

San Bernardino Valley College

Course Outline for NURS 217
ADVANCED ETHICAL-LEGAL ASPECTS OF NURSING

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

NURS 217, Advanced Ethical-Legal Aspects of Nursing

1 hour lecture = 1 unit

Explores ethical, legal, and professional aspects of nursing practice.

SCHEDULE DESCRIPTION: Same

PREREQUISITES: NURS 200 and NURS 202, both with a grade of C or better

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: ONE

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- A. Define and discuss legal aspects related to nursing practice.
- B. Identify steps and techniques for a job search. Analyze and prioritize major factors in job selection.
- C. Summarize and discuss key aspects of the California Nursing Practice Act.
- D. Discuss and analyze patient's rights and related nursing practice.
- E. Outline steps in applying for licensure as a Registered Nurse in California.
- F. Identify key ethical principles. Analyze essential elements and discuss alternatives for action/intervention in selected ethical dilemmas in nursing practice.
- G. Outline and discuss a process to plan for career growth. Identify short and long-term personal career goals. Identify techniques for advancing career growth.

IV. CONTENT

- A. Legal Principles r/t Nursing Practice
 - 1. Legal terminology related to nursing practice
 - 2. Principles and doctrines related to nursing practice
 - 3. Emergency situations and legal responsibilities
- B. Negligence in Nursing Practice
 - 1. Common types of nursing negligence
 - 2. Appropriate action to avoid negligence
- C. Job Search
 - 1. Major job factors/considerations
 - 2. Steps in a job search
 - 3. Developing a resume/cover letter
 - 4. Positive job interview techniques
- D. Registered Nursing Licensure
 - 1. NCLEX application procedure/forms
 - 2. Preparation for testing
- E. Regulation of Nursing Practice in California
 - 1. California Nursing Practice Act highlights – scope of practice
 - 2. Responsibilities and powers of the California Board of Registered Nursing
 - 3. Unprofessional conduct
 - 4. Continuing education requirement

5. Selected regulations
- F. Patient's Rights
 1. National League for Nursing, Patient's Bill of Rights
 2. Informed consent
 3. Advanced directives
- G. Malpractice Litigation and Prevention
 1. Basic elements of a malpractice suit.
 2. Common defenses and principles of malpractice claims prevention
- H. Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing Practice
 1. Ethical terminology
 2. Key ethical principles
 3. Major ethical theories
 4. Nursing Code of Ethics (Am Nurses Assoc.)
 5. Process for resolution of ethical dilemmas in nursing practice
- I. Career Growth
 1. Career mapping
 2. High education programs available in nursing

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Readings
- D. Written assignments
- E. Small group discussion and analysis of scenario
- F. Oral report

V. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Prepare a 1 page written resume summarizing the student's educational qualifications, work experience, and essential personal data in preparation for a job search (see guidelines).
- B. In a small group setting, analyze and discuss a scenario describing an ethical dilemma in nursing practice. Use the ethical decision making process to find a resolution.

VII. EVALUATION

- A. Methods of Evaluation
 1. Examinations: objective, essay

Typical examination question:

Good Samaritan laws were enacted to:

- a. Encourage more doctors and nurses to become proficient in emergency care
- b. Restrict off-duty health care professionals from rendering on-scene emergency care to accident victims
- c. Reduce fear of being sued when giving emergency care at the scene of an accident
- d. Make it easier to highway accident victims to sue doctors and nurses who give emergency care

Typical essay question:

Read the scenario below and answer the following questions.

- a. State the nursing ethical dilemma

- b. List and define 3 key ethical principles that are related to this dilemma and briefly define each.
- c. State 3 possible actions a nurse might take and discuss 2 possible outcomes of each action.
- d. What one nursing action (of the three described) would be best in this situation. Explain why and describe your rationale?

2. Graded written resume according to stated criteria

B. Frequency of Evaluation

1. 2 objective examinations during semester and one essay final exam
2. 1 graded written resume during semester
3. Participation in 2 ethical nursing dilemma discussion groups as scheduled

VIII. TYPICAL TEXTS:

Bernzweig, E., The Nurse's Liability for Malpractice, 6th ed., St. Louis, Missouri: C.V. Mosby Co., 1996

Board of Registered Nursing, Nursing Practice Act, Sacramento, CA.: Department of Consumer Affairs, 1997.

Edge, R. and J. Groves, Ethics of Health Care, Albany: Delmar Publishers, 1999.

Purtillo, Ruth, Ethical Dimensions in the Health Professions, 3rd ed., Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders Co., 1999.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: None