

**Western Kentucky University**  
**Department of Nursing**  
**Spring 2012**

**Course Name:** Professional Issues in Nursing

**Catalog Description:** This course will examine issues and trends in professional nursing practice. Students will focus on the influence of social, legal, economic, historical, political and ethical forces on professional nursing practice.

**Course Number:** NURS 408

**Course Credit:** 3.0 Credit Hours

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:** All nursing courses

**We are pleased that you have made the commitment to continue your nursing education. The didactic (lecture) courses in the RN to BSN program are delivered using an on-line delivery method with limited face-to-face meetings on WKU's main campus. You can expect to have similar time commitments for an on-line course as you would in a more traditional course that meets weekly in a classroom environment.**

**For example, for each 3-hour face-to-face course, there would be a 3-hour time commitment per week for attendance at class. This same timeframe should be allotted for on-line classes. This is when you could watch lectures, take quizzes, submit assignments, etc. As with a face-to-face class, there is also an additional commitment for working on assignments, reading, and doing other class preparation. You should expect this to be approximately 3-9 hours per week for a 3-hour course.**

**We are excited to have the opportunity to be a part of your RN to BSN program.**

**Faculty:** Cathy H. Abell, PhD, MSN, MS, RN, CNE  
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**Class Date/Time:** This is an on-line class. There will be one mandatory face-to-face meeting at the Bowling Green campus on April 26<sup>th</sup> 8-11.

**Graduation and Convocation:** Saturday, May 12, 2012. (You will receive more information at a later date.)

**Course Objectives:**

At the completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Apply previous knowledge of the behavioral, biological, social sciences and the liberal arts as it relates to current practice. (PO, 1)
2. Describe the impact of selected nursing theories on professional nursing practice. (PO, 1, 4, 7)
3. Explore the influence of social and historical forces on professional nursing practice. (PO, 1, 4, 5, 8, 9)
4. Analyze ethical issues that impact professional nursing practice. (PO, 6, 8, 9)
5. Apply political and economic principles in professional nursing practice. (PO, 6, 8, 9)
6. Explore societal trends that may influence the health care delivery system and practice of professional nursing. (PO, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
7. Explore current issues that impact professional nursing practice. (PO, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
8. Relate research finding to professional nursing practice. (PO, 4, 7)

**Numbers at the end of each objective correspond to the appropriate program outcome.**

**Instructional Methods:** The course is taught on-line and uses Blackboard Software. Instructional methods will include, but are not limited to, reading assignments, talking power point presentations, integrity videos, discussion boards, and videos.

**Information will be posted on Blackboard each week regarding presentation of material.**

**Required text:**

American Nurses Association (2010). Nursing's social policy statement: The essence of the profession. Silver Springs, MD: Nursebooks.org.

American Nurses Association (2010). Nursing: Scope and standards of practice (2nd ed.). Silver Springs, MD: Nursebooks.org.

American Psychological Association (2010). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Fowler, M.D.M. (Ed.) (2010). Guide to the code of ethics for nurses: Interpretation and application. Silver Springs, MD: Nursebooks.org.

Huston, C.J. (2010). *Professional Issues in Nursing: Challenges & Opportunities* (2nd edition). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

**With the exception of Huston, you should have purchased all of the textbooks for this class in prior courses.**

**Articles:**

Articles will be assigned throughout the semester.

### GRADING SCALE:

90-100%	=	A
80-89%	=	B
70-79%	=	C
60-69%	=	D
Below 60%	=	F

Please review the policies in the RN to BSN Handbook regarding progression in the program.

