

PACE UNIVERSITY  
LIENHARD SCHOOL OF NURSING

PROPOSAL FOR A GRADUATE COURSE

COURST TITLE: ETHICS AND ITS APPLICATION TO ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL NURSING

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3 Credits

FACULTY: Carol Gilbert

PRE AND/OR CO-REQUISITES: None. Undergraduates admitted with permission of instructor.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course will offer an exposition of general ethical theories with emphasis on those most applicable to the needs of the nursing professional. These theories will form the basis for analysis of ethical dilemmas in professional nursing practice. Consideration will be given to legal implications of ethical decisions and the nursing professional codes and personal values of the student. The purposes of this course are to:

1. Provide the student with knowledge about selected ethical theories and theorists.
2. To compare, contrast and analyze these theories in respect to their applicability to advanced professional nursing practice.
3. To analyze relevant moral problems using a variety of these theories.
4. To develop a personal ethical theory for use in solving moral problems.
5. To contrast ethical decisions with legal implications.
6. To compare personal values with professional nursing codes of ethics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the end of the learning experience the student will be able to:

1. State and discuss selected ethical theories.
2. Analyze selected ethical theories in respect to their applicability to advanced professional nursing practice.
3. Discuss the relationship between ethical decisions and legal implications.
4. Solve selected moral dilemmas using given ethical theories.
5. Develop, describe, and define a personal ethic.
6. Compare and contract selected and personal ethical theory with professional "codes of ethics".

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

- I Ethical Decision-Making Theories
  - A. Normative
    - 1. Utilitarianism
    - 2. Deontology
  - B. Non-Normative
    - 1. Existentialism
  
- II Application of Ethics to Professional Practice
  - A. Professional Obligations
    - 1. Codes/guidelines
  - B. Personal Philosophy
    - 1. Values
  - C. Legal Obligations
  
- III Ethical Theory in Practice
  - A. Professional Conflicts
  - B. Life or Death
  - C. Truth telling or Lying
  - D. Informed consent and Refusal of treatment
  - E. Children and Parents
  - F. Allocation of Resources

Methods of Instruction: Class meetings will involve didactic presentation, seminar, panel discussion and debate modalities. The faculty and students will share responsibility for preparing and presenting content throughout the semester. In addition, individualized student investigation will form a part of the course plan.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Term Project - to be completed in the form of a paper. The topic and format of this project to be agreed upon by the individual student and faculty.
  
2. Responsibility for at least one class presentation. The responsibility will include the development and distribution of a current annotated reading list on the presentation topic.

Pivotal References:

Frankena. Ethics. 2nd edition. Prentice Hall Series.

Brody. Ethical decisions in medicine. 2nd edition. Little, Brown.

Bandman & Bandman. Nursing ethics in the life span. ACC.

Chinn. Ethical issues in nursing. Aspen.

Reference Lists:

Ethical

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- Bandman, E. & Bandman B. (Eds.) (1978). Bio-ethics and human rights: A reader for health professionals. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
- Bandman, E. & Bandman, B. (May 1977). There is nothing automatic about rights. AJN, Vol. 77, No. 5, pp. 867-72.
- Baron. (1979). Medical paternalism and the rule of law: A reply to Dr. Relman. American Journal of Law and Medicine, Vol., 4 No. 4.
- Beauchamp, T. & Walters, L. (Eds.) (1978). Contemporary issues in bio-ethics. Belmont, CA: Wedsworth Publishing Co., Inc.
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- Jameton. (August 1977). The nurse: When roles and rules conflict. Hastings Center Report, 7, pp. 22-23.
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- Ladd. (1979). Legalism and medical ethics. the Journal of Medicine and Philosophy, Vol. 4, pp. 70-80.
- Levine, M. (May 1977). Nursing ethics and the ethical nurse. AJN, pp. 845-49.
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