



SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
School of Nursing

NURS # 4381: Course Title: **Legal & Ethical Issues in Nursing**

Course description: This course explores current ethical and legal issues that affect the nursing practice. The course also looks at past and present legal and ethical issues that affect nursing. Students learn about various theories and tools that can be used to assist them in resolving ethical dilemmas

Semester/Year: Fall 2017

Class meeting: online

Class Calendar: dates for all required readings, videos, discussion boards, assignments, quizzes & exam

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Credit: 3 - Prerequisites: NURS 3370

Program Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Integrate knowledge from liberal studies and nursing science to practice professional nursing, in a holistic caring manner
2. Development, implement and evaluate safe, quality patient care through collaboration with patients and members of the inter-professional health care delivery team in various health care settings
3. Demonstrate ethical accountability and legal responsibilities using cultural parameters and professional nursing standards of practice and care in order to provide care to individuals, families, groups, and populations.
4. Use therapeutic communication in formal and informal interaction with patients, families, groups, colleagues, and other members of the healthcare team in the delivery of nursing care.
5. Demonstrate professional leadership and management skills while implementing safety principles in the delivery of nursing care.
6. Base safe patient care upon evidence and clinical reasoning.
7. Act as an advocate for both sick and healthy clients across the lifespan and for the nursing profession, reflecting current and changing health care systems, health policies, and global health care factors.
8. Demonstrate accountability for lifelong learning and professional growth.

9. Demonstrate competency with technology and information management in the delivery of safe care, while maintaining confidentiality and protecting patient rights.
10. Collaborate with other professionals on the health care team to provide health promotion, disease, and injury prevention across the lifespan for individuals, families, groups and populations.

Course Objectives:

1. Compare the basis of decision-making in ethics as they apply to nursing.
2. Relate specific legal and ethical issues to the Texas Nurse Practice Act and Texas Board of Nursing.
3. Discuss strategies that can be employed to address legal and ethical issues in nursing practice.
4. Identify ethical principles that guide health care decision-making.

Instructional Strategies:

Teaching/learning strategies will include reading materials, online Videos (Ted Talks), Blackboard discussions, written assignments, quizzes and final exam paper.

Learning Activities:

Participation in discussions, case studies, introspection and other activities as specified by the course instructor. Each activity provides a (maximum) specific number of points. Ex: There are 4 discussion boards in this course and each discussion board has a possible 5 points.

Evaluation Methods:

Activity	Points (Value)	Total possible points	Total = % of total grade
Discussion Board (x4)	4 (each DB is 5% of total grade)	20	20%
Quiz (x2)	2 (each Quiz is 5% of total grade)	10	10%
Written Assignment (x4)	10 (each is 10% of total grade)	40	40%
Kaltura Presentation (x1)	15 (15% of total grade)	15	15%
Final Exam (paper x1)	15 (15% of total grade)	15	15%
		100 possible pts.	100%

Department of Nursing Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Points	Percentage	
A	8.95-10	89.5-100	Passing
B	7.95-8.94	79.5-89.4	
C	7.45-7.94	74.5-79.4	
D	6.95-7.44	69.5-74.4	Not Passing
E	6.94 and below	69.4 and below	

Calculation of Course Grade:

- In order to progress in nursing, students are expected to pass all nursing courses with at least a "C".
- Didactic and clinical/laboratory components of nursing courses shall be taken concurrently.
- All clinical and classroom assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.
- (Example) 3 exams, the ATI, and quiz grade average make up the weighted exam (or unweighted, if that is correct for your course) average; exam average must be 74.5% (rounds to 75 per policy; 74.999% DOES NOT) to pass the course.

- Failure for exam average or failure in the clinical portion (separate syllabus) will necessitate repeating the entire course.
- During each semester with clinical practice opportunities, students must take and pass per Sam Houston State University School of Nursing Student Handbook Dosages and Calculations Competency Policy, a level-adjusted drug dosage and calculation test. This exam must be given twice, with a week between attempts, prior to the 12th day of classes, so that any failing students may withdraw without increased financial penalty. (For J2, S2 \this will be different) For the S1 semester, the dosage and calculations exams are given in NURS 4420, but any student who fails will also need to withdraw from both NURS 4440 and NURS 4030.

Required Text(s):

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington DC: American Psychological Association.

