Stephen F. Austin State University
DeWitt School of Nursing
The Politics of Healthcare
Course Number: NUR 502

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IN THE CASE OF COMMISSION, OMISSION, AMBIGUITY, VAGUENESS, OR CONFLICT, THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING SHALL CONTROL.

EACH STUDENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTUAL AND/OR CONSTRUCTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND FOR COMPLIANCE THEREWITH.

THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL INFORMATION IN THIS SYLLABUS.

This syllabus is provided for information purposes only.
NUR 502: The Politics of Healthcare  
Syllabus – Spring 2020

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Feel free to call or text as needed.

Faculty review student input and questions within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours over the weekend. As a guide, faculty will make the effort to grade all weekly assignments within a week and large assignments within 2 weeks. If there is a delay in this timeframe, students will be notified.

Class Meeting Time and Place: This course is taught in an online format.

Required Textbooks


Reading assignments will be made from the textbooks in addition to other resources identified in the individual units. Students will be responsible for accessing additional scholarly resources to support team discussions and other assignments.

Course Description: This course examines the politics and issues related to healthcare. The student will develop understanding of issues that confront the healthcare culture including regulation, economics, and other social issues.

Prerequisites Admission to SON Graduate Program

Credit Hour Distribution: 3 (3:0) Credit Hour Hours

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, the student is expected to:

1. Examine the role of federal and state government in healthcare
2. Analyze the regulatory process for its impact on healthcare.
3. Probe the social issues of allocating healthcare resources.
4. Investigate moral, ethical, and legal issues surrounding the economics of the healthcare industry.
5. Assemble concepts and principles of the arts, sciences, humanities, and nursing in order to make advanced practice nursing decisions concerning issues related to policy, economics, and resource allocation.
6. Synthesize responsibility and accountability using consistent behavior patterns and professional communication.
7. Evaluate the role of evidence based practice in healthcare policy.

End of Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student is expected to:

1. Integrate nursing science with knowledge from ethics, the biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sciences as the basis for the advanced level of nursing practice.
2. Implement and evaluate effective strategies for managing the ethical and legal dilemmas inherent in patient care, the health care organization, and research.
3. Employ effective communication and collaborative skills in interdisciplinary teams for the purpose of creating change in the global health care arena.
4. Synthesize concepts, including psychosocial dimensions and cultural diversity, related to clinical prevention and population health by implementing and evaluating interventions to address global health promotion/disease prevention efforts, improve health status/access patterns, and/or address gaps in care of individuals, aggregates, or populations.
5. Promote and evaluate use of health care information systems and patient care technology, including consumer health information sources.
6. Demonstrate leadership in the development and implementation of institutional, local, state, federal, and global health policy.
7. Critically appraise existing literature from nursing and other disciplines advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability to determine and implement the best evidence for practice.
8. Advocate for the advanced practice role within the policy and health care communities.
9. Demonstrate continuing competence, growth, and development in the profession.

MSN Essentials

I. Background for Practice from Sciences and Humanities
II. Quality Improvement and Safety
III. Translating and Integrating Scholarship into Practice
IV. Informatics and Healthcare Technologies
V. Health Policy and Advocacy
VI. Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes
VII. Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving Health
VIII. Master’s-Level Nursing Practice

NONPF Core and FNP Population Specific Competency Outcomes

I. Scientific Foundation Competencies
II. Leadership Competencies
III. Family/Across the Lifespan NP Competencies
IV. Quality Competencies
V. Practice Inquiry Competencies
VI. Technology and Information Literacy Competencies
VII. Policy Competencies
VIII. Health Delivery System Competencies
IX. Ethics Competencies
X. Independent Practice Competencies

QSEN Graduate Competencies

1. Patient-centered Care
2. Teamwork and Collaboration
3. Evidence-based Practice (EBP)
4. Quality Improvement
5. Safety
6. Informatics

Topics

1. Political impact on healthcare
2. Regulation awareness and influences
3. Social issues related to demographic trends, delivery of healthcare, and cultural awareness
4. Workforce issues
5. Healthcare demand and resources
6. Health and healthcare of different populations
7. Healthcare stakeholders; the patient, payors, and providers
8. Wellness and health behaviors
9. Healthcare delivery models
10. International competitiveness and rising health costs
Instructional Methods

Discussion board, PowerPoint presentations, Group project, Individual papers

Teaching Strategies

Faculty developed coursework to provide students with a foundation to meet the end of program student learning outcomes QSEN Graduate Competencies and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioners – Core and Family Nurse Practitioner expected outcomes.

Course Requirements

- Complete all course assignments on time unless prior arrangements are made with the faculty. Late work is not accepted.
- Use the highest level of on-line etiquette, respect and professional communication.

Grades and Grading (see grading rubrics in assignments)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wellness and Healthcare Policy Paper and Letter</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Average</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Community Assessment</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Journal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Organization Identification and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Critique</td>
<td>05%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale

A    90-100
B    80-89
C    70-79
D    60-69
F    <60

A grade of B or better is required for passage of all graduate courses. Only one course may be repeated to achieve a course grade of “B”. Students have the responsibility for monitoring grades in the course website throughout the semester and in communicating with course instructors regarding grade status. Two course failures will result in dismissal from the program (Policy 2: Policy and Procedures Manual for Graduate Students)

In the event of course failure, the student must petition the Student Affairs Committee to repeat the course and to remain in the program. See the School of Nursing policies relating to retention and progression.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Scavenger Hunt (Pass/Fail)
This is a group assignment to be submitted as an attachment in the appropriate Assignments section located in Brightspace-D2L. Please refer to the course schedule for the due date. The first group who turns in the assignment with all answered correct will receive a virtual prize.

