Professional, Ethical and Legal Obligations in Nursing: A Critical Appraisal

Nursing 4320

Course Professors:

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Online Course

Fall 2024

N4320 Professional, Ethical, and Legal Obligations in Nursing: A Critical Appraisal

Calendar description:

This course will critically review ethical theories, the legal and ethical aspects of nurses' roles, and nursing's commitment to healthy public policy, social justice, and advocacy.

Expanded description:

This course is organized based on the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) Conceptual Framework for Organizing Competencies (CNO, 2014). In this course, learners will critically examine professional practice issues specifically focused on professionalism, nursing regulation, practice standards, ethical and legal aspects of nursing. This course also examines the evolving roles within nursing and addresses professional responsibility and accountability to healthy public policy, social justice, advocacy and patient safety. This course integrates multiple ways of knowing with emphasis on emancipatory knowing.

Course Goals:

1. Examine the leadership and professional culture of the nursing profession
2. Reflect on the historical and contemporary issues and trends in nursing and explore the influence of social, political, and personal power structures in assuming professional roles
3. Develop in-depth understanding of health professional legislation and nursing regulation including professional requirements as outlined in the CNO *Professional Standards & Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses*; CNO *Ethical Values*, and the CNA *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses*
4. Critically examine selected moral, ethical and legal issues influencing nurses' ability and capacity to provide ethical, safe, knowledge-based quality health care from a health promotion and caring perspective in a variety of settings and contexts, and with a diverse client population across the life span
5. Develop an understanding of the fundamental elements of patient safety and nursing's role in contributing to a culture of patient safety.
6. Engage in learning activities with colleagues that promote debate, collaboration, consultation, cohesion, critical thinking, caring and reflection
7. Incorporate scholarship and critical reflection skills into one's own learning and nursing practice
8. Apply a reflective, inquisitive, self-evaluative, responsible, and accountable attitude and behavior with a commitment to lifelong learning

Major Concepts in the Course:

- Clients
- Health and Healthcare Policy
- Social Justice
- Professionalism: Accountability, Self-regulation
- Ethical Practice
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Relational Practice
- Critical Reflection
- Advocacy
- Social Determinants of Health
- Political Influences
- Patient Safety

Nursing Entry-to-Practice Competencies (CNO, 2020) addressed in the course:

- Clinician – 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.11, 1.15, 1.16, 1.17, 1.18, 1.19, 1.20, 1.23, 1.25
- Professional – 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6
- Communicator – 3.1-3.5
- Collaborator – 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8
- Advocate – 5.1-5.6
- Educator – 6.1-6.10
- Leader – 7.1-7.18
- Professional – 8.1-8.7
- Scholar – 9.1-9.3, 9.6-9.8

Interprofessional Competencies (CIHC, 2010) addressed in the course:

- Learners/practitioners understand their own role and the roles of those in other professions, and use this knowledge appropriately to establish and achieve patient/client/family and community goals.
- Learners/practitioners understand the principles of team work dynamics and group/team processes to enable effective interprofessional collaboration.

Nursing Informatics Competencies (CASN, 2012) addressed in the course:

- Use relevant information and knowledge to support the delivery of evidence-informed patient care.
- Use information and communication technologies in accordance with professional and regulatory standards and workplace policies.
- Use information and communication technologies in the delivery of patient/client care.

How this course will contribute to your development as a professional nurse:

This course provides opportunities to explore nursing as a profession, including professional rights and responsibilities, as well as legal and ethical parameters. The course promotes the learners' understanding of the purpose and function of professional nursing regulatory organizations and associations, particularly in relation to ethical and legal elements of professional practice and the maintenance and improvement of the standards of care. Knowledge of course concepts is integrated through interactive learning activities, including analysis of case studies, among other learning strategies. These learning activities are designed to engage learners in critical reflection of professionalization, professionalism, and the professional practice of nursing. Opportunities will be provided for learners to reflect on their professional growth as beginning practitioners and to share their own nursing practice experiences with others.

How this course will contribute to your development as an interprofessional team member:

This course will provide students with insights as to how nurses enact their professional, legal and ethical obligations within an interprofessional environment. Learners will explore how professional standards guide their interactions with other members of the interprofessional team.