Robichaux, C., (2017). *Ethical Competence in Nursing Practice* (1st Edition), New York NY: Springer Publishing

Willman, J., (2010). *Annotated Guide-RN to the Texas Nursing Practice Act* (9th Edition), Texas Nurses Association.

Course Content Outline:

1. The professional nursing role
2. Implementing the professional nurse role: ethical issues, principles, and theories
3. Critical-thinking in legal and ethical nursing issues
4. The political process in nursing
5. Understanding risk and conflict nursing management
6. Special issues of risk management in nursing
7. Balancing nursing care quality and efficiency
8. Improving access to health care
9. Building and sustaining the healthcare workforce of the future
10. End-of-life issues
11. Allocating limited medications and donor organs
12. Standards for managing drug shortages
13. Current literature related to legal dilemmas related to nursing
14. Current literature related to ethical dilemmas related to nursing
15. The changing practice of nursing

Assignment Instructions & Grading Rubrics/Evaluation

*Each discussion posting (except your introduction posting) will require at least 2 APA formatted references to support your thoughts. In order to make the discussion relevant and supported by evidence please provide 1 APA formatted reference to support your response to other students. **The textbook can only be used as 1 citation per module. Please use current journal articles (less than 10 years old) as references.

Didactic Assignments

Course Introduction:

Review the instructions for using Kaltura. The instructions can be found on the course webpage. Look under *Bb Student Orientation* on the left navigation pane, then click on *Multimedia*, and then click on *Kaltura*. You will be using this program for your final project. Learn to use it now to prevent last minute stress at the end of the semester.

Module 1:

- **Discussion Board Intro:** (Instructions - Post an introduction about yourself and why you are seeking a BS in Nursing. This discussion board will not be graded for content and no references are required.)
- **M1 DB** – Discussion board instructions - Post your answer to the following question: “*Why is understanding ethics, legalities and politics important for the professional nurse?*” You are required to post your response and respond to 2 students according to the instructions above*.
- Criteria & Grading Rubric - Discussion Board Rubric (possible 5 points – 5% of total grade)
- **M1-WA** - Written Assignment instructions – Review the following article and video. Discuss how these relate to ethical nursing practice. Give examples where possible in your own practice that apply to these concepts. Use at least 2 references for the assignment.
- Read:
 - Applying the Ethics of Care to your Nursing Practice by Vicki D. Lachman
 - Patient Advocacy in the Community and Legislative Arena by Mary A. Maryland, PhD, MSN, APN-BC and Rose Iris Gonzalez, PhD, RN
- View Ted Talk:
 - *Let’s talk about dying* by Peter Saul, MD located at:
https://www.ted.com/talks/peter_saul_let_s_talk_about_dying/transcript?language=en
- Criteria & Grading Rubric – Advocacy & Caring in Nursing Practice (possible 10 points – 10% of total grade)

Module 2:

- **M2 DB** - Discussion board Instructions – Analyze your answers to the “*Who Am I?*” document. What does this analysis disclose about your personal ethical values and how would they influence your decisions/options when it comes to ethical decisions in your nursing practice? Post the brief analysis of your thoughts about who you are morally and ethically. Please use the instructions listed above*
- Criteria & Grading Rubric - Discussion Board Rubric (possible 5 points – 5% of total grade)
- **M2-WA** – Written Assignment Instructions – Complete the NIH course, take the quiz for each section, fill out the evaluation, and upload your certificate through the Assignments tab. The NIH course is provided free and it can be located at:
<https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>(possible 10 points – 10% of total grade). (Add the certificate to your resume.)

- **Quiz** – Answer the questions in the quiz.

Module 3:

- **M3 DB** - Discussion board Instructions – Viewing the Tedx Talk “*Present; not Perfect*” by Elaine C. Meyer, PhD, RN located at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phUUjk_btiY Post your answer to the following: The Gallup poll recently reported Americans feel nurses are the number one trusted profession. Why do you think nurses are always at the top of the list for trusted professions? How can nurses ensure that the profession remains at the top of the list? Is the information shared by Dr. Meyer relevant? Follow the instructions above* for references.
- Criteria & Grading Rubric - Discussion Board Grading Rubric (Possible 5 points – 5% of total grade)
- **M3 WA** – Written Assignment Instructions - ANA Code of Ethics – Select one provision from the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with the Interpretive Statements. Demonstrate application using a case example from your nursing or clinical experience. Please use at least 2 references.
- Criteria & Grading Rubric – Code of Ethics (possible 10 points – 10% of total grade)

