requisites: NUR 3081 (NUR 3991) Transition to Professional Nursing Practice

Course Description

This course is for RN-BSN students and explores legal concepts and regulations that guide professional nursing practice and examines concepts, theories, and values applied in ethical decision-making that are related to a variety of ethical dilemmas in nursing practice and health care. Focus is on case analysis of legal and ethical issues.

Course Goals

Upon completion of the course, students will have:

1. Discussed legal considerations pertinent to the practice of nursing.
2. Examined the major ethical theories and ethical principles influencing ethical decision making.
3. Explored contemporary moral, legal, and ethical concepts that affect the practice of nurses and other health care providers.
4. Applied healthcare principles as a guide in the resolution of ethical dilemmas in selected nursing practice areas.

Program Goals

1. To prepare professional nurses through a curriculum incorporating essential elements of baccalaureate nursing education, professional standards of care, and evidence based nursing knowledge with a foundation in the arts and sciences.
2. To prepare professional nurses as providers and managers of care who effectively promote and restore the health of diverse populations throughout the lifespan.
3. To prepare professional nurses to competently utilize information management and patient care technology, and to communicate and collaborate across healthcare disciplines to promote delivery of highly reliable care.
4. To prepare professional nurses as leaders in advocating process, policy, and regulation change that improve health care delivery systems and client outcomes.

Topics

1. The Law and Nursing Practice
   - The Legal Environment
   - Regulation of Nursing Practice
   - Nurses in Legal Actions
   - Standards of Care
   - Defenses to Negligence and Malpractice
   - Prevention of Malpractice
   - Nurses as Witnesses
   - Professional Liability Insurance
   - Accepting or Refusing an Assignment/Patient Abandonment
   - Delegation to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel

2. Liability in Patient Care
   - Patients' Rights and Responsibilities
   - Confidential Communication
   - Competency and Guardianship
   - Informed Consent
   - Refusal of Treatment
   - Pain Control
   - Patient Teaching and Health Counseling
   - Medication Administration
   - Clients with AIDS and HIV Testing
   - Abusive Situations

3. Documentation and Regulatory Compliance
   - The Medical Record and Documentation Standards
   - Electronic Health Information and Communications
   - Interdependent Nursing Functions: Verbal Orders and Telenursing
   - Event Reporting and Compliance
   - Quality and Safety in Nursing Practice

4. Employment and the Workplace
   - Staffing Issues and Floating
   - Americans with Disabilities Act
• Employees with AIDS/HIV Infection and Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens
• Impaired Nurses
• Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
• Violence in the Workplace
• Intentional Torts

5. Ethics

• Ethical Decision Making
• Professional Boundaries and Patient Relationships
• Moral Courage and Patient Advocacy
• Social Media and Online Professionalism
• Reporting Illegal, Unethical, or Unsafe Conduct
• Selected Case Studies

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

CONTENT

Integrates knowledge from the sciences, arts and nursing education to promote intellectual and innovative capabilities needed for current and future nursing practice.

CRITICAL THINKING

Practice active inquiry and utilize problem solving strategies in professional nursing practice.

COMMUNICATION

Demonstrate professional communication and collaborative efforts while promoting an environment of safety among diverse individuals.

Clearly articulate knowledge electronically, verbally and in writing.

Evaluates the use of information technology to ethically manage and communicate data.

INTEGRITY/VALUES

Comply with nursing's legal, ethical and professional standards of practice behaviors.

Develop insight through reflection, self-analysis, self-care, and lifelong learning.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Completes projects that require planning and time management.

HIGHLY RELIABLE CARE
Develops an awareness of broader issues that can affect the provision of highly reliable care.

**Texts / Materials**

**Required texts:**


**Required Materials:**

- Internet Access (broadband is recommended)
- Activated UWF ArgoNet E-mail Account

**Grading / Evaluation**

**Course Requirements and Evaluation**

Quizzes

Discussions

Written Work

See grading rubrics for specific requirements

**GRADING SCALE %**

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93% or better</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% to 92%</td>
<td>A -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87% to 89%</td>
<td>B +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83% to 86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% to 82%</td>
<td>B -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77% to 79%</td>
<td>C +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73% to 76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% to 72% *</td>
<td>C -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% to 69% *</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% or less *</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Constitutes a failure in this course for nursing majors.

**Course Policies**
Course policies on late submissions:

Due to the nature of the learning environment due dates for all assignments have been published by the first day of class and will be adhered to without exception. All assignments/activities are to be electronically submitted in an acceptable format in the designated area (drop box or discussion boards), and exams are completed online. There is a specific mechanism in place that must be followed should you experience an interruption in Internet service during the time you are taking the exam (see below).

Students will not be permitted to take exams after the time/date published.

Students submitting late assignments will receive an automatic 20% point deduction per day.

*If during the duration of the semester you are ill or have a problem that prevents you from completing assignments on a due date please contact the instructor PRIOR to that day and if approved, may arrange an alternate due date. Otherwise, assignments MUST BE SUBMITTED by the due date published on the calendar. Please do not compromise the integrity of this course by asking for an exception.