How we will work together:

In this online course, learning and teaching are a shared responsibility. The instructor's role is to guide, facilitate and support learning. As a learner, it is expected that you will be prepared to actively engage in the course material while grounded in reflective and critical thought. The course and accompanying learning activities are designed to foster discussion, debate, and critical examination of concepts relevant to professional, legal, and ethical aspects of nursing practice. Weekly presence and visits in the course site are expected since messages and updates are posted by the course instructor regularly. Group work will facilitate learning, and your active participation will support collaboration and sharing knowledge together. In order to create an interactive learning environment in the course site, learners will be asked to share within groups, their understanding of course material, their experiences, and to engage in reflection on their learning.

Textbooks and other resources:

Required:

Keatings, M., & Adams, P. (2024). *Ethical and legal issues in Canadian nursing* (5th ed.). Elsevier Inc.

Recommended:

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000

Weekly Schedule

Weeks begin on Mondays at 8:00 am and end on Sundays and at 11:55 pm.

Week/ Starts	Topic	Course Goals	Assignments (due end of week)
1 Sept 9	Course Overview: Professionalism, Regulation and the profession	1, 2	
2 Sept 16	Continuing competence and lifelong learning – CNO Quality Assurance program.	3, 6, 7, 8	
3 Sept 23	Ethical Practice Part 1 - Theories, frameworks, principles, moral distress/moral residue, code of ethics	4	QA Assignment (20%)
4 Oct 1	Ethical Practice Part 2 Code of Ethics, Ethics practice standards *delayed start due to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*		Quiz #1
5 Oct 7	The Legal Context for Practice: - Malpractice - Torts - Negligence - Vicarious liability	3, 6, 7	
Oct 14	Fall Reading Week		
6 Oct 21	Legislation - Consent - Substitute decision-maker - Confidentiality and privacy	3,6,7	Quiz #2
7 Oct 28	Patient Safety - Culture of safety - Excellent Care for All Act - Disclosure of Harm	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	
8 Nov 4	Ontario regulated health professions legislative framework – Part I: Regulation, Scope of practice, Standards, Fitness to Practice	3, 6, 7	
9 Nov 11	Ontario regulated health professions legislative framework – Part II: Working with others - Refusing assignments and discontinuing services - Disagreeing with the plan of care - Working with unregulated care providers - Interprofessional collaboration	1	Group Case Study assignment (30%)
10 Nov 18	Establishing, maintaining, and navigating boundaries in the therapeutic relationship: - Therapeutic boundaries - Sexual/physical/emotional abuse of clients	3, 6, 7	
11 Nov 25	Issues in the workplace: Incivility, violence, abuse Caregiver rights	6,7	
12 Dec 2	New Graduate Nurse Transition: Jurisprudence and NCLEX processes	All	

The Western-Fanshawe Collaborative BScN Program N4320 Professional, Legal and Ethical Obligations: A Critical Appraisal 2024

Opportunities to Demonstrate Learning

1. **Quality Assurance Learning Plan – 20%**
   Due: Sept 29, 2024 at 11:55 pm *(You can begin working on this assignment as soon as the term starts. If you are in placement, it is encouraged that you plan ahead to ensure you can complete this assignment on time).*

The purposes of this assignment are for you to familiarize yourself with the process of meeting the Quality Assurance requirements for the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) by engaging in self-reflection and identifying ways to become a lifelong learner.

Process:

- You will reflect on a situation from your clinical practice that provides an opportunity for growth and development.
- Using the template found on Brightspace, you will complete each section to reflect on your experiences, strengths, and opportunities for professional development.
- Based on your reflection, you will identify two (2) learning goals using the SMART goal format, will link your goals to the CNO's Code of Conduct, will identify three (3) learning activities for each goal, and will reflect on the experience of creating a learning plan.
- Completion of the independent study and readings in week 2 will assist you in completing this work.
- Submit the assignment electronically to the assignment tool in the course site – your paper must be in MS Word format on the template provided, using 12 font and single spaced. **Title page and reference list are not required.**
- The file extension for an uploaded assignment must include the student's surname, initial and name of assignment e.g. ClarkJ_Quality Assurance Plan

Criteria for evaluation:

A marking rubric is available on the course site.

