Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

NURS 3150 Professional Nursing Issues I
Syllabus
Spring 2018

FACULTY: Katelijne Acker, PhD, RN - Assistant Clinical Professor

OFFICE: Island Hall, IH 342b

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment.

TELEPHONE: 361-825-2178

EMAIL: Katelijne.Acker@tamucc.edu

FAX: (361) 825-2484

CREDITS: 1 semester hour (1.0)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Concentrates on legal, ethical, economic and political issues affecting the nurse as an individual, 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 presentations. Prerequisite NURS 3202, 3318, 3435, 3342, 3548, 3628

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the end of this course the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the impact of selected historical, political, ethical, legal and professional issues on the health care delivery. (AACN Essential I (3,4,9), V (1,4,5,6,12), VI (1,6), and VIII)
2. Analyze multidimensional influences on health and health care (AACN Essential V (1,4,5,6,12), VI (1,6) and VIII)
3. Accept responsibility for own learning and professional growth. (AACN essential VIII)
4. Complete assignments is assigned time frame (AACN essential I (1,2,3,4,9)
5. Utilizes group dynamics and communication skills in collaboration with individuals and groups. (AACN Essentials VI (1,6)
REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:


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

You will need to use the Internet and the library to research the weekly discussion topic.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TEACHING METHODS:

Course objectives may be met through independent reading and study using suggested resources, active involvement in formal and informal exchange of ideas with classmates and colleagues regarding specific topics as well as utilizing critical thinking skills. Teaching methods include discussion, small group work, independent study of texts and library resources. 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance and participation are required as the course is designed around these. Your participation and scholarly comments are evidence of your preparation for class.
2. All assignments must be typed in APA format and include the students name. Sources need to be cited and referenced.
3. In the absence of a weekly assignment attendance will be taken and credit will be given as part of the assignment grade.
4. All assignments must be submitted by the due date (see late assignments policy)
5. Dishonest behavior will result in a zero for the assignment.
6. No food will be allowed in class. Lunch should be eaten before or after class.
7. Students will be held to academic decorum (see below).

ACADEMIC DECORUM

The learning process involves an exchange of ideas and an exploration of concepts between faculty and students. A certain level of decorum facilitates this process for learners and teachers. Behaviors can also disrupt it. Use the following examples as guides to behaviors that support learning. Avoid those that disrupt the learning process.

Supportive actions include:

1. Preparing for class
2. Being attentive and responsive in class.
3. Respecting fellow student’s opinions and ideas.
4. Contributing to the class by making topic specific comments.
5. Supporting the rights of classmates to contribute, even when disagreeing with content.

Examples of disruptive behaviors to avoid include:
   1. Consistently coming to class late.
   2. Answering e-mail and text messaging during class.
   3. Carrying on side conversations.

**GRADING CRITERIA**

Grading is a process of comparing a student's performance (the outcome of learning) against a designated standard, or set of criteria, and assigning a symbol to the level of performance achieved. Current College of Nursing and Health Sciences policy stipulates the following grading scale

A: 90-100
B: 83-89
C: 75-82
D: 67-74
F: Below 67

**The course grade will be earned as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly class discussions and attendance</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking as a nurse paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Late work policy**

Course assignments submitted late will be subject to point deductions as follows:

- **Any assignment, submitted after the due date will earn a grade of zero.**

If a student is aware that they may need to submit an assignment late due to illness or other circumstances, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the professor prior to the due date. Deductions for late assignments with special circumstances and notification before the due date may be waived at the professor’s discretion.
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

The University and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences rely on electronic communication as the major avenue to distribute and receive information needed for academic work and life on campus. Only by using university e-mail addresses will communication be consistent and complete. This course will ONLY use university e-mail addresses and/or Blackboard e-mail to communicate with students electronically. It is each individual student’s responsibility to activate his/her university e-mail account.

Faculty will post other means of communication in the NURS 3150 course shell, as applicable.

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 Island Hall #318, and advisors are Rachael Taylor 825-3748 and Angelica Santillan 825-2461. http://conhs.tamucc.edu/advising_nursing.html

EVENT OF CAMPUS CLOSURE

In the event of a campus evacuation the faculty will make every effort to continue teaching this course. During the campus closure the faculty will communicate with you utilizing Blackboard tools NOT personal email accounts.
To access information regarding an emergency closing of the University, go to the Homepage of TAMUCC-The Island University. At the bottom of the page, under Campus News, there is an icon that reads Code Blue. Click on this for emergency information. Because we are an island university, prepare for early evacuation from the University. Along with the traffic from the Naval Air Station, there will be excess traffic when trying to evacuate from the University down Shoreline. Carpooling is encouraged to decrease the number of vehicles exiting the University in an emergency situation.

POLICIES:

Evaluation Input From Students

The faculty of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences places great value on evaluative input from students. Evaluation of courses, instructors and clinical facilities
provides the College with important data, which is used to strengthen the program. Data is analyzed as to trends and themes and is important to curriculum and sequencing decisions. All evaluations for courses posted are online. The online mechanism allows us the opportunity to tabulate and store information in order to analyze trends within the curriculum. Please be assured that this information is secured and not released until after grades are submitted. No names are available to faculty. In order to garner some reliability and validity, the College must have representative data from the student population. That representation, based on the literature, has been set at 70%. The College is anticipating that students will thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process which will assist the faculty with the growth of the program. A link to evaluations will be available on Blackboard toward the end of the semester. Thank you in advance for your assistance with the evaluation process.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

It is expected that University students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to a penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own). Please see the following sites for additional information:

University Student Handbook and Code of Conduct:  
http://www.tamucc.edu/~students

University catalog related to academic integrity and honesty:  
http://catalog.tamucc.edu/


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 CCH 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disabilities Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816

Title IX

As part of the Texas A & M Corpus Christi University policy, pregnant students are urged to contact the Title IX office for facilitation of academic issues impacted by pregnancy, delivery and subsequent complications. Contact information: Mr. Samuel Ramirez, Title IX Coordinator or Ms. Rosie Ruiz, Deputy Title IX Coordinator (825-5826).

Active Military Duty

Active duty military personnel, military spouses, and veterans with special circumstances (eg: deployment, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the course and clinical instructor.

Grade Appeals Process

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) adheres to the University’s student grade appeal procedures described in Section 13.02.99.C2.01 (revised May, 2013) and follows those guidelines. See [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/) for the University procedure and see [http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/](http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/) for the CONHS process identified in the Student Handbook.

Support Services

Students are encouraged to seek faculty assistance in accessing University Services, including tutoring, health services, personal counseling, degree counseling, financial aid, learning resources, job/work placement, career guidance, and computer/technical support/instruction. If a student is interested in other support services provided by the University, the student is encouraged by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the University to seek these services.

**GENERAL COURSE TOPICS**

1. *Thinking as a nurse* by Bruce Austin Scott (2009)
2. Standards of Practice, Differences in roles of RN and LVN, Unprofessional Standards, Honesty, Personal Competence, Honesty, Personal Competence, Advocacy, Professional Boundaries, Social Media, and Disciplinary Action