



NURS 5209.01: Professional Issues in Nursing Practice

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 2025

Instructor: Shelly Hanko, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Office Location: Online

Office Hours: By Appointment

Cell Phone: 618-910-3913

University Email Address Shelly.Hanko@TAMUC.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Two (2) business days

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Selected readings

Course Description (2 semester credit hours)

This course focuses on social, economic, political, cultural, ethicolegal, and historical factors affecting nursing. It provides a forum for exploration of issues and concerns, enabling the critical analysis and evaluation of their effect on advanced practice nursing.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will have been given the opportunity to:

1. Use a systematic process to explore current nursing issues (AACN Essentials Domains 2 & 4).

2. Critically evaluate the social, economic, cultural, political, and historical influences on advanced practice nursing (AACN Essentials Domains 1 & 3).
3. Formulate opinions and beliefs about current nursing issues through the synthesis of current literature and research (AACN Essentials Domains 4 & 10).
4. Demonstrate the ability to support ideas in an organized, logical, and authoritative manner (AACN Essential Domain 4).
5. Analyze the use of political processes to create change in nursing (AACN Essential Domain 3).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, and using Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint.

Instructional Methods

This is an online course requiring students to complete assignments, online activities and independent study to be successful. Course objectives will be met through 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 lecture, seminar, discussion, 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 responsible for identification of learning needs, self-direction, seeking consultation, and demonstration of course objectives.

Student Responsibilities

- Logging into the course website daily during the week
- **Checking emails at least daily, except Sunday**

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 75%-79%

D = 60%-74%

F = 59% or Below

Assessments	
Discussion Board Posts 7 x 30	210
Issues Paper	100
Issues Presentation	100
Total	410

Successful completion of the assignments will enable the student to meet the student learning outcomes.

Late Submissions:

It is expected that you will submit all class and clinical assignments on time. If you need an extension, it should be requested before the due date/time and may or may not be approved at the discretion of 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 clinical 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.

Submitting assignments: Upload all completed assignments to the appropriate area in D2L. Before uploading any assignment, name the file with the course number, your name, last, first, the assignment or document name submitted. Preceptor agreements for example would be- 5622 Callicoat, Donna, Preceptor Agreement Hanko.

Assessments

Short Papers (4) 40% (10% each)

Students are expected to read the assigned article and identify strengths and weaknesses noted. Students will develop a response to the article, which will include references to support ideas. Paper should be substantive and supported by assigned readings, other resources, and/or professional experience (Learning Outcomes #1-5).

Issues Presentation 100 points

Students are to develop a scholarly presentation on a selected topic of interest concerning APRN practice. The instructor must approve the topic. Follow the grading rubric provided (Learning Outcomes #1-5).

Issues Paper 100 points

Students are to develop a scholarly paper on a selected topic of interest about APRNs. The instructor must approve the topic. Follow the grading rubric provided (Learning Outcomes #1-5).

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 Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-Zoom-system-requirements-Windows-macOS-Linux>

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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

It is expected that you will check your D2L course and email at least **DAILY** for communication from the instructor.

Communication between faculty and students is primary and taken seriously. Preferred communication methods are individualized office hours, email, or via office phone. If a phone call is not answered, please leave a message and send an e-mail using the direct e-mail link on the course home page. You will be treated with collegial respect and you are expected to communicate likewise in a professional manner.

It is expected that assignments will be graded and returned to the student within two (2) weeks of submission.

Nursing Student Guide

Specific information for the nursing student regarding the nursing program and current policies and procedures can be found in the MSN Student Guide located here:

https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/educationhumanservices/departments/nursing/documents/MSN_Student_Guide.pdf

It is the student's responsibility to review and understand the policies and procedures provided in the student guidebook as all students are held to the statutes and policies therein.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

University Specific Procedures

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.

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://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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 webpages below.

[Attendance,](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

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.

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.

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 Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

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

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

AI Use Policy

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.