2. Wellness and Healthcare Behavior Paper (25% of course grade)

This is a formal paper in which each student will submit a 3-5 page paper related to a current policy, revision of a policy or the development of a policy at the city, region, state or federal level which has a direct impact on individual's ability to stay well or prevent illness. The objective of this assignment is to understand the impact of the politics of healthcare related to areas such as economics, end of life issues, and access to healthcare. Guidelines for this assignment including the grading rubric are found in Assignments in Brightspace-D2L.

3. Team Community Assessment (30% of course grade)

Each Team will be assigned a designated medically underserved area (MUS) in Texas to assess and plan for maintain and improving health for all in the communities represented drawing from policies, laws, as well as state and federal programs. Following the assignment guidelines, each Team will use a PowerPoint to present their project. Guidelines for this assignment including the grading rubric are found in Assignments in Brightspace-D2L.

4. Team Discussion Participation (20% of Course Grade)

Students will be randomly assigned to teams to facilitate group discussions. The purpose of the weekly discussions is to develop a scholarly and dynamic exchange between you, faculty and other students in the course promoting an active and engaging online learning community. Your success and the success of your classmates in a positive learning environment is dependent participation and timely completion of assignments. For further guidelines and grading rubric can be found in the Assignments table in Brightspace-D2L.

5. Peer Critique (05% of course grade)

Each student will review, and critique group participation Peer review comments should include more than affirmative comments about the participation in the group project. A peer critique of Learning Team Projects encompasses the balance of positive and constructive comments related to content, format and contributions. Further guidelines and grading rubric can be found under the Assignment Tab in Brightspace-D2L.

6. Reflection Journal (10% of Course Grade)
A reflective journal, by its nature, is composed of your thoughts, connections, and feelings, where applicable, about the material covered in the course, information that you read both in the course & otherwise, and the conclusions that you draw which will help to inform your practice in the future. The emphasis is on preparing a ‘reflective practitioner’; that is a FNP who does not rote make a diagnosis given certain symptoms, but endeavors to connect this patient to present & past patients, to think beyond the obvious symptoms to underlying pathology, and to prescribe treatments that are specific to the patient in front of you and not to a standardized 'patient' with that diagnosis.

Politics and policy are intricately connected with patient care. If we are not conscious of the ramifications of policy at all levels, then we will not adequately be able to advocate for our patients, our community, our profession and ourselves. For patients to share intimate details of their life with you, you have to make a connection with them in a very real way. That is the essence of the reflective practice. Further guidelines and grading rubric can be found under the Assignment Tab in Brightspace-D2L.

7. Professional Organizations: (10% of Course Grade)

Students are asked to identify one local, one statewide and one national/international professional organization and in a less than one page for each organization, describe the mission and potential benefit of the organization to your professional graduate role. In addition, students are expected to attend one meeting of any of these organizations and discuss the potential advantages of being a member.

POLICIES

SON Rounding Policy:

SON Policy 66 (effective June 1, 2017) for all courses:

1. Rounding is confined to the final course grade. Grades on individual exams (including comprehensive or HESI), assignments, quizzes, and projects are recorded in the gradebook (BRIGHTSPACE-D2L) in their original form without rounding.

2. Final course grades are rounded to the closest whole number using the 0.5 math rule and using one decimal point to the right of the whole number. If the final course grade is not a whole number, the following rounding rules apply:
   a. If the decimal attached to a whole number is 0.5 or greater, then round up to the next whole number (equal to or greater than 85.50 = 86)
   b. If the decimal attached to a whole number is less than 0.5, then round down to the previous whole number (equal to or less than 85.49 = 85).

3. The grading schedule for all Nursing Courses is as follows:
   90-100 = A
   80-89  = B
Attendance Policy: Your participation in class is expected, essential to the learning experience and your contribution valued.

Mid-term and Drop Dates: Refer to University Calendar

Academic Integrity and Honesty: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

The University updated the definitions of, penalties for, and procedures to handle Academic Dishonesty in January 2017. This updated information can be found at 4.1 in the academic policies http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/

Withheld Grades: (http://www.sfasu.edu/registrar/143.asp) Policy and Procedure Manual for Graduate students Policy #0)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within on calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for computing grade point average. The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of a C.
Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aides, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aides to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Acceptable Student Behavior (Policy #7 Policy and Procedures Manual for Graduate Students) Course behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. The prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the on-line classroom. Students who do not access the course regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendation for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. Exams are secure, no printing, copying, or writing questions down for outside use is permitted.

Communication with Instructor: The Instructor will communicate with students about the course through the use of BRIGHTSPACE-D2L Students are required to check this site at least three times a week (daily is recommended) for announcements and posted material and are responsible for information posted in BRIGHTSPACE-D2L. Grades will be posted electronically. Students are highly recommended to make appoints to speak with instructor if making less than 80 on any test well in advance of the following test.

Evaluation Input from Students: The faculty of the School of Nursing places great value on evaluative input from students. Evaluation of courses, instructors and clinical facilities provides the College with important data which is used to strengthen the program. Data is analyzed as to trends and themes and is important to curriculum and sequencing decisions. All evaluation for the courses are posted on-line. The online mechanism allows us the opportunity to tabulate and store information in order analyze trends within the curriculum. Please be assured that this information is secured and not released until after grades are submitted. No names are available to faculty at any time. In order to garner some reliability and validity, the College must have representative data from the student population. The representation, based on the literature has been set at 70%. The College is anticipating that the students with thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process which will assist the faculty with the growth of the programs. A link to evaluation will be available on BRIGHTSPACE - D2L toward the end of the semester. Thank you in advance for your assistance with the evaluation process.

Online Resources:

Graduate School Student Handbook: http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/107.asp
School of Nursing Student Handbook: Currently being updated

Purdue Owl: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

Brightspace - D2L Course Platform: https://d2l.sfasu.edu/