HSCI 347

The Foundations of Healthcare Ethics

Faculty
Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Spring 2015

Texas A&M University-Texarkana
College of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
Spring 2015

COURSE NUMBER: HSCI 347

COURSE TITLE: The Foundations of Healthcare Ethics

COURSE CREDIT: 3 SCH

COURSE FACULTY: Deborah I. Holder, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE
Phone: 903.334.6670
Office: SCIT 318 A
Email: deborah.holder@tamut.edu

Office Hours: Mondays &Wednesdays 9-11 AM and
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30-3:30PM
On-Line Hours:
Other office hours by appointment

PREREQUISITE: None

CLASS LOCATION: Blackboard

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course introduces undergraduate students to healthcare ethics. It includes the philosophical underpinnings of healthcare ethics, examples of healthcare dilemmas, and examples of legal documents that are important during healthcare delivery. Some of the topics discussed include, but are not limited to, euthanasia (active and passive), hospice, abortion, patient rights, the refusal of chemotherapy, and medical use of marijuana for adjunctive cancer pain treatment.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Stanford, C.C. & Connor, V.J. (2014). *Ethics for health professionals.* Burlington, ME: Jones & Bartlett.*Ethics for Health Professionals*. Burlington, MA. ISBN: 9781449689605

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC. ISBN – 1-55798-791-2

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STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of this semester, nursing students will be able to

- Discuss the evolution of the ethical aspects of healthcare in light of the historical development of ethics as a branch of philosophy
- Distinguish among the various ethical principles and legal aspects that impinge upon healthcare delivery
- Critique various legal precedents that impact ethical issues confronted by healthcare professionals in the delivery of care
- Analyze the various ethical frameworks as they apply to healthcare
- Critique various ethical systems

COURSE OUTLINE:

I.   An Overview of Ethics
II.   Top Priority: The Patient
III.   Vulnerable Populations
IV.   Confidentiality
V.   Ethics and the Workplace
VI.   Accountability: The Medical Record
VII.   Liability and Health Care: Legal Aspects of Healthcare
VIII.   Life and Death Issues
IX.   Controversial Issues
X.   The ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses (2001, ANA)

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Evaluation Methods

Discussions Forums (8)…………..………………………….…..40%
Article Critiques (2)……………………………………………..40%
Final: Case Study (1)…………………………….………..……...20%
                                                                                          100%

Late Assignments

We know that "life happens" so if you have a problem submitting an assignment on time, you must notify faculty of your difficulty *the day before* the assignment is due. Translated, this means that a notification on Sunday is too late, as all assignments in our program are due on Sunday at midnight.

In the case of an emergency, we will waive this rule, but leniency will be the exception rather than the rule. When you request a late assignment option, you must provide the reason the assignment is to be late and projected date for submission, which must be within 1 week. You may request only one late assignment per course, except in event of death or major illness in immediate family.

We will not accept the final assignment of the course late - it must be submitted on time.

Late assignments that do not fall under this special allowance will have 5 points per calendar day deducted.

Formatting of Assignments

In our program as in nursing as a whole, we use the *APA Style* of writing and citing of references. Using a single style provides the uniformity and accuracy needed to retrieve resources and sets a standard across the profession. This is the style required by most nursing publications.

We expect that you will be proficient in the use of this style by your graduation from the program. So, each semester we will add expectations in the use of this style. You will find specific APA requirements for this course posted on the course website.

Teaching Methods

This course is a web-based course taught online through Blackboard 9.1 using learning modules. These modules are outlined in the course calendar in this syllabus and in Blackboard. The teacher's role includes facilitating the student's learning and serving as a resource person to guide the student in the learning process. Other teaching strategies include online assignments, online discussion boards, and a scholarly paper which utilizes the APA format.

GRADING SCALE:

A = 90-100 - B = 80-89 - C = 70-79 - D = 60-69 - F = 59 and below
Grades below a "C" are NOT passing in all nursing courses.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

A. **Participation Policy**
   The student is expected to participate in weekly online discussions by making initial postings with responses to other classmates as assigned.
   Students are responsible for beginning their participation on the FIRST CLASS DAY by logging on and completing assignments according to the COURSE CALENDAR. Failure to submit online assignments between the first day of classes and the "university census date" (according to the university schedule) will result in an ADMINISTRATIVE DROP from the course.

B. Course Etiquette
Students are expected to demonstrate respect for fellow classmates and the instructor throughout the course by responding in a thoughtful manner that does not criticize or demean anyone in the class.
C. Discussion Board Standards
Please see the Discussion Rubric in this syllabus.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The faculty expects that each student conduct himself/herself as a person of integrity. Academic integrity is a fundamental value in education, as integrity is a value in professional nursing practice. Yet, we find that many students do not understand or value its importance, or knowing that, choose to ignore the rules and violate this standard that is at the essence of everything that we do.

