NS414 - ETHICAL, LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN NURSING
COURSE SYLLABUS - FALL 1995

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Explores the development of professional nursing practice with emphasis on inherent ethical
dilemmas and legal implications encountered in a variety of roles. Social trends likely to
influence future practice are examined. Ethical decision making processes are applied to
clinical problems.

COURSE CREDITS

Four Semester Credits

COURSE PREREQUISITES

RN Licensure

FACULTY

Jackie Pflaum, RN, MS, MPH
Bldg. K Room 104D
786-4574

Anna Webb, RN, JD
(H) 344-8272
(W) 276-5294

LENGTH OF COURSE

Fourteen Weeks

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATION

Anchorage Tuesday 8:00 am - 12:00 noon -BEB 311

TEACHING METHODS

Lecture, group discussion, case study presentation and selected audiovisuals
GRADING

The standard School of Nursing grading scale will be used for determining the final course grade:

- A = 89.6 - 100
- B = 79.6 - 89.5
- C = 69.6 - 79.5
- D = 59.6 - 69.5
- F = 59.5 - 0

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS*


*Note: Additional selected texts, journal readings, court cases, etc. will be used and required or recommended by the instructors.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Punctual attendance and class participation is expected.

2. The student is responsible for all announcements, content and handouts presented in class.

3. Regular attendance is expected. Unexcused absences may result in a student being dropped from the course with a failing grade. It is the responsibility of the student to make acceptable arrangements with the instructor to make up missed work.

4. Seek help from instructor as needed.

5. Maintain confidentiality in all matters related to clients.

6. Contact instructor for alternatives if circumstances prevent completion of assignments by designated dates. Such contacts must be established prior to the designated due date.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Utilize relevant nursing and other literature as a basis for making ethical, legal and professional decisions.

2. Appraise ethical and legal issues as they relate to the delivery of safe and effective health care.

3. Critique current ethical dilemmas faced in health care.

4. Explore the development of professionalism as it relates to the student's personal career development.

5. Analyze ethical, legal and professional issues encountered in a variety of professional roles.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Participate in class discussions.

2. Complete reading assignments prior to class time.

3. Submit written assignments on time.

4. Participate in course, instructor, and self evaluation.

5. Seek help from instructor as needed.

6. Maintain confidentiality in all matters related to clients.

7. Contact instructor for alternatives if circumstances prevent completion of assignments by designated due date. Such contacts must be established prior to the designated due date.

INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Keep student informed of progress throughout the course.

2. Facilitate instructional opportunities to meet individual learning needs.

3. Serve as a professional resource person and role model.

4. Maintain confidentiality of all private interactions with the student.
JOURNALING: DIALOGUE AS A CONTEXT FOR LEARNING

A Journal is neither a diary nor class notes but borrows features from both—like diaries, journals are written in the first person about issues that you care about; like classnotes, journals are concerned with the content of a particular course.

Expectations

1. 1 to 5 diary entries per week - Each of you will develop your own style, and number of entries is not as critical as becoming involved in this process.

2. Structure your journal entries to develop your own thoughts through reflection on your personal life and your professional life as a nurse and as a student, classroom experiences in NS414 (and other classes, if relevant), and the readings.

Respond to readings and class.

READINGS

PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES

Journal entries will be reviewed for completeness:

a. how well you identify the areas and write about each in your journal
b. how well you synthesize the areas—make connections among them
c. how much you begin to formulate ideas based on your synthesis of personal, professional and students experiences; reading; and classroom experiences
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

A number of course assignments will be integrated into the journal you will keep over the course of the semester.

I. Health Care Issues Assignment (30%) - DUE DATE: December 5

Purpose: Contrast and analyze positions related to major issues discussed in health care today. (May or may not be specifically related to nursing.) Many of you may want to focus on the rapidly changing health care environment.

A. Activities

1. Select an issue of interest to you. Reviewing current professional journals will help.

2. Complete further readings on the issue selected.

3. Explore the issue over the course of the semester, clearly identifying all aspects of the debate being held in the health care industry.

