UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

COLLEGE OF NURSING

COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring, 2015

COURSE NUMBER NUR 3826

COURSE TITLE Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing

CREDITS 2

PLACEMENT BSN Program: 3rd Semester Upper Division

PREREQUISITES NUR 3825: Introduction to the Profession of Nursing

COREQUISITES None

# FACULTY M. Josephine Snider, Ed.D., R.N.

[snidemj@ufl.edu](mailto:snidemj@ufl.edu) HPNP 4222 (352) 294-5740

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00-11:00

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 be able to:

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

Section Day Time Room

0120 Tuesday 11:45 G-103

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 <https://lss.at.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

.Negligence

.Malpractice

Intentional torts

1. Liability for actions in practice

Consequences for negligence

Privacy

Advocacy

Peer review

1. Ethical theories and principles
2. Ethical decision making process
3. Rights-based issues across the life span
4. Informed consent

TEACHING METHODS

Lecture, guided class/group discussion, audiovisual materials, written materials, minute papers, and presentation of case studies.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Readings, participation in group discussion, case study analysis, and study questions.

EVALUATION METHODS/COURSE GRADE CALCULATION

Class participation and minute papers 15%

Legal questions 10%

Legal case analysis 30%

Values paper 15%

Ethics case analysis 30%

*Assignments/papers will be returned within 2 weeks of assignment due date.*

MAKE UP POLICY

This course does not permit make up work or extra-credit assignments. One assignment point will be deducted for each day of late submission of required work.

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>

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological*

*Association.* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author

Guido, G. (2012). *Legal and ethical issues in nursing.* (6th ed.). USA: Pearson

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

None

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | TOPIC/EVALUATION | ASSIGNMENTS/READINGS |
| Week 1  Jan. 6 | Introduction to course;  Law principles and concepts | See course materials for all classes |
| Week 2  Jan. 13 | Continuation; review of Florida Nurse Practice Act |  |
| Week 3  Jan. 20    Week 4  Jan. 27  Week 5  Feb. 3  Week 6  Feb 10  Week 7  Feb. 17  Week 8  Feb. 24  Week 9  Mar. 3  Week 10 Mar. 10  Week 11  Mar. 17  Week 12  Mar. 24  Week 13  Mar. 31  Week 14  April 7  Week 15  April 14  Week 16  April 21 | Cause of Action;  Case analysis: standards of care; equipment use  **Legal questions due by midnight**  Case analysis; communication, documentation, assessing and monitoring  Case analysis; delegation, advocacy, impaired professional  Law and ethics; the gray areas.  Case analysis  State’s compelling interests  Overview of ethical theories  Deontology  Utilitarianism  Virtue  Rights-based  Principles and rules  **Spring Break; no class**    Continuation of theories; casuistic model; ethical decision making processes  **Legal case analysis due by midnight**  Informed consent; Union Pacific RR; Schloendorff v. Society of NY hospital; Nuremberg Code; Belmont Report  Parental/infant/ child rights; Case analysis  Carder “AC”  Burton  Ashley  Baby Fae  Baby Theresa  Death & dying; case analysis  Quinlan  Cruzan  Schiavo  Vulnerable populations in research; historical cases:  Nazi medical experimentation;  Japan’s Unit 731 experimentation;  American conscientious objectors;  USPHS Tuskegee study;  Willowbrook;  Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital  Medical futility; right to die legislation; case exemplars  **Ethical analysis due by midnight**  Disasters and ethics;  Memorial Hospital; Ebola | Case assignments made for analysis of legal issues  Case assignments made for ethical analysis |

University and College of Nursing Policies:

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

Attendance

Academic Honesty

UF Grading Policy

Accommodations due to Disability

Religious Holidays

Counseling and Mental Health Services

Student Handbook

Faculty Evaluations

Student Use of Social Media