Evaluation Methods:

Assignment	Points	Due Date
Summary Code of Ethics	10 points	Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup>
Summary Social Policy Statement	10 points	Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Professional Resume	20 points	Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup>
"Round Robin" Discussion Board	30 points	As assigned throughout semester
Ethical Paper	50 points	April 12 <sup>th</sup>
Final Paper	80 points	April 19 <sup>th</sup>
Final Oral Discussion	10 points	April 26 <sup>th</sup> (at meeting on main campus)
Quizzes	50 points	Week of Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup> , Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup> , Mar. 19 <sup>th</sup> , & April 2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>260 points</b>	

Information about evaluation methods:

I. **Discussion Board:** The Discussion Board is an important part of the learning opportunities. Throughout the semester, there will be a discussion of the professional issues addressed. These will be treated as questions posed in a classroom setting. Please see rubric on Blackboard.

II. **Summary of *The Code of Ethics* and *Nursing's Social Policy Statement*.** These are two very important documents for the professional nurse. These were introduced in N323. You will be expected to re-read these two documents and write short one-two page papers describing the development, purpose, contents and your reaction to this document. A rubric for grading the assignment will be posted under the Assignments link on Blackboard.

III. **Professional Resume:** Each student is expected to develop a professional resume to be used when applying for a position as a nurse manager. A resume should be concise and limited to one page except in unusual circumstances. A rubric for grading the professional resume will be posted on Blackboard.

IV. **Ethical Paper:** This paper is to reflect your analysis of an ethical dilemma. A rubric for grading the ethical paper will be posted on Blackboard.

V. **Final Paper:** The final paper provides you the opportunity to reflect on your educational journey in the RN to BSN program. You will be expected to share your philosophy of nursing, how you have achieved the program outcomes, and describe the nursing or non-nursing model you use to guide your practice, and share your thoughts on how past and future ethical, social, historical, political, economic forces have shaped the health care delivery system and nursing practice of nursing. A rubric for grading will be posted on Blackboard.

VI. **Oral Presentation:** An oral presentation will be given during a class meeting scheduled at the end of the semester. It is mandatory that all students attend this meeting. Each student will participate in an informal classroom discussion regarding their final paper.

VII. **Quizzes:**

- Will be on-line
- Only one attempt will be available for quizzes.
- All quizzes must be taken during scheduled time frame. There will be no make-up quizzes.
- Quizzes will be on assigned chapters as well as information from articles noted on Blackboard.
- **On-line testing policy:** If a student goes over the time frame allotted for an on-line test the following grade guidelines will be followed: If 5 minutes or less over the time frame, no penalty. For each additional 5 minutes over, they will be penalized 5%.

All assignments must be completed in a timely manner. Assignments not submitted electronically via Blackboard will not be accepted. Papers submitted after the due date will lose 10%. Papers will not be accepted 1 week past the due date.

Assignments (papers, quizzes, test, discussion boards, etc.) will be able to be submitted during the week they are assigned Sunday at 8:00 a.m. through Thursday at 8:00 a.m. There may be times when faculty have different schedules for specific assignments. Lectures, outlines, and handouts will be posted on Sunday at 8:00 a.m. of the week they are scheduled. They will remain available for the rest of the semester. Again, in specific cases this may vary.

**Student Responsibilities:**

Students are expected to follow all policies as printed in the current *Western Kentucky University Department of Nursing Student Handbook* and *WKU Student Handbook*. Students are responsible for completing all assignments by the designated due date.

Students are expected to be self-directed and responsible in their own learning. It is the student's responsibility to seek assistance, make-up deficiencies, attend scheduled meetings, and check blackboard for announcements.

Material presented on-line is to be used only for the purposes of this class. Students must not allow any other person access to the Blackboard site for this class or information presented on Blackboard. No audio or video taping of any class material is allowed.

**Academic Honesty:**

A score of zero will be applied to any quiz, examination, or any assignment for academic dishonesty.

Please refer to the departmental and university handbooks for specific policies regarding academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism.

**The faculty member reserves the right to turn any assignment into programs that help detect plagiarism.**

**Librarian:** The library has a Librarian for every department on campus. To schedule an appointment, call 745-6125 or e-mail [webreference@wku.edu](mailto:webreference@wku.edu) and you will be connected with the appropriate subject librarian.

