UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

COLLEGE OF NURSING

COURSE SYLLABUS

Summer 2021

COURSE NUMBER               NUR 3826

COURSE TITLE                     Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing

CREDITS                                2

PLACEMENT             BSN Program: 3rd Semester Upper Division

PREREQUISITES                  3rd Year Standing

COREQUISITES None

FACULTY Sharon Bradley, DNP, RN, CNL, CNE

Clinical Assistant Professor

Office: HPNP 3219

Office Phone: (352) 273-6423

Cell Phone: (352) 281-6603

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:00-4:00pm\*

[sbradley@ufl.edu](mailto:sbradley@ufl.edu)\*

\*NOTE: Email is the best way to reach me

\*Faculty are generally available to meet with students (in the office or virtually) as listed above.   
Due to professional travel and other unavoidable obligations, faculty may not be present every   
week without notice. It advisable that students confirm availability or make an appointment in   
advance.

COURSE DESCRIPTION   The purpose of this course is to examine legal issues and ethical dilemmas in nursing practice. Consequences of ethical misconduct and legal malpractice are explored. Emphasis is on ethical decision making processes and recognition of negligent practices. Focus is on case analysis of legal and ethical issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES         Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Analyze basic legal concepts relevant to the issues of negligence in the practice of professional nursing.
2. Describe ethical principles related to decision making with clients across the lifespan.
3. Use an ethical decision making model to analyze complex ethical dilemmas in diverse populations.
4. Discuss accountability for protecting confidential and private healthcare information from diverse information sources.
5. Analyze potential conflicts between personal beliefs and values and professional values on legal and ethical dilemmas in practice.
6. Evaluate professional responses to selected ethical and legal issues.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Faculty Section s Day

Bradley 7E22 and 7062 UF Online

E-Learning in Canvas is the course management system that you will use for this course. E-Learning in Canvas is accessed by using your Gatorlink account name and password at <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>. There are several tutorials and student help links on the E-Learning login site. If you have technical questions call the UF Computer Help Desk at 352-392-HELP or send email to [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

It is important that you regularly check your Gatorlink account email for College and University wide information and the course E-Learning site for announcements and notifications. Course websites are generally made available on the Friday before the first day of classes.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

 1. Advanced legal concepts relevant to health care

* 1. negligence
  2. malpractice
  3. intentional torts

1. Liability for actions in practice
   1. consequences for negligence
   2. privacy
   3. advocacy
   4. peer review
2. Ethical theories and principles
3. Ethical decision making process
4. Rights-based issues across the lifespan
5. Informed consent

TEACHING METHODS

Online short lectures and videos, web-based modules, case analysis, module quizzes, small group discussions. HonorLock will be utilized for the Legal Exam.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Completion of e-learning modules, quizzes, discussion posts, legal exam, written ethical case analysis (required learning activity), and continuing development of e-portfolio.

EVALUATION METHODS/COURSE GRADE CALCULATION

Class Participation 20%

Legal Exam 25%

Quizzes and Assignments 30%

Ethical Case Analysis 25%

100%

*Feedback on graded assignments routinely is given within 2 weeks of the assignment due date.*

*Course Average*

Students must earn an average of 74% on all required course work to pass the course. No final grades will be rounded.

MAKE UP POLICY

This course does not permit unexcused make-up work for assignments. All work should be completed by the due date. Students who have extraordinary circumstances preventing assignment completion should notify the course instructor(s) **prior to** the scheduled due dates or as soon as possible thereafter. The course instructors will make every effort to accommodate reasonable requests.

Make-up assignments must be arranged before the due date/time for UF related conflicts and religious observances. Unexcused late work submissions will receive a 10% grade deduction for a maximum of 2 days then the grade may become a Zero (0). Please keep in mind that your academic obligations should **ALWAYS** take priority over personal or social commitments. There is no extra credit in this course.

University policies can be found in the online catalog at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](about:blank)

GRADING SCALE/QUALITY POINTS

A 95-100 (4.0) C 74-79\* (2.0)

A- 93-94 (3.67) C- 72-73 (1.67)

B+ 91- 92 (3.33) D+ 70-71 (1.33)

B 84-90 (3.0) D 64-69 (1.0)

B- 82-83 (2.67) D- 62-63 (0.67)

C+ 80-81 (2.33) E 61 or below (0.0)

\* 74 is the minimal passing grade

For more information on grades and grading policies, please refer to University’s grading policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

ACCOMMODATIONS DUE TO DISABILITY

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/> ) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

The College of Nursing expects all Nursing students to be professional in their interactions with patients, colleagues, faculty, and staff and to exhibit caring and compassionate attitudes. These and other qualities will be evaluated during patient contacts and in other relevant settings by both faculty and peers. Behavior of a Nursing student reflects on the student's individual’s ability to become a competent professional Nurse. Attitudes or behaviors inconsistent with compassionate care; refusal by, or inability of, the student to participate constructively in learning or patient care; derogatory attitudes or inappropriate behaviors directed at patients, peers, faculty or staff; misuse of written or electronic patient records (e.g., accession of patient information without valid reason); substance abuse; failure to disclose pertinent information on a criminal background check; or other unprofessional conduct can be grounds for disciplinary measures including dismissal.