Module 4:

- **M4 DB** - Discussion board Instructions - National Standard of Care – After viewing the Ted Talk “Health care should be a team sport” located at: https://www.ted.com/talks/eric_dishman_health_care_should_be_a_team_sport by Eric Dishman, post your answer to the following question: *Is there a national standard of care for all patients?* Please provide relevant discussion to support your answers using the instructions above*
- Criteria & Grading Rubric - Discussion Board Grading Rubric (Possible 5 points – 5% of total grade)
- **M4 WA** – Written assignment Instructions – Review the following articles and slide presentations and discuss how the concepts relate to ethical nursing and patient care practices. Give examples where possible in your own practice that apply to these concepts. Use at least 2 references for the assignment.
 - Read: *Social Media: Managing the Ethical Issues* by Vicki D. Lachman
 - Read: *Patient Safety: The Ethical Imperative* by Vicki D. Lachman
 - Review: Safe Staffing slide presentation
 - Review: Peer Review slide presentation
 - Review: Safe Harbor slide presentation
- Criteria & Grading Rubric – Social Media, Patient safety, Peer Review (possible 10 points – 10% of total grade)
- **Quiz** – Answer the questions in the quiz.

Interview Presentation – Final Project

- **Kaltura project instructions** (*choose one of the 4 options below*) - Your research will be presented to the class as an online Kaltura*** presentation uploaded to the discussion board. Use slides to develop your presentation and then add audio using Kaltura. You should plan on a 10-12 minute presentation. Use 6-8 slides with the last slide listing your 2 references.
- You will also be required to submit just your slides in the assignment tab for grading.

- Criteria & Grading Rubric – Interview Presentation. Use your creativity and enjoy the project. You are also required to post a response to 2 other student’s presentations.

- Interview the **Risk Manager or hospital lawyer** to better understand how risk management is a part of the nurse’s professional role and a strategy that is used to protect the nurse and their patient.

OR

- Interview the **Hospital Quality Director** to better understand how quality and patient safety is essential to ethical nursing practice.

OR

- Attend a **“Safe Staffing” Committee meeting** to better understand how staffing ratios are essential to patient care.

OR

- Attend an **“Ethics Consult”** meeting to better understand how ethical consults effect quality care, patient outcomes, and nursing practice.

***[Kaltura instructions](#) can be found on the course webpage. Look under Bb Student Orientation on the left navigation pane, then click on Multimedia, and then click on Kaltura.

- **Final Exam** - Reflective Overview of Modules 1- 4 and an explanation of how you will incorporate the concepts learned in this course to your nursing practice.

Your Final Exam should be a reflection of what you have learned this semester. Adult learners retain materials best when we are asked to apply the knowledge. Reflection is also an important method used to retain knowledge. Your final exam paper should be scholarly in nature. Have someone read and edit your paper before submission to insure that you have perfected your grammar, citations, and thoroughly explained and supported your thoughts.

- The paper should be around 1500 words.
- The introduction should be about 200 words.
- The body of the paper should address your perceptions and learning from each module. Use a separate section for each of the four (4) modules covered. Use about 300 words to discuss each module and how you will apply the information to your practice. (total 1200 words)
- Your conclusion of the paper should be covered in about 100 words.
- Reference as appropriate using APA6 format.

This paper is due by **December 7th (by 11:59 pm)** and should be turned in through the **assignment tab**.

This is your final exam therefore this paper must be turned in on-time. Late papers will not be graded. The value of the final exam paper is 15 points (15%) of the course grade.

Course Policies/Expectations

Classroom Conduct and Civility: The instructor will conduct this class in an atmosphere of mutual respect. The instructor encourages active participation in class discussions. We may have strongly differing opinions on the various topics of class discussions. The conflict of ideas is encouraged and welcome. The orderly questioning of the ideas of others, including the instructor, is similarly welcome. However, the instructor will exercise their responsibility to manage the discussions so that ideas and arguments can proceed in an orderly fashion. You should expect that if your conduct during class discussions seriously disrupts the atmosphere of mutual respect, you will not be permitted to participate further.