4. Decide where you stand on the issue. You might have different positions personally/professionally.

5. Incorporate an analysis of materials reviewed on the issue into your journal.

6. Search out opportunities to become personally and politically involved in this issue. E.g., is there any legislation being proposed related to the issue? Do you favor or oppose it

II. Ethical Dilemma Seminar (35%)

Each student will be responsible for a leadership role in a seminar focused on an ethical issue/dilemma.

A. Presenter's Responsibilities

1. Meet with instructor to discuss topic chosen for approval.

2. Identify behavioral objectives and prepare reading list for the class at least one week prior to the class.
3. Review of Literature, due at the time of the oral presentation.
   a. A written synopsis of pertinent recent readings on your subject from the nursing and health sciences literature (approximately 6-8 should be sufficient).
   b. Include a reference list as described in the APA Manual (pp 107-133). Note: To assist with your writing style, refer to the APA Manual, Chapter 2, "Expression of Ideas".
   c. Sources of information need to be referenced in the text of your review.

4. Present an overview background of the dilemma for approximately 30 minutes.
   a. Utilize a case study of your choice.
   b. Structure the discussion with this situation as the focus.
   c. The oral presentation must go beyond the scope of the required reading.

5. Journal/Personal Reactions

Submit in your journal detailed entries that you kept while researching the issue you presented in class describing your thoughts, feelings, personal values, professional values and personal reaction about the topic, and presenting the issue in class. Journal may be typed or legibly handwritten. A minimum of five dated entries are expected.

B. Class Participant's Responsibilities

1. Assigned readings must be completed prior to class.
   a. Since seminar format will be used, all students will be expected to actively participate.
   b. The Presenter's role will be primarily to facilitate the process.
C. Instructor's Responsibilities

1. The seminar presentation will account for 35% of the course grade. Presentations will be evaluated as follows:

   a. Readings/Objectives  10 points
   b. Presentations        50 points
   c. Review of Literature 20 points
   d. Journal             20 points

   100 points

III. Legal Assignment:

Each student will be required to write a journal on issues discussed in class. Emphasis is to be placed on determining if the students initial perceptions have changed after legal content has been discussed.

Thus, the first part of the assignment is to write out your perceptions of the issue to be discussed in class. The instructor will give you notice of which issues are to be included.

The second part of the assignment is to return to the initial perception after a one or two week period and set down questions raised in your mind about the issue and whether your initial perception and understanding have undergone change.

This assignment will be an integral piece of your journal as well. Journals must be submitted monthly during the semester for feedback.

DUE DATES: October 10, 1995, November 14, 1995 and December 12, 1995

EVALUATION METHODS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Issues Assignment</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethical Dilemma Seminar</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Assignment - Journal</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Total 100%
### NS414 - ETHICAL DILEMMA PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Grading Sheet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>PRESENTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
<td>1. Meet with instructor to discuss topic chosen for approval.</td>
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<td>Total 10</td>
<td>2. Identify behavioral objectives and prepare reading lists for the class at least one week prior to the class.</td>
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<td>Total 20</td>
<td>3. Review of Literature due at the time of the oral presentation.</td>
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<td>a. A summary of pertinent recent readings on your subject from the nursing and health sciences literature. (4-6)</td>
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<td>b. Include a reference list as described in the APA Manual (pp. 107-133). Note: To assist with your writing style, refer to the APA Manual, Chapter 2, &quot;Expression of Ideas&quot;.</td>
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<td>c. Sources of information need to be referenced in the text of your review.</td>
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<td>Total 50</td>
<td>4. Present an overview background of the dilemma for approximately 30 minutes, with a 30 minute discussion.</td>
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<td>a. Utilize a case study of your choice.</td>
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<td>b. Structure the discussion with this situation as the focus.</td>
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<td>c. The oral presentation must go beyond the scope of the required reading.</td>
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<td>Total 20</td>
<td>Journal</td>
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<td>5. Submit in your journal detailed entries you kept while researching the issue you presented in class describing your thoughts, feelings, personal values, professional values, and personal reaction about the topic, and presenting the issue in class.</td>
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<td>Presentation Grade:</td>
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**Worth 35% Towards Course Grade - Points Toward Grade:**

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Students

Presentation
Title/Date
<table>
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<tr>
<th>STUDENT</th>
<th>PRESENTATION</th>
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COURSE SCHEDULE

REQUIRED TEXTS

NOTE: Legal readings will be provided. See attached list. Readings are on reserve, filed by lecture title.

