



NURS 3232 PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN NURSING

Course Syllabus: Spring 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jere Hammer, PhD, RN (Course coordinator)
Office Location: NHS Building 218
Office Hours: Tuesday 0900-1000, Thursday 1400-1500
Office Phone: 903-886-5306
Office Fax: 903-886-5729
University Email Address: jere.hammer@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: 2 business days

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course concentrates on legal, ethical, economic, and political issues affecting the nurse as an individual and a professional and health care delivery to clients, groups, and aggregates. Consideration is given to self-discovery, personal assertiveness, role conflict, negotiation, and collective bargaining. Students are encouraged to apply critical thinking strategies during classroom discussions and presentations.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the impact of historical and contemporary issues on current nursing practice (AACN Essentials II, III, IV, VIII, IX).
2. Describe state and national statutes, rules, and regulations that authorize and define professional nursing practice (AACN Essential V, VIII).
3. Debate moral/ethical/legal issues that impact nursing practice and the health care delivery system (AACN Essentials IV, V, VIII).
4. Discuss the implications of healthcare policy on issues of access, equity, affordability, and social justice in healthcare delivery (AACN Essentials V, IX).

5. Compare and contrast the roles and perspectives of the nursing profession with other care professionals on the healthcare team, such as the scope of practice, education, and licensure requirements of the discipline (AACN Essential VI).
6. Articulate the value of the pursuit of practice excellence and lifelong learning (AACN Essential III).

Materials -Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Textbook:

Butts, J. B. & Rich, K. L. (2023). *Nursing ethics: Across the curriculum and into practice* (5th ed.). Jones and Bartlett Learning.

Optional Textbook:

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Optional Resources:

Texas Board of Nursing website: <http://www.bon.texas.gov/index.asp>
American Nurses Association website: <http://www.nursingworld.org/>
Purdue Owl Online Writing Lab website: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html
Other online resources and articles as directed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, VoiceThread, etc.

Instructional Methods

This is a blended course requiring students to complete reading assignments, online activities, and independent study to be successful. Course objectives may be met through an individual study using suggested resources, active involvement in classroom activities, formal, and informal exchange of ideas with classmates and colleagues regarding specific topics as well as utilizing critical thinking skills.

Teaching methods include seminars, discussions, small group work, independent study of texts and library resources, computer-assisted instruction, audio-visual aids, and assignments. While the professor will provide guidance and consultation, the student is

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responsible for the identification of identification of learning needs, self-direction, seeking consultation, and demonstration of course objectives.

Student Responsibilities/Tips for Success in the Course

- Logging into the course website and email regularly (daily) for faculty communication (especially the night before class)
- Updating semester calendar with communicated changes
- Studying a minimum of 2-3 hours per course credit hour per week. For example, 5-credit course = 10 to 15 hours of study each week.
- Attending at all class meetings, seminars, and any outside class participation pertaining to NCLEX
- Reviewing and remediating examinations and assessments
- Preparing for class before entering the classroom

Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale and assessments.

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 75%-79%

D = 60%-74%

F = 59% or below

A minimum grade of 75 is required to pass the course.

ASSESSMENTS

Assignment	%	SLO
Personal Philosophy of Nursing Statement	20%	1,2,3,4,5,6
Ethical Dilemma Presentation (Group)	20%	3,6
Disciplinary Action Paper (Group)	20%	2,3
Nursing Jurisprudence Exam	20%	2,3
Attendance & Participation	20%	1,2,3,4,5,6
Total	100%	

ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTIONS

- **Personal Philosophy of Nursing Statement**

The purpose of creating a personal philosophy of nursing statement is to identify intrinsic beliefs and goals within the nursing profession. Defining a philosophy provides a deeper connection to those beliefs. A personal philosophy helps shape the professional self and provides direction for attaining skills needed for a successful, meaningful career. This assignment is intended to be the start of a life-long, professional review of attitudes, beliefs, and values regarding key components of nursing practice and patient care.

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Students will write a personal philosophy using questions from the philosophy rubric to discuss their beliefs, attitudes, and values regarding the four domains of the nursing profession (nursing, environment, person, health) and the concepts of excellence and lifelong learning.

This initial philosophy statement will be submitted at the beginning of the semester and reassessed and possibly revised near the end of the semester. Students will evaluate where they stand with their philosophy at the end of the semester. References are required to support the statement.

The rubric for the evaluation of this paper is located in the LMS.

