Western Kentucky University – School of Nursing

Course Number	NURS 501
Course Title	Nursing Politics and Health Policy
Credit Hour Allocation	2 credit hours
Prerequisites	Admission to MSN Program or permission of instructor

Course Description

Focuses on health care economics and policy analysis of current health care problems and issues. Emphasizes the role of the advanced practice nurse in health policy formation and political action.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to meet the course objectives as evidenced by:

Course Objectives	MSN Program Outcomes
1. Describe the historical, social and economic influences on health policy	1. Demonstrate proficiency in the utilization of research and quality improvement, including problem identification, awareness of outcomes, evaluation and dissemination of research. 2. Analyze emerging organizational, financial, political, and technological issues confronting nursing and society as a basis for enacting change. 3. Practice from an ethical perspective that acknowledges conflicting values and rights. 4. Assume and develop practice and professional roles to meet societal needs to promote high quality, safe, patient care. 6. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of human diversity. 7. Integrate theoretical knowledge of health promotion and maintenance and illness/disease prevention to achieve optimal health.
2. Analyze the interface between health policy and political structure	Same as above.
3. Evaluate the role of public opinion and health interest groups in the formulation of health policy	Same as above.
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.	Same as above.
5. Utilize a theoretical perspective for the analysis of policy issues and trends in nursing and health care.	Same as above.
6. Analyze roles played by advance practice roles to influence political process at all levels of policy makers, health care providers, and consumers.	Same as above.

Additional Course Requirements

- WKU students have free access to **Office 365** at WKU Software Center. Click on the CD labeled WKU Software Center. Log in and follow directions.

- Microsoft Word 2010 or later (NOT Microsoft WORKS, NOT PDF) for submission of papers and assignments and PowerPoint 2010 or later for presentations.
- Blackboard – students must have a working knowledge. A Blackboard tutorial is available online.

Faculty

Dr. Jodie Dunkelberger, DNP, RN, NEA-BC
Instructor
Cell: 270-312-5365
Office Hours – By Appointment. Please email me if you would like to meet face-to-face, via Zoom or via phone conference and we will arrange a time.
Email: jodie.dunkelberger@wku.edu OR jodie.dunkelberger@gmail.com (the gmail is preferred)

The best ways to contact me is by email or text. I check emails daily during the week and every 24 hours on the weekend and recognized holidays. Expected response time is within 24 – 48 hours.

Required Textbook(s)
American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American psychological association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
Important: Please make sure that your APA manual is the 7th edition.

Milstead, J., & Short, N. (2019). *Health policy and politics: A nurse's guide* (6th ed.). Burlington,MA:Jones & B Bartlett Learning

Helpful Web Resources

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.gov/ (Institute of Medicine)
www.nursingworld.org (American Nurses' Association)
http://www.ahrq.gov/ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)
 http://nonpf.org (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)
https://www.naco.org/ (National Association of Counties)
https://www.ruralhealthweb.org/ (National Rural Health Association)
 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 7th Edition Manual at the APA website:
http://www.apastyle.org/

Withdrawal from an Individual Class (while a term is in progress)

For various reasons, it is sometimes necessary for a student to withdrawal. Students will receive a failing grade if they cease to attend class without an official withdrawal from the Office of the Registrar. The last day to drop this course with a "W" is listed in the registration guide on the WKU.edu website under Quick Links. Students may withdraw from a full-semester course and will receive a 'W' as a grade. The student should notify the instructor of the class AND their adviser in writing so that the student's plan of study can be reviewed and revised. Failure to follow this procedure could result in the student's failure to progress through the program in a timely manner.

Communication

Communication includes verbal, non-verbal, Bb, WKU email, and/or Bb Collaborate. All communication will be respectful and professional. Bb and WKU email communication will be written in a formal business format (clear heading, salutation, concise content, and appropriate closing). Reading assignments will be posted in Bb. Email messages will be sent to individuals and groups of students via Bb to only WKU email addresses. Grades will be posted in the Grade Center on the Bb course site. Discussions/concerns about a grade must be put in writing via WKU email to the instructor within one week of when the grade is posted to Bb.

Campus Closure

In the event of WKU campus closure(s), online courses will continue as scheduled.

Course Policies

Academic policies found in the Graduate Handbook and the WKU Graduate Catalog will be followed in this course.
- Students are responsible for assuring that Bb assignments are successfully uploaded for grading and keeping a copy of her/his written assignments.
- **American Psychological Association (APA) format** *(in-text citations and references)* is required for written assignments.

Attendance and Online Course Requirements
Specifically, students are expected to: • **Read** each module's assignments, • Check WKU **Topper email** daily, • Follow the **Class Schedule** in Bb for assignments and important dates, • Submit assignment timely.

