# Western Kentucky University
## School of Nursing

## Nursing 501 – Nursing Politics & Health Policy

**Course Description:** Focuses on health care policy and policy analysis. Emphasizes the role of the advance practice nurse in health policy formation and political action.

**Credit:** Two credit hours

**Prerequisites:** Admission to MSN program or permission of instructor

**Faculty:** Beverly Siegrist, EdD, MS, RN, CNE
Professor, School of Nursing
Office: MCHC
Phone: Office 270/745-3490 Home 270/782-2088
E-mail: Beverly.Siegrist@wku.edu

**Course Objectives/Outcomes:** At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Describe the historical, social and economic influences on health policy.
2. Analyze the interface between health policy and political structure.
3. Evaluate the role of public opinion and health interest groups in the formulation of health policy.
4. Discuss the relationship of health policy and the political process in the areas of: healthcare finance, access to health care and health care reform.
5. Utilize a theoretical perspective for the analysis of policy issues and trends in nursing and health care.
6. Analyze roles played by advance practice roles to influence political process at all levels of policy makers, health care providers and consumers.

**Required Texts:**
Bodenheimer,T. S. (2019). Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach, 7th edition. ISBN: 978-1259584756
American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition).* Washington DC: Author.

**Helpful Web Addresses (all sites listed were current as of 1/2019)**
*State*
http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/home.htm (Kentucky Legislature Home Page)
http://kentucky.gov/Portal/Category/Government (Kentucky State Government information)

www.kentucky-nurses.org (Kentucky Nurses' Association) www.kltprc.net (Kentucky Long-term Policy Research Center) http://www.kpha-ky.org (Kentucky Public Health Association) http://www.kcnpnm.org/ (Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners & Nurse Midwives)

*National*
www.healthcare.gov  (early sign up and information on health insurance)
www.house.gov (U.S. House of Representatives) www.senate.gov (U.S. Senate) www.gao.gov (General Accounting Office) www.iom.edu/ (Institute of Medicine)
www.nursingworld.org (American Nurses' Association) http://www.ahrq.gov/ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) http://www.nonpf.com  (The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties)
http://www.nytimes.com (The New York Times)
http://www.pewtrusts.org/  (The Pew Charitable Trusts
http://www.kaiseredu.org/ (The Kaiser Foundation)
http://www.thomas.gov/ (Thomas Library of Congress)
www.nln.org/policy (National League for Nursing) www.apha.org (American Public Health Association)
www.bea.gov (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce)
http://www.fedstats.gov (Federal and State Statistics) www.rand.org (RAND Corporation)
http://www.naco.org (National Association of Counties) http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov (Health Resources and Services Admin—Rural Health Policy) http://www.iscvt.org/ (Institute for Sustainable Communities formerly the Advocacy Institute)


If website references are utilized, they should be reliable, authoritative sources cited in current recommended APA format. Current APA guidelines for electronic references can be found in your APA text or in the 6th Edition Manual at the APA website:

http://www.apastyle.org/

**Amended January 25, 2013**
APA: Please use the APA checklist posted under the Assignment link on your Blackboard site to review your paper prior to submission. This is a tool for the student to use prior to submission of your paper. This tool will also be used by the faculty member to screen your paper. If you do not meet an 80% criteria on the screening of your paper by the faculty, you will receive zero credit for APA..

**Teaching/learning Methods:**
Group discussions and participation
Legislative assignment with reflective paper

Written health policy analysis paper
Final examination

**Grading Scale:**
  100-90 % of total possible points=  A
  89-80 % of total possible points=  B
  79-70 % of total possible points=  C 69-60
  % of total possible points=  D
  below 59% of total possible points  =  F

**Evaluation:**

<u>Course Requirements</u>
Group discussions /individual assignments        130 points (50% of  final grade)
Health Policy Analysis Paper  (group)        100 points (25% of final grade)
Final Examination                <u>50 points  (25% of final grade)</u>

  **\*Note the weights for each category of possible points.**

**Disability Services:**  In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center.   The phone number is 745 5004.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

**Academic Honesty Policy:**  WKU students are expected to demonstrate a high standard of academic honesty in all aspects of their academic work and college life.  Without intellectual integrity there can be no genuine learning.   Academic dishonesty represents a direct attack on this integrity.  In taking tests and examinations, completing homework, writing papers and using information technology, students are expected to perform honestly.  WKU Department of Nursing Graduate Handbook (accessed through the WKU School of Nursing webpage) delineates the academic honesty policy.

**Student Responsibilities:**

A partial syllabus is located on Topnet with a complete syllabus and class schedule posted on Blackboard.  All course updates will be posted as Announcements on Blackboard. You are responsible for checking frequently for updates and changes.   You MUST have an e-mail account/address for rapid communication with the instructor.

WKU assigns all students an account and you must use your WKU account for communication in this course. If you have problems accessing Blackboard or receiving e-mails please contact the Help Desk at 270/745-7000.

