UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
SCHOOL OF NURSING  
SPRING, 1995  
NURSING 492

COURSE TITLE: Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing Practice

COURSE CREDIT: Three (3) hours.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Every other Friday, January 20 - May 5, 1995.

FACULTY:

COURSE OVERVIEW: This course provides the student with a basic knowledge of health, law, and ethics and examines legal and ethical issues confronting nurses in various health care facilities.

TEACHING METHODS: Seminar, group discussion, role-play, group presentations, and observation of the judicial process.

EVALUATION:  
Reference Reviews (5)  
Legal-Ethical Nursing Unit Report  
Day in Court Report  
Group Project  
Class Participation  
25 points  
35 points  
20 points  
15 points  
05 points


ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is expected. If you are not going to be in class, you will need to notify the instructor and arrange to obtain any information you missed.

ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments will be accepted up to one class period late. A penalty of ten (10) points will be imposed. After one class period, papers will not be accepted, and a grade of zero will be assigned.
COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the legal/judicial process.
2. Analyze legislation and legal opinions that impact nursing practice.
3. Apply legal/judicial principles to the practice of nursing.
4. Formulate strategies to reduce liability in nursing practice.
5. Understand the nurses's role and responsibilities in a trial.
6. Analyze the impact of proposed tort reform strategies on nursing practice.
7. Examine ethical issues confronting nurses in various health care facilities.
8. Integrate legal and ethical principles into hypothetical or actual situations that have implications for nursing practice.

DISCUSSION OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Reference Reviews - You are required to read 5 articles related to legal or ethical issues. These must have a discussion of a legal or ethical concept. Include in your review,
   A. A discussion of the legal and/or ethical concept you have identified.
   B. How that concept effected the nursing practice involved.
   C. A discussion of what you have learned from the article.
   D. How reading the outcome of the legal and/or ethical issue will effect your personal nursing practice.
   E. Reference reviews will be due January 27, February 10, 24, March 24, and April 7.

2. Legal-ethical Nursing Unit Report - Begin to notice your environment at work. Select one legal or ethical issue that you see that is placing yourself, your colleagues, or your institution at risk for litigation. When you have selected an issue, write your report.
   A. Identify the legal or ethical issue.
   B. Describe the situation in as much detail as possible.
   C. Explain how that issue effects your nursing practice.
   D. Identify how the issue can be changed.
   E. Create a plan to implement change in your practice.
   F. This report will be due April 21.

3. Day in Court Report - you are required to spend one day in either Meridian City or Lauderdale County Court. You may choose any type of court open to the public except traffic court. You must see at least part of an actual trial. Write a report about your experiences. Include:
A. The name of the judge whose court you observed.
B. The type of case you observed.
C. The legal issues involved
D. Your observations of the process of the trial.
E. Your opinions about the trial process.
F. The outcome of the case or cases you observed.
H. This assignment is due May 5, 1995.

4. Group Project - The class will be divided into an equal number of work groups. Each group will be given an ethical or legal dilemma. The groups will work on solving this dilemma throughout the semester. The culmination of the process will be an oral presentation, May 5, 1995.

5. Class Participation - You are expected to contribute to each class. Be sure to submit the Evaluation of Class Participation form each class meeting. These forms need to be submitted at the end of class. Forms handed in the following class meeting will not be accepted.

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4/21/94  8  Integration of legal and ethical principles into hypothetical or actual situations that have implications for nursing  Yeo, Readings as appropriate

5/5/95  CLASS PRESENTATIONS  COURSE EVALUATIONS