Policy on assignment due dates: Students are responsible for meeting pre-established assignment due dates. A **2-point deduction** will be earned for every day the assignment is **late**. **Assignments greater than 72 hours late will not be accepted without prior approval by Dr. Dunkelberger**	

Evaluation Methods	
All coursework must be completed to pass NURS 501. A student may not obtain the necessary points desired and then decide to forego submitting further assignments or participating in discussion boards.	
Db#1	20 pts
Db #2	50 pts
Quiz #1	25 pts
Paper	50 pts
Db #3	50 pts
Quiz #2	25 pts
Db #4	50 pts
Db #5	50 pts
Final Paper	80 pts
Total	**400 pts**

Grading Scale	
WKU	
A = 90 – 100	
B = 80 – 89	
Not Passing = $\leq$ – 79	
Scores are not rounded.	

The final grade in the class must be a "B" to progress in the program. Students failing to obtain a minimum of a "B" should refer to the graduate nursing handbook for conditions of progression, classes that need repeating, and minimum GPA requirements.
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Technical Support

It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with technology and Blackboard nuances and observe WKU technology recommendations that can be found on the Information Technology Department website. The phone number for IT is 270-745-7000. Since this course is web-based, there may be an occasion(s) in which students cannot avoid technical difficulties. **If you are having technical difficulties that interfere with the submission of a timely assignment, you must notify the course instructor via email prior to the deadline *and* you must include your IT case number in your email *or* a copy of your email from IT that contains your IT case number.** Reported technical difficulties will be validated with WKU's IT department.

Required equipment

Microsoft Office 2010: Computer program software, Microsoft Office 2010 or later, is required for viewing the materials in this class. These documents will end in *.docx.* **You must only use MS Word documents ending in .doc or .docx when submitting required course materials.** Assignments submitted in other document formats will incur a **2-point deduction** daily until resubmitted in correct .doc or .docx format.

Bb: Access to the **WKU Bb** can be found through the WKU homepage by using the *Quick Links drop down box and clicking on My WKU.* You are responsible for checking for course updates and changes and you MUST have a WKU e-mail account/address for rapid communication with the instructor. WKU assigns all students an email account. **It is all students' responsibility to check their WKU email account once every 24 hours for emails and notifications, as well as making sure that their email inbox is not full. All email communication is to be through your WKU email account.**

Campus Resources

Students in this course have access to the WKU Library and to the WKU Writing Center either online or in person. Students are expected to utilize the WKU Library for research studies to support their scholarly work.

If you need research studies that are not available at the WKU Library, please contact carol.watwood@wku.edu and ask her to obtain the research studies for you.
Do NOT pay for research studies, *as this is a service that is provided by the WKU Library.*
If students have difficulty with syntax, writing, APA citations, and/or APA references, they are expected to seek assistance at the WKU Writing Center. However, each student is responsible for the syntax and content of her/his paper(s).

Student Accessibility Resource Center

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 the first floor of the Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The phone number is 270.745.5004 and the email address is sarc@wku.edu. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.
Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

Academic Honesty

"Western Kentucky University nursing 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 cannot be genuine learning. Academic dishonesty represents a direct attack on this integrity. In taking tests and examinations, completing homework, laboratory and clinical work, writing papers, and using information technology, students are expected to demonstrate honesty. Cheating, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will lead to a failing grade on the assignment and/or a failing grade in the course. Repeat occurrences of this type of behavior can result in dismissal from the program" (Western Kentucky University, School of Nursing Student Handbook, 2014, p. 16).

"Academic Dishonesty-Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the coursework in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without the possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions." "A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure" (Western Kentucky University Graduate Handbook, 2014-2015, p. 41). The Western Kentucky University Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities can be found in the Western Kentucky University Undergraduate Catalog.

Plagiarism

Students' work is expected to be the result of their own thought, research or self-expression. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the information, ideas, organization or phrase of another source without appropriate acknowledgment or credit given, either intentionally or because of gross negligence. Any act of plagiarism by a nursing student is not acceptable. Abstracted from Western Kentucky University Undergraduate Catalog.

"Plagiarism-Represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for

source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism" (Western Kentucky University Graduate Handbook, 2014-2015, p. 41).

Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. A score of zero will be applied to any assignment in which academic dishonesty has occurred. If it is considered cheating in the classroom, then it is considered cheating online. The Western Kentucky University School of Nursing Student Handbook (current issue) governs all policies and guidelines not specifically addressed in this syllabus.

Course Changes:

The faculty member reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus including adding or subtracting assignments or changing due dates if, in the opinion of the instructor, such changes will improve the course and/or enhance student learning. An updated syllabus will be given to students in writing by posting on the class blackboard site in such an event.

Please give me any feedback on the operation of this course as we progress – your feedback is critical to making it the best learning experience for you, your classmates and future classes. I look forward to having you in class and to a great semester!

Warmest regards;

Jodie Dunkelberger, DNP, RN, NEA-BC