- **Ethical Dilemma Presentation (Group):**

In this assignment, a group of students presents ethical issues encountered by nurses in a specific patient population and applies an ethical decision-making model in a simulated patient case.

Student groups will develop a 20-minute presentation of common or potential ethical issues associated with the assigned patient population; pose an ethical dilemma for a simulated patient; describe the ethical decision-making model used by the group in the scenario and the rationales for the choice; and guide the class through each step of the model to reach a final decision.

The presentation will be submitted for grading via the LMS assignment link prior to presentation in class. The rubric for the evaluation of this paper is located in the LMS.

- **Disciplinary Action Paper/Case Presentation (Group):**

The purpose of this activity is for students to acquire an understanding of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the impact and ramifications of individual nurse violations of the Act. Students will work in groups to complete a paper on the disciplinary action taken by the Texas Board of Nursing on an assigned Registered Nurse.

The paper should be no more than five (5) pages in length, including the cover page and the reference page. The paper will be submitted via the LMS Assignments tab by the due date on the course calendar. The case will be presented during an class session. The rubric for the evaluation of this paper and presentation is located in the LMS.

- **Nursing Jurisprudence Exam (NJE)**

Successful completion of the NJE is required for licensure in Texas. The exam consists of 50 psychometrically validated questions designed to test an applicant's knowledge relating to board statutes, rules, position statements, guidelines,

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disciplinary sanction policies, frequently asked questions, and other resource documents accessible on the board's web page relating to the regulation, licensure, and practice of nursing under the following categories:

- (A) Nursing Licensure and Regulation in Texas
- (B) Nursing Ethics;
- (C) Nursing Practice;
- (D) Nursing Peer Review;
- (E) Disciplinary Action.

You must correctly answer at least 75% of the questions to pass the NJE.

The preferred method of meeting the requirements of this assignment is to take the actual NJE prior to graduation and submitting documentation from the BON of successful completion.

The alternative method of meeting the requirements of the assignment is to complete the [online jurisprudence prep course](#) on the Board's web site.

- **Attendance and Participation**

This assignment requires and recognizes student engagement in the teaching/learning process.

Attendance is met by being present for the entirety of each class session.

Participation is met by:

1. Engaging in substantive discussion in each class session and in each discussion board assignment. (*Substantive discussion indicates the speaker has prepared for the class session and is presenting a thoughtful, meaningful contribution to the group.*)
2. Leading a class discussion or activity. (*In consultation and collaboration with the course instructor, each student will partner with one or two peers to lead the discussion or activity for an assigned class session.*)
3. Paying attention to the discussion or activity in progress. (*Avoiding distractions and avoiding distracting others.*)

A detailed participation rubric can be found in the LMS.

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

Communication between faculty and students is important for success. If a face-to-face meeting is desired, an appointment should be made in advance. Students will be treated with respect and are expected to communicate likewise.

The nursing department faculty and staff follow and expect students to follow the chain of command in all academic matters. If problems arise in a course, the student should first contact the instructor, then proceed as needed to the course coordinator, then the program coordinator, then the department head for nursing, and finally the college dean.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Nursing Student Guide

Specific information for students regarding the nursing program and current policies and procedures can be found in the BSN Student Guide located in the Nursing Success Coaching Course in the LMS. Students are responsible for reviewing and following the policies and procedures provided in the student guidebook.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Class Conduct

Turn off or silence, and put away all electronic devices before entering the classroom, lab, sim hospital, or clinical setting. No obscene or vulgar language will be permitted. Faculty reserve the right to drop a student for violations of any student conduct rules listed in the student guide.

Class Policies

1. **Class Cancellation:** If a class is canceled, the student is expected to do the readings and complete the objectives for that day. The content will still be included on examinations.
2. **Class attendance:** Attendance is expected. Students should notify the course coordinator in advance of any unavoidable absence.
3. **Exams:** Exam dates are listed in the course syllabus. Students are expected to be present for all exams. In the event of an unavoidable absence, the student must notify the course coordinator in advance of the absence. Failure to do so may result in the student receiving a zero for the missed exam or quiz. An alternate form of the exam may be administered at the discretion of the course coordinator.
4. Students are expected to come to class prepared for learning.

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Late Submissions

Students are expected to submit all class assignments on time. If an extension is needed, the student should make the request to the instructor before the assignment is due. The request may or may not be approved at the discretion of the instructor and/or the course coordinator.

