Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi
College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Professional Nursing Issues
NURS 4250-001_SP2012

Class Time: Tuesday 1100 – 1250
IH 267

Faculty: Nancy T. Goodman RNC, MSN
IH 343

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

Internet: nancy.goodman@tamucc.edu
Telephone: (361) 825-2607

Credits: Two-semester hours (2.0)

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, 3550, 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. Due to the size of the class there will be individual or group assignments, independent
reading and study for the student to demonstrate learning. Each student will have the
opportunity to be a class expert for one class session. 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.

The course schedule may change if there is a new worthy event that takes place during the
semester. A revised schedule will be posted and the class will be notified.
**Required Text:** *Thinking as a Nurse* (2009), Bruce Austin Scott, iUniverse, ISBN 978-1-4401-6333-3
The web for other topics discussed during the semester
The Texas NPA and a copy of the Safe Harbor forms – [www.bne.state.tx.us](http://www.bne.state.tx.us)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. The course is designed for participation each week in class. Each student is to bring information for the topic of the week. This information will be submitted at the end of class.
2. All weekly assignments must be typed with the name attached
3. All weekly assignments must be referenced as to the source of the information
4. Any dishonest behavior will result in a zero for that assignment.
5. Evidence of preparation for discussion is determined by participation and scholarly comments in assignments.
6. 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.
7. When there is not assignment for the week attendance will be taken and the student will get credit for being in class. This will be part of the discussion and assignment grade.
8. The two papers must be submitted using APA format. The student must look this up and follow the guidelines. Follow the instructions below.
9. There will be no food permitted in class. You should eat lunch either before class or after class.
10. Students who are carrying on a side conversation may be asked to leave the class.
11. 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, activities in class, 70%
- Thinking as a Nurse Paper 15%
- Disciplinary Action paper 15%

**Discussions**
To participate in weekly discussion, students should research the topic and be prepared for the topic to be discussed in small groups. The student must demonstrate scholarly thought in all discussion activity and include references. In class group assignments will be turned in at the end of the class. The student needs to bring references to class to be included in the group activity in class.

**Grading Rubric for group or individual Assignments** – each assignment is 10 points  
(small group work)
Written work contains evidence that the student understand the content 3  
Written work demonstrates student’s unique ideas about the content 3  
Written work builds on discussion in class 2  
Written work includes references to construct contributions 2

**Grading rubric for Disciplinary Paper** – 15 points
Written work explains the background and experience of the nurse 2  
Written work identifies the specific problems with the nurse 2  
Written work outlines the action taken by the BON 2  
Written work outlines the time frame for the RN to complete the BON action if appropriate 2  
Express you ideas about the BON decision 4  
APA format 3

**Grading Criteria for the Thinking as a Nurse Paper** – 15 points
APA format 6  
Synthesis of the material 6  
Well organized and clear 3

**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 Paper and Discussion**
You are to select a final disciplinary action and report the major issues of the action.  
You are to write up your case and attach it in assignments. Do not forget to reference the BON. You will then discuss your case in a small group discussion on line. You are then required to respond to two other reports with the on line discussion.
www.bne.state.tx.us – then go under disciplinary action – You can select from the recent disciplinary action on the disciplinary action pages. In the disciplinary action pages do not select from any before 1/2009.

Choose only **RN actions** – there are many who have both RN and LVN license and you can use those.

Your paper is to include the cause of the disciplinary action, the stipulations of the action, and the outcome. Did the nurse comply with the action or was the license revoked. What are your thoughts about the case?

**Assignments**

1. The resume is to be submitted in assignments with your two letters – the assignment criteria are posted in units. The assignment should be submitted in one document with the introductory letter, the resume and the thank you or follow up letter.

2. Disciplinary Action paper. www.bon.state.tx.us – see directions in units

3. Class discussion assignments will be submitted to the faculty member at the end of the class.

4. You are to be prepared to discuss the topic each week in class.

**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.
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 in unit 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 through 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 Rule 13.02.99.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. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.