ONLINE TEST TAKING GUIDELINES - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please do not begin any timed, online exam in the course that may overlap with the eLearning maintenance window. The eLearning maintenance window runs 3:00-6:00 am CST (Central Standard Time) each day. If you initiate an exam that overlaps with this time and experience any technical errors, your recorded score is likely to be close to 0 for such an attempt. There are no exceptions to this policy.

If you experience any other technical problems or errors during any timed exam that does not overlap with the eLearning maintenance window, you are required to notify the Helpdesk immediately at helpdesk@uwf.edu or (850) 474-2075. Failure to contact the HelpDesk to report the problem will result in a grade of 0 automatically being assigned. If you are unable to get immediate assistance from the HelpDesk during the exam, but have documented the problem in an email or voice mail, you may attempt to restart the exam using the same browser, or attempt to re-enter the exam with another browser. If you are still unable to restart the exam and continue with saving, please note that for your final submitted score to be recorded, you MUST still prove that you documented the original technical problem with the HelpDesk via helpdesk@uwf.edu or (850) 474-2075. Failure to do so will result in an automatic grade of 0 being assigned.

Withdrawal Deadlines

Withdrawal dates are published in the University calendar. It is the student responsibility to adhere to these dates if the student desires to withdraw.

Instructor Availability
Best way to reach me is by e-mail: ltibbits@uwf.edu. Most calls and emails can be returned in the morning between 8-10 CDT. Please note my work hours are varied so I am not always available when you are, but I am generally able to respond within 24 hours Monday – Friday.

Reference Format for Written Work

The format for all written work is to follow the guidelines as specified in the most recent edition of APA.

About this Course:

This course is delivered completely online. You must have consistent access to the Internet. Learning at a distance may be a very different environment for many of you. You will generally set your own schedules, participate in class activities at your convenience, and work at your own pace. You may require some additional time online during the first few weeks while you become acclimated to the online format and you may even feel overwhelmed at times. It will get better. You should be prepared to spend approximately 10 - 12 hours per week reading, researching, and online completing lessons, activities, and participating in class discussions. Finally, you may want to incorporate these tips to help you get started:

- Print off the course calendar so you know what content you are covering during each week AND when assignments are due
- Set a time each week (schedule) to:
  - Check the course web site to determine your tasks for the week.
  - Check the course web site frequently throughout the week for updates.
- Do not wait until the last day and last hour to submit discussions/assignments/quizzes.
- Within the first week, become familiar with the d2L learning platform and how to use it.
  - elearninghelp@uwf.edu
- Team up with your classmates to discuss class assignments and questions you might have.
  - Check the “Classlist” link for fellow student biography information and email addresses.
- Ask questions when you need answers after reviewing available instructions and guides.
  - If you have problems, contact your instructor early.

Minimum Technical Skills and Special Technology Utilized by Students

This course is totally online. All instructional content and interaction takes place over the WWW. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving email with attachments, students will be expected to search the internet and upload / download files. In addition, students may need one or more of the following plug-ins:

- Real Player: [http://www.real.com/realplayer/search](http://www.real.com/realplayer/search)
- Configure your computer for Online Room (Elluminate Live!) sessions: [http://support.blackboardcollaborate.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8336&task=knowledge&questionID=1279](http://support.blackboardcollaborate.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8336&task=knowledge&questionID=1279)

**Expectations for Academic Conduct / Plagiarism Policy**


**Assistance for Students with Disabilities**

The [Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)](http://support.blackboardcollaborate.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8336&task=knowledge&questionID=1279) at the University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, please notify the instructor or the SDRC as soon as possible. You may contact the SDRC office by e-mail at sdrc@uwf.edu or by phone at (850) 474-2387. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual.

**Accessibility Resources**

- Follow this link for information on accessibility features in eLearning.
- Follow this link for information on accessibility features in UWF's Learning Management System (LMS), Desire2Learn.

**TurnItIn**

UWF maintains a university license agreement for an online text matching service called TurnItIn. At my discretion, I will use the TurnItIn service to determine the originality of student papers. If I submit your paper to TurnItIn, it will be stored in a TurnItIn database for as long as the service remains in existence. If you object to this storage of your paper:

1. You must let me know no later than two weeks after the start of this class.
2. I will utilize other services and techniques to evaluate your work for evidence of appropriate authorship practices.
Weather Emergency Information

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the campus might be closed and classes cancelled. Official closures and delays are announced on the UWF website and broadcast on WUWF-FM.

- WUWF-FM (88.1MHz) is the official information source for the university. Any pertinent information regarding closings, cancellations, and the re-opening of campus will be broadcast.
- In the event that hurricane preparation procedures are initiated, the UWF Home Web Page and Argus will both provide current information regarding hurricane preparation procedures, the status of classes and the closing of the university.

Emergency plans for the University of West Florida related to weather or other emergencies are available on the following UWF web pages:

- Information about hurricane preparedness plans is available on the UWF web site: http://uwfemergency.org/hurricaneprep.cfm
- Information about other emergency procedures is available on the UWF web site: http://uwfemergency.org/