Course Sample Syllabus

NUR 39100 Professional Ethics

Texts and Materials:
The list of required and recommended textbooks can be found online on the RN to BSN web page.

Additional readings and resources will be assigned throughout the modules. Some of these resources will be available through the Purdue University Northwest library’s electronic database. Others will be internet resources available through links in the course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Recognize self as an autonomous moral agent
2. Understand the significance of ethics to professional nursing care
3. Understand the interdependence of all participants in the bioethical context
4. Apply a prescribed decision-making framework to specific situations in varying contexts
5. Justify practice decisions using bioethical standards
6. Relate healthcare policies to social justice and other ethical principles

Teaching/Learning Methodologies:

- Online Lessons
- Guided Learning
- Individual Assignments
- Writing Assignments
- Interactive Discussions

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity
Honor Code

Please note that all references to credit sources, online or otherwise, must be in the format recommended by the American Psychological Association (6th Edition). The copying and pasting of any published or unpublished text, including information from websites and other online sources, without proper authorship credit (e.g., quotation marks, in-text citation, and full reference) is a form of plagiarism. Please refer to the Purdue University Northwest Student Handbook and the Online RN to BSN Student Handbook for further details.
Withdrawal Policy:

If you choose to withdraw from the course for any reason, please review the Online RN to BSN Student Handbook for details. It is your responsibility to execute these procedures correctly and within the deadlines. The deadline to drop a course without receipt of a grade for the course is the Wednesday of the fourth week of the class at 4 p.m. Central Standard Time. An email request to drop the course must be sent BEFORE this deadline.

Grading Scale:

Successful completion of the course requires you to complete mandatory assignments and participate in course activities. You must earn a grade of at least “C” in all nursing courses to receive credit toward the BSN degree. A grade of less than C will require you to repeat the nursing course. A minimum of 78% must be obtained to pass the course. Any grade on a nursing course that is less than 78% is considered failing.

All participation will be electronically monitored. Late assignments may be penalized unless prior arrangements have been made with the faculty.

NOTE: The grade book for this course is cumulative. This means that your score is based off of total points earned and not the percentage score of each graded item. At the beginning of the course, each student begins with zero points and begins to accumulate points. At the end of the course, your total points earned will be used to calculate your grade for the course. You can calculate your grade at any time by adding the points you’ve earned and dividing that total by the total possible points.

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Writing Guidelines:

It is expected that all students write using APA format. If you are not familiar with APA format, then you are responsible for learning it. The APA Publication Manual (6th Edition) is the guide used in the College of Nursing. We recommend purchasing a copy of the Publication Manual. The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) has more information about writing services, including one-to-one consultations, English as a Second Language conversation groups and workshops, and APA information/formatting help.
Course Policies:

1. All policies stated in the PNW Student Handbook and the Online RN to BSN Student Handbook will be adhered to.

2. Active participation in class discussions is integral to optimal learning and success in the course. Since this course is heavily weighted in discussion and debate, weekly participation online is mandatory.

3. Missing one week or more of discussion during the semester will result in being administratively dropped from the course and/or course failure. Posting after due dates constitutes class and discussion absence.

4. It is your responsibility to seek help from the instructor if needed. All communication to faculty should be done in writing using faculty email addresses listed in the syllabus.

5. You are responsible for all material presented—PowerPoint presentations, faculty- or student-led discussions, virtual assignments, and postings on Blackboard. Students are expected to check Blackboard for course mail or announcements, assignments, and grade postings on a regular basis.

Course Assignments:

Discussions: Discussions among and between classmates are a major component of this course. At several points in this course, you will be asked to respond to or reflect upon a case study provided by the instructor. Your response should consist of complete sentences and should meet the requirements listed in the discussion assignment instructions. Additionally, you are required to post thoughtful and scholarly responses to other student postings each week.

Moral Compass: Identifying factors that influence personal morals is the first step in understanding how you make decisions. Each one of us is molded by our past and our upbringing and rules that we live by. Identifying these factors will allow you to see how and why you view ethical dilemmas in a particular way. In addition, you will examine historical influences on nursing. Such influences impact the evolution of the profession as well as how the profession views decision-making and ethical dilemmas.

Applying the ANA Code of Ethics: It is important that you see how the code fits into your practice as a professional nurse. This assignment will help you to see how the ANA code applies to practice.

Ethical Decision-Making: In order to begin the process of ethical decision-making, it is imperative to identify specific aspects of an ethical dilemma. This assignment will help you build a foundation so you may fully address ethical dilemmas.

Professional Letter: Advocating for the profession is important. Writing a letter is one of the ways a nurse can positively promote nursing and its causes. The purpose of this assignment is to write a professional letter to address the image of nursing or to promote a cause for nursing.
**Professional Organization PowerPoint:** Professional organization membership is just one way to support the mission of nursing. Remember that professional organizations offer support for nursing in many ways from creating practice standards to lobbying and supporting legislation favorable to nursing. This week, you will choose a professional organization that you are interested in and then create a PowerPoint about this organization using the guidelines provided.

**Final Case Analysis:** All of you have witnessed or experienced ethical dilemmas within your areas of practice. It is important to be able to leave this course with the skills necessary to address an ethical dilemma. Using an experience from your own practice, you will use a framework adapted from your textbook to systematically analyze the case.

**Course Organization:**

There are five modules in this course. Each module represents one week of activity.

- Ethical Principles
- ANA Code of Ethics
- Ethical Decision-Making
- Responsibilities of the Professional
- Responsibilities to the Profession