We wish to stress to each student our philosophy of academic integrity and emphasize that violating the rules related to plagiarism, cheating or other standards will result in sanctions. These sanctions will include a zero on the assignment in question, and may result in a failure for the course and/or dismissal from the program. If you are unsure of what constitutes a violation, please refer to this website at the main campus, Texas A&M University, Student Rules. Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse for violations of the standards.

ANTI PLAGIARISM

All papers submitted in the undergraduate or graduate nursing program at Texas A&M – Texarkana may be evaluated by plagiarism software. This software may be Turnitin or SafeAssign.

SafeAssign is a Blackboard tool that identifies content within a paper that is unoriginal, determined by checking against papers on the internet, databases and other student papers submitted to SafeAssign. Safe Assign does not determine if the paper is plagiarized, it only matches content within the paper to content from other sources.

Turnitin is a plagiarism prevention and online grading tool that checks student work against a large, world-wide database for potential plagiarism. Again, Turnitin does not determine if plagiarism is present, but rather identifies content from student papers that match content from other sources and reports an originality score.

The instructor makes the determination if plagiarism has occurred, based on the results reported by the software programs and other sources. Please refer to the discussion of Academic Integrity in this syllabus and in the student handbook for further information about plagiarism.

A&M-TEXARKANA EMAIL ADDRESS:

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

DROP POLICY:

To drop this course after the census date, a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website (http://tamut.edu/Student-Support/Registrar/Dropping.html) or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Students are responsible for beginning their participation on the FIRST CLASS DAY by logging on and completing assignments according to the COURSE CALENDAR. Failure to submit online assignments between the first day of classes and the University census date (according to the University schedule) will result in an ADMINISTRATIVE DROP from the course.

STUDENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

- Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and web courses are found at this link: http://www.tamut.edu/Training/Student%20Training/index.html
- If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a support request detailing your specific problem here: http://www.tamut.edu/techde/support.htm
- Blackboard Helpdesk contacts (office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p)

Julia Allen (main contact) 903-223-3154 julia.allen@tamut.edu

Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu

Jayson Ferguson (alternate) 903-223-3105 jayson.ferguson@tamut.edu

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Minimum Windows PC Requirements

- Pentium IV 1.5GHz+ (preferred: Core Duo)
- 1 GB RAM minimum (preferred: 2 GB)
- 128MB Video Card minimum - Sound Card is required for some courses
- 56K modem minimum (Cable or DSL required for some courses)
- Windows 2000, XP, Vista or 7
- Web browser (Internet Explorer 7.0+; Firefox 3.0+)
- Microsoft Word, minimum Office 97

    Some courses will need plug-ins such as Flash player 10 +, QuickTime player 7.0+, Adobe Reader 9.0+, Java Runtime Environment (Java 1.6.0_15), Windows Media Player 10+, RealPlayer, and Macromedia/Adobe Shockwave.

    Some online courses may also require a CD ROM (8x minimum, higher recommended)

    Blackboard has certified the following browsers for computers running Windows Operating Systems:

- Internet Explorer 8 or 9 (IE is not supported on Windows XP)
- Mozilla Firefox 3.6+
- Google Chrome

Minimum Apple Macintosh Requirements

- Intel Core 2.0GHz+
- 1 GB RAM (preferred: 2 GB)
- 128MB Video Card minimum - Sound Card is required for some courses
- 56K modem minimum (Cable or DSL required for some courses)
- Web browser (Firefox 3.0+ ; Safari 3.0+)
- Microsoft Word, minimum Office 97

    Some courses will need plug-ins such as Flash player 10+, QuickTime player 7.0+, Adobe Reader 9.0+, Java Runtime Environment, RealPlayer, and Macromedia/Adobe Shockwave.

Some online courses may also require a CD ROM (8x minimum, higher recommended)

Blackboard has certified the following browsers for computers running Macintosh Operating Systems:

- Mac OS 10.2 (Jaguar): (Safari 1 is compatible)
- Mac OS 10.3 (Panther): Safari 1.2 (Firefox 1.5 is compatible)
- Mac OS 10.4 (Tiger): Safari 2 and Firefox 1.5
- Mac OS 10.5 (Leopard): (Firefox 2.0 is compatible)

I-OS and Android Devices

These devices are currently supported using the Blackboard Mobile App, available for free from your App Store or scan the code below:

To access Texas A&M University - Texarkana, there is an individual license fee of $1.99 per year or $5.99 lifetime. This fee gives you access to the university from all your (same platform) devices; it is not necessary to pay the fee for each device you own.