UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

COLLEGE OF NURSING

COURSE SYLLABUS

FALL 2018

COURSE NUMBER               NUR 3826

COURSE TITLE                     Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing

CREDITS                                2

PLACEMENT             BSN Program: 3rd Semester Upper Division

PREREQUISITES                  3rd Year Standing

COREQUISITES None

FACULTY Sharon Bradley, DNP, RN, CNL, CNE

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Director of Student Success

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\*NOTE: Email is the best way to reach me

COURSE DESCRIPTION   The purpose of this course is to examine legal issues and ethical dilemmas in nursing practice. Consequences of ethical misconduct and legal malpractice are explored. Emphasis is on ethical decision making processes and recognition of negligent practices. Focus is on case analysis of legal and ethical issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES  Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Analyze basic legal concepts relevant to the issues of negligence in the practice of professional nursing.
2. Describe ethical principles related to decision making with clients across the lifespan.
3. Use an ethical decision making model to analyze complex ethical dilemmas in diverse populations.
4. Discuss accountability for protecting confidential and private healthcare information from diverse information sources.
5. Analyze potential conflicts between personal beliefs and values and professional values on legal and ethical dilemmas in practice.
6. Evaluate professional responses to selected ethical and legal issues.

COURSE SCHEDULE

E-Learning in Canvas is the course management system that you will use for this course. E-Learning in Canvas is accessed by using your Gatorlink account name and password at <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>. There are several tutorials and student help links on the E-Learning login site. If you have technical questions call the UF Computer Help Desk at 352-392-HELP or send email to [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

It is important that you regularly check your Gatorlink account email for College and University wide information and the course E-Learning site for announcements and notifications.

Course websites are generally made available on the Friday before the first day of classes.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

1. Advanced legal concepts relevant to health care

* 1. negligence
  2. malpractice
  3. intentional torts

1. Liability for actions in practice
   1. consequences for negligence
   2. privacy
   3. advocacy
   4. peer review
2. Ethical theories and principles
3. Ethical decision making process
4. Rights-based issues across the lifespan
5. Informed consent

TEACHING METHODS

Online lectures and/or videos, web-based modules, presentations, discussion. Yellowdig will be utilized for group discussions. Examsoft will be utilized for the legal exam.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Online group discussion and critique, completion of e-learning assignments, legal exam, written ethical paper (required learning activity).

EVALUATION METHODS/COURSE GRADE CALCULATION

Class Participation via Yellowdig 20%

Legal Exam 25%

Quizzes and Assignments 30%

Ethical Case Analysis 25%

100%

*Feedback on graded assignments routinely is given within 2 weeks of the assignment due date.*

MAKE UP POLICY

This course does not permit unexcused make-up work for assignments not completed by the due date. Students who have extraordinary circumstances preventing assignment completion should notify the course instructor(s) prior to the scheduled due dates or as soon as possible thereafter. The course instructors will then make an effort to accommodate reasonable requests. Make-up assignments must be arranged before the due date/time for UF related conflicts and religious observances. Unexcused late work submissions will receive a 10% grade deduction for a maximum of 2 days then the grade becomes a Zero (0). There is no extra credit in this course. Please keep in mind that your academic obligations **ALWAYS** take priority over personal or social commitments.

GRADING SCALE/QUALITY POINTS

A 95-100 (4.0) C 74-79\* (2.0)

A- 93-94 (3.67) C- 72-73 (1.67)

B+ 91- 92 (3.33) D+ 70-71 (1.33)

B 84-90 (3.0) D 64-69 (1.0)

B- 82-83 (2.67) D- 62-63 (0.67)

C+ 80-81 (2.33) E 61 or below (0.0)

\* 74 is the minimal passing grade

For more information on grades and grading policies, please refer to University’s grading policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

The College of Nursing expects all Nursing students to be professional in their interactions with patients, colleagues, faculty, and staff and to exhibit caring and compassionate attitudes. These and other qualities will be evaluated during patient contacts and in other relevant settings by both faculty and peers. Behavior of a Nursing student reflects on the student's individual’s ability to become a competent professional Nurse. Attitudes or behaviors inconsistent with compassionate care; refusal by, or inability of, the student to participate constructively in learning or patient care; derogatory attitudes or inappropriate behaviors directed at patients, peers, faculty or staff; misuse of written or electronic patient records (e.g., accession of patient information without valid reason); substance abuse; failure to disclose pertinent information on a criminal background check; or other unprofessional conduct can be grounds for disciplinary measures including dismissal.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>. Exam security: Students are required to provide their own privacy screen for all examinations administered via student laptops. No wireless keyboards or wireless mouse/tracking device will be permitted during examinations.