Students are expected to be self-directed in their own learning. Students are responsible for all assignments and information posted on the Blackboard site and to seek assistance if needed. Students are responsible for keeping copy of all written assignments submitted to the faculty. Faculty may keep copies of papers for student or program evaluation. Plagiarism is unacceptable. If the student plagiarizes, the student will receive no points (zero) for that assignment.

Registration in a course obligates the student to be regular and punctual in completing course assignments and participating in discussion boards and other class activities. If a student needs an extension for class assignments because of serious illness, death in the family or other justifiable reasons, it is the student's responsibility to notify the faculty at the **earliest possible time**.

**Extensions will not be made for failure to plan for assignments by the published due date.**

**Late Papers or Assignments:** Written assignments are expected on the due date established by the faculty.

Assignments must be sent via the individual assignment link in Blackboard. **Do not fax or email assignments**. Only those assignments in the appropriate assignment link will be graded and returned with faculty comments.

**Communication with Instructors:** The faculty is available for Office Hours on main campus with an appointment. Office telephone messages will be retuned within 48 hours or less except on weekends and holidays. If you call the faculty at home, please do not call after 9 pm. If you leave a voice message on the office phone, your call will be returned as soon as possible. E-mail communication will be answered promptly in 24-48 hours.

**Faculty Responsibilities:** Faculty may change the class schedule and assignments at any time, due to extenuating circumstances. Changes will be disseminated through any of the following methods: in writing, posted on the announcement section of Blackboard and /or via list serve. The faculty will respond to questions and return assignments in a timely manner.

**Class Content Outline:**

  I.   Nurses and public policy: Introduction
        a.  Historical Perspectives
        b.  Overview of the policy process
        c.  Nurse's role in public policy
 II.   Health Care Delivery & Financing
        a.  American Health Care System
        b.  ACA, Exchanges
        c.  Patients, Nurses and special populations
III.   Policy & Politics in the Government
        a.  Lobbying
        b.  Legislation
        c.  Regulations
 IV.   Policy  and Politics in the Workplace)
        a.  Policy shaping workplace

**Assignments:**

**1. Group discussions and participation**

Participation in group discussion and individual activities provides the opportunity to earn 50% points of the possible points for the course grade.  Students are expected to participate in all online discussions of class topics by sharing appropriate resources and insights based upon class assignments, resources and work experiences.  Class, though online, is not a spectator sport; you are expected to participate. Deadlines for posting in discussion boards will be strictly followed. Failure to follow the guidelines will result in a loss of participation points for that assignment. Alternate assignments cannot duplicate discussion and related activities.  Information posted past the discussion board deadline does not contribute to the discussion or allow new insights for you or your group.

During the first two weeks of the semester, each student will have the opportunity to earn 10 points of the total possible points for the course. This assignment provides the student the opportunity to explore electronic websites and identify issues currently being discussed in the policy arena. The assignment will also require the student to critically think about the impact of the identified issues on health care or nursing practice and discuss these reflective thoughts with classmates on Discussion Board (DB). **Guidelines and a rubric for evaluating this assignment will be posted under the Assignment link on Blackboard**.

If faculty agrees to an alternative assignment due to an **extenuating circumstance**, only partial credit points (50%) will be awarded for satisfactory work, since the participation in discussion and content can not be duplicated through an individual assignment. **Work and/or failure to plan do not constitute extenuating circumstances.** A discussion board will be opened with each module (refer to course schedule in the syllabus section on Blackboard). You may have an individual assignment posted that you complete prior to visiting the discussion board.  Review the guides or questions provided and other materials prior to posting. Discussion board postings that are inappropriate in content or depth usually result because the readings and assignments have not been completed prior to posting.  Occasionally you will be instructed not to respond in the discussion board but to complete an assignment and submit to the instructor.

Dates for submission of assignments can be found on the course schedule. Please note that discussion boards end at 8am on the ending date. You will need to follow the date listed. No late submission will be graded. **A rubric to follow for evaluation of discussion board participation can be found in Course Modules and in your Group Discussion Board.**


**2. Health Policy Analysis Paper**

This assignment provides the opportunity to earn 100 points and 25% of the final course grade. This paper allows your group to explore current and relevant health policy and political issues impacting advanced practice nurses and our patients, student, or employees and the ethical implications associated with the policy or issue. . **More detail about this assignment and the rubric for grading the Health Policy Analysis Paper will be posted under the Assignment link on Blackboard.**

**Amended 2018**
APA: Please use the APA checklist posted under the Assignment link on your Blackboard site to review your paper prior to submission. This is a tool for the student to use prior to submission of your paper. This tool will also be used by the faculty member to screen your paper. If you do not meet an 80% criteria on the screening of your paper by the faculty, you will receive zero credit for the APA section of the paper.


**5. Final Examination**

A final examination composed of 25 multiple choice items worth two points each will provide the opportunity to earn 25% of the course grade.  The examination will cover content in the textbook readings and the other assignments in the course.