UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

COLLEGE OF NURSING

COURSE SYLLABUS

FALL 2017

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

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

TEACHING METHODS

Guided small group discussions and case analysis, and assigned reading

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Participation in small group case analysis, presentations, completion of e-learning assignments, written paper (required learning activity), and continuing development of e-portfolio.

EVALUATION METHODS/COURSE GRADE CALCULATION

Class Participation 15%

Legal Exam 30%

Values Paper 25%

Ethical Case Analysis 30%

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). 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>. Students are required to provide their own privacy screen for all examination’s administered to 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 a full explanation of each of the following policies - <http://nursing.ufl.edu/students/student-policies-and-handbooks/course-policies/>.

* Attendance
* UF Grading Policy
* Accommodations due to Disability
* Religious Holidays
* Counseling and Mental Health Services
* Student Handbook
* Faculty Evaluations
* Student Use of Social Media

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

* American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
* Guido, G. (2014). *Legal and ethical issues in nursing*. (6th ed.). USA: Pearson

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 class discussions.

The course instructors recognize that it is challenging for some to actively participate in classroom discussions. 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. Thus the classroom 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, however, every student will be afforded the freedom to discuss their thoughts and ideas and to ask difficult questions about complex topics.

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

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| **DATE** | **TOPIC** |
| Week 1  08/23/17 | Welcome – Start Here Module   * Introduction to Course |
| Week 2  08/30/17 | Module 1   * Introduction to the U.S. Legal System |
| Week 3  09/06/17 | Module 2   * Introduction to Legal Principles and Concepts |
| Week 4  09/13/17 | Module 3A   * Cause of Action   + Case Analysis |
| Week 5  09/20/17 | Module 3B   * Cause of Action   + Case Analysis |
| Week 6  09/27/17 | Module 3C   * Cause of Action   + Case Analysis |
| **DATE** | **TOPIC** |
| Week 7  10/04/17 | Module 3D   * Cause of Action   + Case Analysis |
| Week 8  10/11/17 | Legal Exam |
| Week 9  10/18/17 | Module 4   * Law and Ethics: The Gray Areas * Case Analysis |
| Week 10  10/25/17 | Module 5   * Ethical Theories * Ethical Decision Making Frameworks * Nursing Code of Ethics |
| Week 11  11/01/17 | Module 6   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Parental versus Fetal/Infant/Child Rights   + Case Analysis * ANA Code of Ethics |
| Week 12  11/08/17 | Module 7   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Nurse Staffing and Burnout   + Case Analysis * ANA Code of Ethics |
| Week 13  11/15/17 | Module 8   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Nurse Misconduct   + Case Analysis * ANA Code of Ethics |
| Week 14  11/22/17 | Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class |
| Week 15  11/19/17 | Module 9   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Death and Dying   + Case Analysis * ANA Code of Ethics |
| Week 16  12/06/17 | 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 |