Faculty/Student Communication: Course faculty often communicate important course updates using the SHSU email system. Students are expected to check their SHSU email account daily and reply, as appropriate, to faculty. Students are not to text faculty unless the faculty member has communicated this as an acceptable means of communication. When allowed, students must include their name in the text message. In addition, students are to abide by texting guidelines set forth by the faculty member (ie: no phone calls/texts after 9pm or on the weekend). Refer to the *Faculty/Student Communication Policy* in the Student Handbook for further guidance.

Group Assignments: Group dynamics and the group process are important learning outcomes for the Department of Nursing graduates. Many opportunities for learning these skills are integrated into the curriculum. Characteristics of successful groups are:

1. Members identify goals and objectives.
2. Members set deadlines for completion of tasks.
3. Members distribute equitable assignments and complete them in a timely fashion.
4. Members report back at scheduled meeting times.
5. If problems arise in a group, members attempt to resolve the problems internally.
6. If unable to resolve group dynamic problems, consult course faculty for direction in problem resolution (SHSU Dept. of Nursing, 2012, p. 20).

Points will be deducted for students not demonstrating professionalism, collegiality, unequal contribution to the group assignment, or unequal participation in presentation of assignments. If students exhibit any of these behaviors, their grade for the project will automatically be reduced one letter grade.

Late Work: All assignments will be assigned a due date which is considered the last day it will be accepted. Any assignment submitted after a given deadline and time will generally receive a "0". There may be circumstances in which the instructor may allow a student to hand in an assignment and still receive up to full credit. This remains at the discretion of the instructor.

Recording lectures: Students who wish to record lectures must request permission to do so from the faculty member(s) teaching the course.

Department of Nursing Policies

Syllabus modifications: The standards and requirements set forth in the syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be posted in course announcements or communicated by written or email notice. This syllabus does not constitute a contract, expressed or implied, between any student or faculty member and the SHSU Department of Nursing.

Absence Policy

Presence at lectures, clinical rotations, and other events are an important part of the student learning experience in the Sam Houston State University (SHSU) School of Nursing (SON). Absences are obstructive to this process and are strongly discouraged.

There are two kinds of absences recognized by SHSU SON: an absence given with prior notice and a no-call/no-show absence. An *absence given with prior notice* is one in which the professor or clinical instructor was directly spoken with by phone call or in person before the scheduled class/clinical start time. A *no-call/no-show absence* is an absence in which the student does not attend the class or clinical rotation and has not directly spoken with the instructor/professor before the scheduled class/clinical start time.

An absence “occurrence” is defined as any absence, regardless of the reason, and will begin the first absent day and end the last absent day, so multiple days can comprise a single absence occurrence.

ATTENDANCE AT ALL SCHEDULED CLINICAL EXPERIENCES (INCLUDING SIMULATION, SKILLS LAB, OR OTHER EXPERIENCE) IS MANDATORY FOR ALL STUDENTS. Any student who is experiencing symptoms of an infectious process (ie: fever, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) should contact faculty at least one hour prior to scheduled clinical start time to advise of symptoms. Depending on the assigned clinical experience, students may be required to notify appropriate clinical agency personnel. Clinical make-up assignments will be required.

Due to the importance of clinical experiences for the student’s learning, any absence from clinical may prohibit the student from meeting course outcomes which may result in clinical/course failure.

The following absence guidelines apply:

- Two no-call/no-show absences may result in dismissal from SON.
- Two or more didactic (course) absence occurrences in a single semester may result in failure of the course.
- One absence from clinical may prohibit the student from meeting course outcomes which may result in clinical/course failure.
- Six absence “occurrences” while the student is enrolled and engaged in coursework within the SON may result in dismissal from the SON.

Any occurrence lasting two days or more will require documentation (SHSU Student Health Center or healthcare provider’s note, etc.) to be submitted to the faculty member of each course/clinical rotation missed. The healthcare providers note is submitted in addition to a completed Form 8: Student Absence/Tardy Form.

With each absence occurrence, the student must complete and sign the Form 8: Student Absence/Tardy Form and submit to course faculty within 24 hours upon return to classroom or clinical for the SON. All Student Absence/Tardy forms are to be signed by course faculty and submitted to the Administrative Assistant for the Director of the SHSU SON. Student Absence/Tardy forms for students assigned to The Woodlands campus (TWC) are to be submitted to the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Director of the SON at TWC.