University and College of Nursing Policies

Please see the College of Nursing website for student policies (<http://students.nursing.ufl.edu/currently-enrolled/student-policies-and-handbooks/>) and a full explanation of each of the university policies - <http://nursing.ufl.edu/students-2/student-policies-and-handbooks/course-policies/>

Attendance

UF Grading Policy

Accommodations due to Disability

Religious Holidays

Counseling and Mental Health Services

Student Handbook

Student Use of Social Media

Faculty Evaluations

* 1. “Students in this class are participating in a pilot evaluation of a new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF’s CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, or in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals. Please note your other classes this semester may be evaluated in the current GatorRater online evaluation system at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/) . Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.”

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students who wish to obtain individual accommodations due to special learning needs must register with the University of Florida Disability Resources Center (DRC) **at the beginning of each semester**. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the DRC at the beginning of each semester in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. The DRC may be contacted at 352-392-8565 so that appropriate accommodations may be made.  **Individual accommodations require time for the Disability Resources Center (DRC) to approve and the faculty to respond to any special learning needs**.  **Each semester**, it is the students’ responsibility to notify all their faculty of any special accommodations **once approval by the DRC for special accommodations has been made**.  <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

This course is designed to stimulate self-reflection as you insightfully explore the legal challenges and ethical dilemmas currently confronting nurses in the US healthcare system. The depth and breadth of this course will depend on your level of reflection, preparation, engagement and participation. Expectations are that you stay up to date on module assignments and actively participate in the on-line class activities and discussions.

The course instructor(s) recognize that it is challenging for some to actively participate in class discussions, even online. Additionally, it is acknowledged that the emotionally charged topics under discussion in this course can make participation even more risky for some students. This does not, by any means, allow students to not participate in class discussions. Actually, it means this class will be a safe space for all students to share thoughts and engage in class dialogue, even in our online communications. Thus, the course culture will include trust, active reading/listening, and treating each individual with humility, respect, and courtesy. There is a possibility you may experience personal discomfort (please take time and explore this), however, every student will be afforded the freedom to discuss their thoughts and ideas and to ask difficult questions about complex topics.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

* American Psychological Association. (2013). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association.* (6th ed.) 7th printing. Washington, DC: Author.
* Guido, G. (2014). *Legal and ethical issues in nursing.* (6th ed.). USA: Pearson

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

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| **DATE** | **TOPIC** |
| Week 1  01/14/19 | Start Here Module   * Introduction to Course |
| Week 2  01/14/19 | Module 1   * Introduction to the U.S. Legal System |
| Week 3  01/22/19 | Module 2   * Introduction to Law Principles and Concepts |
| Week 4  01/28/19 | Module 3A   * Elements of Malpractice   + Case analysis |
| Week 5  02/4/19 | Module 3B   * Elements of Malpractice   + Case analysis |
| Week 6  02/11/19 | Module 3C   * Elements of Malpractice   + Case analysis |
| Week 7  02/18/19 | Module 4   * Law and Ethics: The Gray Areas   + Case analysis * American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics |
| Week 8  02/25/19 | **Legal Exam**  **Friday, February 22nd at 9:30-11:30 am**  **Gvl: C1-15**  **Jax: TBA** |
| **SPRING BREAK WEEK** | |
| Week 9  03/11/19 | Module 5   * Introduction to Ethical Theories and Principles   + Ethical decision making framework * ANA Code of Ethics |
| Week 10  03/18/19 | Module 6   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Parental versus Fetal/Infant /Child Rights   + Case analysis * ANA Code of Ethics |
| Week 11  03/25/19 | Module 7   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Nurse Misconduct   + Case analysis * ANA Code of Ethics |
| Week 12  04/01/19 | Module 8   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Nurse Staffing and Burnout   + Case analysis * ANA Code of Ethics |
| Week 13 and 14  4/8 and 4/15/19 | Module 9   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Death and Dying   + Case analysis * ANA Code of Ethics |
| Week 15  4/22/19 | Module 10   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Public Health   + Case analysis * ANA Code of Ethics |

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| Approved: | Academic Affairs Committee:  General Faculty:  UF Curriculum Committee: | 07/05; 10/07; 09/09, 04/13  07/05; 10/07; 09/09, 04/13  08/00; 10/09; 09/16 |