OPTIONAL TEXTS

NOTE: Readings from Uustal text are optional. Readings on reserve for ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL will be filed by lecture TITLE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LEGAL</th>
<th>PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>Orientation and Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/29</td>
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<td>Video - Sentimental Women Need Not Apply</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>NO CLASS - LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>9/5</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Judicial Process</td>
<td>Moral Development and Ethical Theory</td>
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<td>9/12</td>
<td>Statue of Limitations</td>
<td>Values and Principles - D&amp;A Chapters 1-4</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Theories of Malpractice</td>
<td>Political Action</td>
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<td>9/19</td>
<td>Expert Advisory Panel</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Standards of Care</td>
<td>Nursing Codes, Principles, Ethical Decision Making - D&amp;A</td>
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<td>9/26</td>
<td>Nurse Practice Act</td>
<td>Chapters 5, 6, 13</td>
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<td>Impaired Nurse</td>
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<td>Unprofessional Conduct</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Alaska Statutes:</td>
<td>After Health Care Reform - Where do we go?</td>
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<td>10/3</td>
<td>Peer Review</td>
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<td>Confidentiality</td>
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<td>Good Samaritan Law</td>
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<td>Blood Shield Law</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Patient Rights:</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
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<td>10/10</td>
<td>Informed Consent</td>
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<td>Advance Directives</td>
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<td>Use of Restraints</td>
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<td>Mandatory HIV Testing</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Patient Rights:</td>
<td>Dorothy Fulton</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Informed Consent</td>
<td>Impaired Nurse</td>
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</tbody>
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| Week 9 10/24 | Federal Legislation:  
COBRA  
ADA  
Health Care Quality Improvement Act | Euthanasia  
Dr. James Liszka |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Week 10 10/31 | Federal Legislation:  
COBRA  
ADA  
Health Care Quality Improvement Act | Legal Only |
| Week 11 11/7 | Health Care Reform  
Tort Reform | Differentiated Practice |
| Week 12 11/14 Tues | Professional Issues:  
Assignments  
Supervisory Roles  
Personnel Issues  
Insurance | Ethics Committees  
Yvonne Shohl |
| Week 13 11/21 | Professional Issues:  
Assignments  
Supervisory Roles  
Personnel Issues  
Insurance | TBA. |
| Week 14 11/28 | Documentation | Presentations |
| Week 15 12/5 | Duty to Warn  
Duty to Report | Presentations |
| Week 16 12/12 Finals | Evaluation: Scheduled | Presentations |

*Readings from this text are optional.*

Other Readings TBA
LEGAL READING LIST

THEORIES OF MALPRACTICE
A.S. 09.55.536
A.S. 09.55.540
Jackson v Power
Physician and Staff
A.S. 09.10.070

PATIENTS’ RIGHTS
A.S. 09.55.536
A.S. 18.12.010
Living Wills
Right to Die after Cruzan
Cruzan v Harmon
A.S. 08.68.395
Guidelines on Withdrawal Food/Fluid
Serologic Testing
Risk and Responsibility in Nursing Care

DUTY TO REPORT/WARN
A.S. 47.17.010 et seq.
A.S. 08.64.369
A.S. 11.41.436
Deshaney
Tarasoff v Regents

STANDARDS OF NURSING CARE
A.S. 08.68.270
A.S. 08.68.275
Nurses Who Violate the Nurse Practice Act

FEDERAL LEGISLATION
COBRA
HEALTH CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

ALASKA STATUTES
Protecting Hospital Records
A.S. 18.23.030

DOCUMENTATION
Doctor Sues Nurse
Can MD Amend Nurses Notes
Nurses Notes - Weight in Gold

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES
Professional Liability Insurance
What Every Nurse Should Know
Churchill