



**Social & Moral Context of Health**  
 NURS407  
 Southwestern College Professional Studies

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**I. Course Catalog Description**

Learners are introduced to the major ethical theories, principles, and models for the recognition, analysis, and resolution of ethical dilemmas in health care practice. Particular attention is given to the concepts of social justice, diversity, and socio-economic dislocations in relationship to differential access to care, treatment inequity, and health disparities. *Prerequisite NURS309.*

**II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials**

Burkhardt, M. A., & Nathaniel, A. K. (2014). *Ethics & issues in contemporary nursing*. (4th ed.). Stamford, CT:Thompson - Delmar.

Lowry, L. (1993). *The giver*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

**Other Resources:**

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). (2008). [\*The essentials of Baccalaureate education for professional nursing practice\*](#). Washington, DC: Author.

**III. Learning Outcomes**

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has [learning outcomes specific to the Nursing Program](#), as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate’s knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Related <a href="#">Program Outcome(s)</a></b>
1. Discuss the complex multi-cultural, economic and technological factors which have helped create contemporary health care dilemmas.	2, 4, 5
2. Analyze major comparative ethical theories and demonstrate the interrelationship among theory, practice, and research	1, 2, 3
3. Apply an ethical decision making framework that incorporates moral concepts, professional ethics, and law while incorporating Christian values and beliefs to clinical situations.	2, 4, 8
4. Assess personal values and recognize their impact on decision-making, professional behavior, and application in clinical practice	1, 2, 4, 10
5. Identify and address unethical nursing practices that impact a culture of safety and quality in healthcare.	2, 4, 9, 10
6. Collaborate in the collection, documentation and dissemination of evidence in relation to ethical dilemmas.	3, 4, 9

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus,

complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

**IV. Course Policies**

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies found in the instructor-specific syllabus located in the Blackboard course.

**V. Course Requirements:**

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Number of Assignments</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Percent of Grade</b>
Discussions	10	150	15%
Unit Assignments	3	150	15%
Ethical Will	1	150	15%
Topic Debate	1	150	15%
Final Written Exam	1	200	20%
Scholarly Ethical Paper & Presentation	1	200	20%
Practice Experience Journal	1	0	Pass/Fail
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Practice Experience Requirements**

For this course, there are a total of 7 practice learning experience hours required. Please refer to the Practice Experience Guide for questions. The required practice experiences for this course are from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). You will register for a free account at <http://www.ihi.org/Pages/default.aspx>. When you register for an account do the following: Job Title: Student; Organization Type: School-Nursing; Primary Role: Student

- (IHI) PS 101: Introduction to Patient Safety (1.5 hr)
- (IHI) PS 102: From Error to Harm (1hr)
- (IHI) PS 105: Responding to Adverse Events (1hr 45min)
- (IHI) PS 201: Root Cause and Systems Analysis (1hr 30min)
- (IHI) PS 202: Building a Culture of Safety (1hr 15min)

VI. [Course at a Glance:](#)

Unit	Unit Learning Objectives	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due	<a href="#">Related Learning Outcomes</a>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social, philosophical and other historical forces influencing the development of nursing.</li> <li>• Discuss the importance of Ethical Theory.</li> <li>• Define and discuss the seven ethical principles and their application to nursing practice.</li> <li>• Define and differentiate personal values, societal values, professional values and moral values.</li> <li>• Discuss self-awareness as a tool for living an ethical life.</li> <li>• Discuss influence of culture on values development.</li> <li>• Describe and differentiate ethical dilemmas, moral distress, moral outrage and moral reckoning.</li> <li>• Discuss autonomy and paternalism as they relate to patient self-determination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions discussion</li> <li>• Nathaniel &amp; Burkhardt chapters 1-3</li> <li>• Lowry chapters 1-4</li> <li>• Burkhardt chapter powerpoints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 1.1 Discussion</li> <li>• Unit 1 Assignment</li> </ul>	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe factors that may threaten autonomy in health care settings</li> <li>• Discuss the place for advance directives in health care decisions</li> <li>• Describe scholarship issues encountered by nurses</li> <li>• Discuss the nursing role regarding protection of human rights in research</li> <li>• Identify six criteria that differentiate a profession</li> <li>• Explain the relationship between accountability &amp; professional status</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nathaniel &amp; Burkhardt chapters 4-7</li> <li>• Lowry chapters 5-8</li> <li>• Burkhardt chapter powerpoints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 2.1 Discussion</li> <li>• Unit 2.2 Discussion</li> <li>• Ethical Will</li> </ul>	

Unit	Unit Learning Objectives	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due	Related <a href="#">Learning Outcomes</a>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare ethics &amp; the law &amp; discuss the relationship of each to the other</li> <li>• Discuss the impact of technology on nursing and health care</li> <li>• Apply beneficence &amp; non-maleficence to decisions about technology</li> <li>• Discuss issues &amp; dilemmas related to current technology &amp; to life-sustaining interventions</li> <li>• Evaluate issues &amp; dilemmas associated with technologies affecting reproduction, genetics, and organ transplantation</li> <li>• Discuss the complex multi-cultural, economic and technological factors which have helped create contemporary health care dilemmas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nathaniel &amp; Burkhardt chapters 8-12</li> <li>• Lowry chapters 6-9</li> <li>• Burkhardt chapter powerpoints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 3.1 Discussion</li> <li>• Unit 3.2 Discussion</li> <li>• Unit 3 Assignment</li> </ul>	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the nurses' role and responsibility in ethical issues</li> <li>• Understand historical events and patterns in healthcare.</li> <li>• Describe examples of political issues in health care</li> <li>• Recognize how economics is related to healthcare</li> <li>• Differentiate between internal &amp; external standards of nursing practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nathaniel &amp; Burkhardt chapters 13-15</li> <li>• Lowry chapters 10-14</li> <li>• Burkhardt chapter powerpoints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 4.1 Discussion</li> <li>• Unit 4.2 Discussion</li> <li>• Topic Debate</li> </ul>	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how social issues can impact healthcare</li> <li>• Understand how research affects culturally diverse groups</li> <li>• Describe the relationship between healthcare issues and gender or race</li> <li>• Discuss transcultural and spiritual issues related to ethics in healthcare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nathaniel &amp; Burkhardt chapters 16-18</li> <li>• Lowry chapters 15-19</li> <li>• Burkhardt chapter powerpoints</li> <li>• Lessons from Tuskegee video</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 5.1 Discussion</li> <li>• Unit 5.2 Discussion</li> <li>• Unit 5 Assignment</li> <li>• Final Written Exam</li> </ul>	

Unit	Unit Learning Objectives	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due	Related Learning Outcomes
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how nurses can use power in ethical situations</li> <li>• Discuss the relationship among professional empowerment, principled behavior and nursing practice</li> <li>• Identify factors influencing the empowerment of patients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nathaniel &amp; Burkhardt chapters 19 &amp; 20</li> <li>• Lowry chapters 20-23</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 6 Discussion</li> <li>• Scholarly Ethical Issues Paper &amp; Presentation</li> </ul>	

## VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.