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

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: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

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 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](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<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

Counseling Center Services

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

Issues Paper: Grading Criteria

Criteria	Possible Points	Score	Comments
Appropriateness of selected topic. Introduction of topic and its relevance to advanced practice nursing	10		
Pertinent historical aspects of the topic	15		
Social, political, and legal aspects of the topic	15		
Appropriate research findings related to the topic.	15		
At least two opposing views related to this issue are presented. Demonstrates critical analysis of importance of topic to advanced practice nursing today and potential impact for the future. States opinion on the issue.	25		
Correct APA format for headings, sub-headings, and references. Correct spelling and use of grammar. Title page and reference page	10		
No more than 5 written pages not including title and reference page Minimum of 4 current (within past 5 years) references that represent a variety of views and sources.	10		
TOTAL			

Issues Presentation: Grading Criteria

Criteria	Possible Points	Score	Comments
Appropriateness of selected topic. Introduction of topic and its relevance to advanced practice nursing	10		
Pertinent historical aspects of the topic	15		
Social, political, and legal aspects of the topic	15		
Appropriate research findings related to the topic.	15		
At least two opposing views related to this issue are presented. Demonstrates critical analysis of importance of topic to advanced practice nursing today and potential impact for the future. States opinion on the issue.	25		
Ease of presentation, eye contact, 10-15 minute presentation, slides are appropriate with correct spelling.	10		
No more than 15 slides not including reference slide(s). Minimum of 4 current (within past 5 years) references that represent a variety of views and sources.	10		
TOTAL			

Discussion Board Rubric

Criteria	Level of Achievement					Score
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Demonstrated	
Initial post for prompt	12-15Points Post addresses prompt, Is concise and demonstrates evidence of quality writing.	9-11Points Post addresses prompt, Is concise and mostly well-written.	5-8 Points Post somewhat addresses prompt; Is not concise (too wordy) but is mostly well-written.	1-4 Points Post poorly addresses the prompt. Is too wordy and not concise. No evidence of quality writing.	0 Points Post was not provided or does not address the initial prompt.	
Responses (Subsequent Contributions)	5 Points Responses are concise, written in clear language, and meaningful with respect to the discussion topic. Evidence of integration between responses and other students' posts.	3 Points Responses are mostly clear and meaningful with respect to the discussion topic but not concise. Some integration between responses and other students' posts.	2 Points Responses are somewhat clear, but lack meaning with respect to the discussion topic and are not concise. Little integration between responses and the other students' posts.	1- Points *Responses are unclear, not meaningful and not concise. No evidence of integration between responses and the other students' posts	0 Points No attempt at integrating the responses with other responses. Responses do not relate to the initial post Responses are not complete and are not concise.	
Etiquette	5 Points Posts are written using full sentences, professional language, and a respectful tone. Constructive feedback is offered in response to others' posts.	3 Points Posts have a respectful tone with minimal sentence errors or instances using unprofessional language Constructive feedback is offered to others' posts.	2 Points Posts have a respectful tome with numerous sentence errors and unprofessional language, Non-constructive feedback is offered to others' posts.	1- Points Many sentence errors, unprofessional language, disrespectful tone, or harsh criticism in the discussion posts.	0 Points Incomplete sentences, no attempt to use professional language. Posts contain errors, disrespectful language, or inappropriate language directed toward others.	
Mechanics and APA citations and references	5 Points 2 or more reputable sources used (one of which is the course textbook). No spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. No errors in APA citations and references.	3 Points Only 1 reputable source used. Spelling, grammar, or punctuation are mostly error-free. APA citations and references mostly error free.	2 Points Sources used, but not reputable or reliable. *A few spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. A few APA citation and reference errors.	1-Points Many spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. No APA citations and references provided.	0 Points Assignment was not completed or contained numerous spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors making it unreadable. .	
Total						

Short Paper Rubric (if needed)

Criteria	Possible Points	Earned Points	Comments:
1. Identifies at least two (2) strengths and two (2) weaknesses of assigned article	30		
2. Responds to article topic with at least two recent articles or other resources that support response	30		
3. Paper is substantive, supported and includes opinions, comments and/or concerns related to issue	30		
4. Grammar, spelling, APA format for references, no longer than two (2) pages not counting title page and reference page (both required)	10		
Total	100		