***As students in the health professions at UF Health, you are expected to promote safety and a culture of care and concern for each other and for patients. Across our academic health center’s missions of research, teaching and patient care, nursing students must lead by example and take individual responsibility for modeling healthy habits and behaviors to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Failure to comply with the established public health measures, both on and off campus, is considered a serious breach of professional conduct.***

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/> . Students are required to provide their own privacy screen for all examination’s administered to student laptops. No wireless keyboards or wireless mouse/tracking device will be permitted during examinations.

University and College of Nursing Policies

Please see the College of Nursing website for student policies (<http://students.nursing.ufl.edu/currently-enrolled/student-policies-and-handbooks/>)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

This course is designed to stimulate self-reflection as you insightfully explore the legal challenges and ethical dilemmas currently confronting nurses in the US healthcare system. The depth and breadth of this course will depend on your level of reflection, preparation, engagement and participation. Expectations are that you stay up to date on module assignments and actively participate in the on-line class activities and discussions.

The course instructors recognize that it is challenging for some to actively participate in class discussions, even online. Additionally, it is acknowledged that the emotionally charged topics under discussion in this course can make participation even more risky for some students. This does not, by any means, allow students to not participate in class discussions. Actually, it means this class will be a safe space for all students to share thoughts and engage in class dialogue, even in our online communications. Thus, the course culture will include trust, active reading/listening, and treating each individual with humility, respect, and courtesy. There is a possibility you may experience personal discomfort (please take time and explore this), however, every student will be afforded the freedom to discuss their thoughts and ideas and to ask difficult questions about complex topics.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

* American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American*

*Psychological Association.* (7th ed.). Author.

* Guido, G. (2020). *Legal and ethical issues in nursing.* (7th ed.). Pearson.

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

| WEEK | **DATE** | **TOPIC** | **ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES**  **See Canvas site for specific details on assignments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | May 9 | *Start Here* Module   * Introduction to Course   + Syllabus Quiz   + Introductory Collage | due 5/16/22 at 11:59 pm EST |
| 2 | May 16 | Module 1   * Introduction to the U.S. Legal System   + Module 1 Quiz   Module 2   * Introduction to Legal Principles and Concepts   + Module 2 Quiz   + Module 2 Case Analysis | due 5/23/22 at 11:59 pm EST |
| 3 | May 23 | **\*NOTE: Module 3 is subdivided into 3 separate modules on malpractice**  Module 3A   * Elements of Malpractice   + Module 3A Quiz   + Module 3A Case analysis | due 5/30/22 at 11:59 pm EST |
| 4 | May 30 (Holiday) | Module 3B   * Elements of Malpractice   + Module 3B Quiz   + Module 3B Case analysis | due 6/6/22 at 11:59 pm EST |
| 5 | June 6 | Module 3C   * Elements of Malpractice   + Module 3C Quiz   + Nurse Practice Act Assignment | due 6/13/22 at 11:59 pm EST |
| 6 | June 11 -19 | Complete LEGAL EXAM with HonorLock | **Legal Exam** – opens 6/11/22 at 8 am until 6/19/22 at 12 am |
|  | June 20 - June 24 | [This Photo](http://www.pngall.com/summer-png) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/)  BREAK WEEK | |
| 7 | June 27 | Module 4   * Law and Ethics: The Gray Areas   + Module 4 Quiz   Discussion – ANA Code of Ethics Provisions 1-3 | due 7/4/22 at 11:59 pm EST |
| 8 | July 4 (Holiday) | Module 5   * Introduction to Ethical Theories and Principles * ANA Code of Ethics   + Discussion – ANA Code of Ethics Provisions 4-6   + Personal Code of Ethics | due 7/11/22 at 11:59 pm EST |
| 9 | July 11 | Module 6   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Parental versus Fetal/Infant /Child Rights/Gender Issues   + Module 6 Quiz   + Discussion - ANA Code of Ethics Provisions 7-9 | due 7/18/22 at 11:59 pm EST |
| 10 | July 18 | Module 7   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Nurse Misconduct   + IPN Nurse Misconduct Assignment   + Ethical Case Analysis Paper **DUE 7/25/22** | due 7/25/22 at 11:59 pm EST |
| 11 | July 25 | Module 8   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Nurse Staffing and Burnout   + Module 8 Quiz | due 8/1/22 at 11:59 pm EST |
| 12 | August 1 | Module 9   * Professional Nursing Ethics: Death and Dying   + Death & Dying Reflection | due 8/5/22 at 4:59 pm EST  **Note: Module 9 is the final course module covered in the last week of the term and will end on Friday at 5 pm, the end of the summer semester. Please plan accordingly.** |

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| Approved: | Academic Affairs Committee:  General Faculty:  UF Curriculum Committee: | 07/05; 10/07; 09/09, 04/13  07/05; 10/07; 09/09, 04/13  08/00; 10/09; 09/16 |