Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi
College of Nursing and Health Sciences
NURS 3150 – Professional Nursing Issues
Fall 2011

Class Time: Monday 1100 – 1150
IH 160

Faculty: Nancy T. Goodman RNC, MSN
IH 343

Office hours: Monday 1330 – 1500, Wednesday 1330 - 1600,
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday by appointment

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Credits: One-semester hours (1.0)

Course description: Concentrates on legal, ethical, economic and
political issues affecting the nurse as an individual, a professional, and
health care delivery to clients, groups and aggregates. Consideration is
given to self-discovery, personal assertiveness, role conflict, negotiation
and collective bargaining. Students are encouraged to apply critical
thinking strategies, during the course discussions and presentation.

Prerequisites: NURS 3202, 3318, 3435, 3342, 3548, 3628

Course Objectives:

1. Analyzes the impact of selected historical, political, ethical, legal
   and professional issues on the health care delivery.
2. Analyzes multidimensional influences on health and health care
3. Accepts responsibility for own learning and professional growth.
4. Completes assignments is assigned time frame
5. Utilizes group dynamics and communication skills in
   collaboration with individuals and groups.

Teaching Methods

This is a seminar course which requires the student to actively participate
in discussions in class. There will be individual assignments, independent
reading and study for the student to demonstrate learning. These methods
will be utilized to develop an understanding of the current issues in nursing
today. The faculty member will be available to assist the student in
researching the issues being discussed
**Required Text:** *Thinking as a Nurse* (2009), Bruce Austin Scott, iUniverse, ISBN 978-1-4401-6333-3

You will need to use the web and the library to research the topics that will be discussed.
The Texas NPA Standards of Practice, Unprofessional Standards and a copy of the Safe Harbor forms – [www.bne.state.tx.us](http://www.bne.state.tx.us)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Discussion participation is required each week in class. The student will submit their work relating to the topic of the day at the end of class.
2. All assignments will be typed with the name attached.
3. Any dishonest behavior will result in a zero for that assignment.
4. Evidence of preparation for discussion is determined by participation and scholarly comments in assignments. Students must site references with each assignment.
5. All assignments must be submitted by the due date unless the faculty member posts a change in the due date or a different date is negotiated prior to the due date. There will be no exceptions.
6. There will be no food permitted in class. You should eat lunch either before class or after class.
7. Students who are carrying on a side conversation may be asked to leave the class.
8. This course will be dealing with relevant information to help the student in developing their professional role as a nurse.

**GRADING POLICY**

The grading scale for the course is:

- **A** = 90 - 100
- **B** = 83 - 89
- **C** = 75 - 82
- **D** = 67 - 74
- **F** = below 67

**Grading Criteria**

- Weekly class discussions and assignment for class = 65%
- Papers – *Thinking as a Nurse* = 20%
- Disciplinary Action = 15%
Weekly Class assignment and discussions

Complete the assignment of the week and be prepared to discuss in class. The assignment must be typed with references – the student should research the topic. The student must demonstrate scholarly thought in the assignment. The assignment will be turned in during class. Make sure your name is on the assignment. If the name is not on the assignment, then the student will lose the points for that week.

Grading Rubric for individual Assignments – each assignment is 10 points

- Written work contains evidence that the student understands the content: 3 points
- Written work demonstrates student’s unique ideas about the content: 5 points
- Written work includes references to construct contributions: 2 points
- No more than 2 pages with references to be turned in the day of discussion
- Details for the assignments will be posted under Units

Grading Criteria for the Thinking as a Nurse Paper – 20 points

- APA format: 7 points
- Synthesis of the material: 10 points
- Well organized and clear: 3 points

Thinking as a Nurse Paper – submit in assignments in Blackboard

- Write a 4 – 5 page paper using the information in the text – Thinking as a Nurse.
- Include at least one other reference besides the Text.
- Cover the following areas
  - Why is it important for you as a student to be able to think as a nurse?
  - How will you incorporate this into your current practice as a student and then as a new professional?
  - Which of the areas are the most important to you?
  - Any other areas you think important

Disciplinary Action – submit in Assignments in Blackboard – 15 points

- Go to the Texas BON website – www.bon.state.tx.us
- Go under Disciplinary Action – then Recent disciplinary Action – select an RN – from January 2009 to the present, then discuss the reason for the action – and the final action by the BON.
  - Discuss the specific issue with the nurse –
  - When did it happen, and type of agency the issue happened
  - Finding of the BON and the disciplinary action taken by the BON
  - What is your opinion about the BON decision
Plagiarism

The highest standards of academic honesty are expected from the student. Faculty adheres to the University policy regarding academic honesty as published in the University Catalog.

Plagiarism means to steal and pass off the work of another as one’s own work. It usually results from bad paraphrasing or improper referencing. The substitution of a few changes from those of the original author and forgetting to use quotation marks, and reference citation are technically considered plagiarism. The only safe way to paraphrase is to read the original over several times and then write your conception of what you have read without looking at the original. In other words, when paraphrasing, keep the source book closed! Wilson, p. 523


CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Ethical behavior is essential in nursing since nurses have enormous responsibility. All students are expected to adhere to the rules of this educational institution. Details regarding the code of conduct and sanctions for violations of the code of conduct can be found in the University's student handbook as well as the CONHS student handbook. For this course, a student found guilty of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, cheating and plagiarism will be given a zero on the exam or/assignment for the first offense and a failing grade for the course for a second offense.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Student Affairs:

http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/JAffairs/ja_hndbk_rules_n_regulations.htm

CONHS handbook:
http://conhs.tamucc.edu/nursingstuhandbook/index.htm

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a
disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 361.825.5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Nursing and Health Sciences require that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Faculty Center rooms 163 & 165, and advisors are Johanna DuBose 825-3748 and Angelica Santillan 825-2461.

**Grade Appeal Process**
As stated in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) Handbook under section VII Policies and Procedures, a student that believes they have an academic grade appeal is encouraged to go though the CONHS academic review process prior to pursuing University Grade Appeal. See the handbook for the process.

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.