**Help Desk:** If you have technical problems with blackboard, please contact the help desk. The phone number and hours are noted on Blackboard. This does not include having a test reset. If you encounter a problem which results in the need for a test to be reset, you must contact faculty member.

**Disability Statement:**

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A-200. The phone number is 270-745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability.

**Affirmative Action Statement:**

Refer to the student handbook.

**Faculty reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus including adding or subtracting assignments or changing due dates. An updated**

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Date	Topic	Assignment
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<b>Week of January 23</b>	<p>Introduction to class</p> <p>Code of Ethics</p>	<p><b>Syllabus</b></p> <p>Carefully look through your syllabus and address any questions via the discussion board.</p> <p><i>Guide to the code of ethics for nurses: Interpretation and application.</i></p>
<b>Week of January 30</b>	<p>Furthering the Profession</p> <p>Genetics and Genomics</p>	<p><b>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4</b></p> <p><b>Readings to be assigned.</b></p>
<b>Week of February 6</b>	<p>Workplace Issues: Current Nursing Shortage Importing Foreign Nurses</p> <p><b>Quiz #1 (Chapters 1-6; Genetics and Genomics)</b></p>	<p><b>Chapters 5 and 6</b></p> <p><b>Summary Code of Ethics</b></p>
<b>Week of February 13</b>	<p>Workplace Issues Unlicensed Assistive Personnel Socialization and Mentoring</p> <p>Social Policy Statement</p>	<p><b>Chapters 7 and 8</b></p> <p><b>Professional Resume</b></p> <p><i>Nursing's social policy statement: The essence of the profession.</i></p>
<b>Week of February 20</b>	<p>Workplace Issues Diversity in the Workforce Mandatory Minimum Staffing Ratios</p>	<p><b>Chapters 9 and 10</b></p> <p><b>Summary Social Policy Statement</b></p>
<b>Week of February 27</b>	<p>Workplace Issues Mandatory Overtime Violence in Nursing</p> <p><b>Quiz #2 (Chapters 7-12)</b></p>	<p><b>Chapters 11 and 12</b></p>
<b>Week of March 5</b>	Spring Break	

<b>Week of March 12</b>	Workplace issues Patient Safety Employee Safety	<b>Readings to be assigned</b>
<b>Week of March 19</b>	Ethical Models  <b>Quiz #3 (Workplace Safety: Patient and Employee, Ethical Models)</b>	<b><i>Guide to code of ethics for nurses: Interpretation and application.</i></b>  <b><i>Nursing: Scope and standards of practice. (Standard 7: Ethics)</i></b>
<b>Week of March 26</b>	Workplace Issues Technology Medical Errors	<b>Chapters 13 and 14</b>  <b><i>Nursing: Scope and standards of practice. (Standard 10: Ethics)</i></b>
<b>Week of April 2</b>	Legal and Ethical Issues Whistle-Blowing Impaired Nursing Practice  <b>Quiz #4(Chapters 13-16)</b>	<b>Chapters 15 and 16</b>
<b>Week of April 9</b>	Legal and Ethical Issues Collective Bargaining Assuring Provider Competence	<b>Chapters 17 and 18</b>  <b>Ethical Paper</b>

<b>Week of April 16</b>	Professional Power Historic Struggle Identity and Image Advanced Practice Nursing Public Policy	<b>Chapters 19, 20, 21, and 22</b>  <b><i>Nursing: Scope and standards of practice.</i></b> <b><i>(Standard 12: Ethics)</i></b>  <b>Final Paper Due by 19th at 8:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Week of April 23</b>	<b>MANDATORY CLASS MEETING (WKU, Bowling Green) April 26<sup>th</sup> 8-11</b>	<b>ORAL PRESENTATION</b>
<b>Week of April 30</b>	Professional Power Nursing's Professional Associations  Use of social media  <b>Quiz #5 (Chapters 17-23)</b>	<b>Chapters 23</b>

November 14, 2011