Unexcused late assignments will be penalized 10% per day for each of the first two days overdue; on the 3rd day, the grade will be assigned as 0%. Communication on these matters is the student's responsibility. Multiple instances of late assignments will result in receipt of a Student Performance and Behaviors Evaluation Form and, possibly, failure of clinical/course.

Paper Submissions

All documents submitted online are to be in .docx, .rtf, or .pdf format. No other formats will be accepted (JPEG, GIF, etc.). Assignments need to be submitted in a maximum of one document per assignment. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a grade of "0" on the assignment.

ATI Standardized Practice & Learning Material/Assessments

TAMUC pre-licensure BSN program utilizes Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) learning materials (study materials, tutorials, practice exams, and proctored assessments) to guide and assess mastery of nursing content necessary for entry into practice. Specific ATI activities and grading guidelines are outlined in the "ATI Guidelines" section in the LMS. Students are expected to complete all ATI components of the NCLEX-RN Preparatory course.

Advising Statement

Once admitted into the BSN nursing program, the nursing faculty serves as the nursing student academic advisor for the enrolled course.

Computer Privacy Screens

Students are required to purchase a computer privacy screen for use during all computerized exams.

University Specific Procedures**Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-code-of-conduct/).
<https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-code-of-conduct/>

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the

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basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) document and/or consult your event organizer.
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

AI Use Policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

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In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

The Texas A&M University-Commerce Department of Nursing has full approval by the [Texas Board of Nursing](#).

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460

Austin, TX 78701-3944

512.305.7400

webmaster@bon.texas.gov

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing and the master's degree program in nursing at Texas A&M University-Commerce are accredited by the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#).

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

655 K Street NW, Suite 750

Washington, DC 20001

202.887.6791

NURS 3232 Course Calendar Spring 2024		
Week Date/Time	Content	Assignments/Due Date
Orientation 1/11/24 0900-1200	Course Overview/Orientation	
Week 1 1/16/24 Online	Framework: Nursing Metaparadigm Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online module • Florence Nightingale (video) • Always a Nurse (video) 	Personal nursing philosophy statement draft: 1/28/24 NLT 2359
Week 2 1/22/24 1300-1530	Introduction to Ethics Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butts & Rich Ch. 1, 2 	
Week 3 1/29/24 1300-1530	Ethics in Professional Nursing (Part 1) Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butts & Rich Ch. 3 	
Week 4 2/5/24 1300-1530	Ethics in Professional Nursing (Part 2) Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butts & Rich Ch. 3 	
Week 5 2/12/24 1300-1530	Ethics at the End-of-Life Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butts & Rich Ch. 9 	
Week 6 2/19/24 1300-1530	Ethics in Specific Populations: Women, Infants, & Children Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butts & Rich Ch. 4, 5 	Group Presentations
Week 7 2/26/24	Ethics in Specific Populations: Adolescents & Adults Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butts & Rich Ch. 6, 7 	Group Presentations
Week 8 3/4/24 1300-1530	Ethics in Specific Populations: Elders & Mental Health Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butts & Rich Ch. 8, 10 	Group Presentations

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Week Date/Time	Content	Assignments/Due Date
3/11-3/15	SPRING BREAK	
Week 9 3/18/24 1300-1530	Nursing Practice Act (NPA) Review: • Texas Nursing Practice Act	In-class Case Studies Disciplinary Action Paper: 4/1/24 NLT 2359
Week 10 3/25/24 1300-1530	Board of Nursing Rules & Regulations Review: • BON Rules & Regulations	In-class Case Studies
Week 11 4/1/24 1300-1530	Nursing Peer Review Act Review: • Texas Nursing Peer Review Act	In-class Case Studies
Week 12 4/8/24 1300-1530	Safe Harbor Review: • Texas BON Rule 217.20 • Chapter 303 of the Texas Occupations Code	In-class Case Studies
Week 13 4/15/24 1300-1530	Disciplinary Action Cases Review: • Texas NPA	Disciplinary Action Case Presentations
Week 14 4/22/24 No class	No class	ATI NCLEX-RN Live Review 4/24, 4/25, 4/26
Week 15 4/29/24 1300-1450	Disciplinary Action Cases Review: • Texas NPA	Disciplinary Action Cases Jurisprudence Practice Exam
Week 16 5/6/24	Finals Week	Personal Nursing Philosophy Statement – Final: 5/6/24 NLT 2359

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