Tardiness Policy

Tardiness is an unprofessional behavior and is disruptive to the class and clinical environment. Thus all students are expected to arrive on time to class and clinical and are expected to return from break on time. Students arriving after the scheduled start time are considered tardy. Tardiness may result in loss of course points and/or additional assignments per course faculty discretion. The student must complete Form 8: Student Absence/Tardy form for each tardy incident and submit it to course faculty with 24 hours of incident. The following outlines the consequences of student tardiness.

First tardy incident = counseling of student by the Course Coordinator;

Second tardy incident = counseling of student by the Level Coordinator;

Third tardy incident = counseling of student by the Director of the School of Nursing;

Fourth tardy incident = may result in course failure

Examination Policies: When possible, test grades will be posted within 48 hours of the exam.

Written exams and written assignments must be completed as scheduled. If a student is unable to complete a written (clinical or class) assignment, arrangements must be made with the instructor(s).

See ***Absence from Scheduled Examinations Policy*** in the Student Handbook for guidelines regarding absence from exams.

Cell phones must be turned off during the exam. Both cell phones and laptops not being used to test cannot be visible during testing and exam reviews. If a student has a cell phone visible, his or her test will be taken away and the student will receive a grade of zero on the test. There will be no sharing of calculators during exams.

Contact with a student taking an exam can occur by calling 936-294-2371 and someone will come and notify the student of an emergency.

ATI Testing Policy: As a part of coursework in the School of Nursing, standardized examinations (ATI) are mandatory to fulfill requirements of many courses. These examinations provide students with diagnostic information regarding their knowledge base for nursing practice. Students should take these standardized examinations seriously.

If the student does not achieve the acceptable passing score of proficiency level 2 or higher when tested, remediation will be required. *The student is responsible for completing any required remediation or testing.* Students must make an appointment with course faculty to discuss specific individual performance concerns. The student must retest within a specified period. If the acceptable passing score is still not achieved, the student must remediate further.

Progression Policy: In order to successfully pass a course with exams, students must achieve at least a 75% exam score. If your exam score at the end of the course is less than 75% (74.5% and higher rounds up; 74.99 does not) you will fail the course and will be required to retake the course including the clinical component, if applicable.

All clinical and classroom assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. Failure in any component will necessitate repeating the entire course. Didactic and clinical/laboratory components of nursing courses shall be taken concurrently.

In order to progress in the SHSU nursing program, students are expected to pass all nursing courses with at least a "C".

Students are expected to abide by and will be held accountable to all policies within the Nursing Student Handbook. Please refer to this handbook for further information with regard to the following policies. SHSU.

Services for Students with Disabilities

At Sam Houston State University, the mission of the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is to promote full and equal access on the part of students with disabilities to educational and extracurricular programs and activities at SHSU.

Procedures and Process for Accommodations

SSD affords students with disabilities the opportunity to reach their full potential by:

- Providing academic adjustments and auxiliary aids and services
- Promoting independence and self-advocacy
- Making referrals to support services on campus and in the community

SSD seeks to foster a supportive and inclusive environment for students with disabilities by:

- Building and maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff
- Promoting disability awareness on campus
- Providing consultation services and outreach programming on student disability issues for the SHSU community

Disability Accommodations

Students requesting disability accommodations for coursework (including on-line) are advised to contact the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD- see the contact information below). Information on the SSD documentation guidelines and procedures to request services is available at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/>

SON Faculty may refer students the SHSU Disability Services office.

University Policies

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism: The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

The use of unauthorized material, communication with fellow students during an examination, use of unauthorized technology during an exam, attempting to benefit from the work of another student and similar behavior that defeats the intent of an examination or other class work is unacceptable to the University. Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, improper acknowledgment of sources in essays and the use of a single essay or paper in more than one course without permission, and falsification of records or documentation are considered serious offenses and shall be grounds for disciplinary action. Students will receive a zero on the test or assignment in question and will be reported to the Chair of the Nursing Department and to the Dean of the College of Sciences. For more information, please refer to SHSU Academic Policy Statement #810213, *Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty*.

Students are expected to abide by and will be held accountable to all SHSU policies contained with the SHSU Student Guidelines available at <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>. Please refer to this handbook for further information in regards to the following policies.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Disruptive conduct

Withdrawal/resignation