Faculty: Adele Bemis RN, MSN  
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Telephone: (361) 851-1583  
All e-mails should be through BB  
Call for an appointment or we can use webex for conference if needed

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. 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, Universe, ISBN 978-1-4401-6333-3

You will need to use the web and the library to research the topics that will be discussed on a weekly basis.

The Texas NPA, copy of the Standards of Practice, and Unprofessional Standards from the NPA – www.bon.state.tx.us

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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1. The course is to be a discussion course. You will have discussion assignments for posting each week.
2. All weekly discussion must be referenced as to the source of the information.
3. Any dishonest behavior will result in a zero for that discussion.
4. The two papers must be submitted using APA format. The student must look this up and follow the guidelines. Follow the guidelines as outlined below.
5. 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, assignment and presence in class 70%
Papers – Thinking as a Nurse 15%
Disciplinary Action 15%

Weekly Class discussions
Complete the readings in Units prior to doing your own research for the weekly discussion. The student must demonstrate scholarly thought in discussion and two papers. The assignment will be submitted in class.

Grading Rubric for individual discussion – each assignment is 100 points
Contains evidence that the student understands the content 30
Demonstrates student’s unique ideas about the content 50
Includes references to construct contributions 20

Grading Criteria for the Thinking as a Nurse Paper – 100 points

APA format 15
Synthesis of the material 70
Well organized and clear 15

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 Assignment**
Go to the Texas BON website – [www.bon.state.tx.us](http://www.bon.state.tx.us)
Go under disciplinary action – then Recent disciplinary Action – select an RN
From the most recent list – **It must be an RN not an LVN**
Discuss the specific issue for the discipline of the nurse
What happen, the type of agency, the nurses educational background if available and the years as a professional nurse
thye findings of the BON and the disciplinary action taken by the BON
What is your opinion about the BON decision?

**Grading Criteria for the Disciplinary Action Paper – 100 points**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APA format</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specific Issue</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board action</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your opinion</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Posting you Disciplinary action case in discussion** -
Post summary of your case in BB discussion – making sure you give enough information so others understand the reason for discipline and the BON actions. Then comment on at least two other classmates case.

**Academic honesty**

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)


When you do not reference your work it is plagiarism.

**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.

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

Continuity of the course in case of an emergency such as a hurricane. The procedure
will be posted in the BB course shell when we are alerted that the coastal bend is in the
path of a storm. Three weeks of assignments will be posted. You can down load the
information and when you have access to the course again you can post your
assignment.