2. **Online Quiz 1 – Ethics – 10%**
   Date: Opens October 1 at 8:00 am and closes on October 7 at 11:55 pm

   This online quiz will be based on readings and activities from weeks 3 and 4 on Ethical Practice. The quiz will be time limited with only one submission allowed and can be taken anytime from the time it opens until it closes to accommodate for clinical placement shifts.

3. **Online Quiz 2 – Legal Context and Legislation – 10%**
   Date: Opens October 21 at 8:00 am and closes on October 27 at 11:55 pm

   This online quiz will be based on readings and activities from week 5 and 6 on Legal Context and Legislation. The quiz will be time limited with only one submission allowed and can be taken anytime from the time it opens until it closes to accommodate for clinical placement shifts.

4. Group Case Study Assignment – 30%
   Due: Nov 17, 2024 at 11:55 PM

This assignment will be completed in groups of six (6). The case study assignment can be started **any time after week 4** (ethical practice content), and *it is recommended that you work with other students in your placement block for ease of collaboration.*

The purposes of this assignment are for you to explore, critically analyze, and respond to a current ethical and legal issue facing the profession in today's health care context. This assignment will reflect your ability to work as a group and to apply course theory and concepts to professional nursing practice. Case scenarios, marking rubric and assignment template will be available on the course Brightspace site.

Process:
- Choose **ONE** of the case scenarios provided on the course Brightspace site and use the template provided
- Following the template, summarize the case chosen and one (1) possible course of action
- Complete the analysis of the case by considering the chosen course of action from a theoretical perspective, taking into account the values of the individuals, ethical principles involved and appropriate practice standards/guidelines from the College of Nurses of Ontario
- Describe an alternative course of action and why it was not chosen by the group.
- Reflect on how the process of completing this case analysis will inform your nursing practice in the future
- Use of at least six evidence-informed scholarly articles and other sources of knowledge to justify your analysis
- One student of the group will submit the assignment electronically to the assignment tool in the course site – your paper must be in MS Word format on the template provided
- The file extension for an uploaded assignment must include all students' surname, initial and name of assignment e.g. ClarkJLeeM…Group Case study

Criteria for evaluation:

A marking rubric is available on the course site. APA formatting is required for all references, including a reference list.

5. Final Exam - 30%

   Date: During University Final Exam Period

The final exam will be based on course content and will focus on application of learning to situations one might find in practice. The exam will be administered in an online format at a time to be determined during the final exam period.

Summary of Opportunities to Demonstrate Learning

OPPORTUNITIES TO DEMONSTRATE LEARNING	VALUE	DUE DATE
1. **Quality Assurance Learning Plan**	20%	Sept 29, 2024 at 11:55 pm
2. **Online quiz 1– Ethics**	10%	Opens Oct 1, 2024 until Oct 7, 2024
3. **Online quiz 2– Legal context**	10%	Opens Oct 21, 2024 until Oct 27, 2024
4. **Group Case Study Assignment**	30%	Nov 17, 2024 at 11:55 pm
5. **Final Exam**	30%	During University Final Exam Period

Policies
All policies related to assignments are in the Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual on the
Undergraduate Student Information site .

Assignments and Exams
Please refer to the Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual for UWO academic guidelines for
penalties for late assignments, re-grading of assignments, and the protocol for missed mid-
term or final exams. The Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual is found at School of
Nursing Policies

Support Services
There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Academic Support and Engagement - http://academicsupport.uwo.ca
2. Wellness and Well-being - https://www.uwo.ca/health/
3. Registrar's Office -- http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/
4. Ombuds Office -- http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/

The websites for Registrarial Services (http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), and the same for affiliated
university colleges when appropriate, and any appropriate Student Support Services (including
the services provided by the USC listed here: http://westernusc.ca/services/) and the Student
Development Services, should be provided for easy access.

Mental Health
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental
Health@Western (https://www.uwo.ca/health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain
help.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence
Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing
compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have

experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

Student Code of Conduct
The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf

Attendance
Students are expected to demonstrate professional responsibility through regular attendance at, and participation in, all course learning activities. Much of the learning that takes place is a result of preparation and engagement with the material, as well as active dialogue with colleagues and faculty. Students are expected to organize their schedules such that weekly preparation for class is completed, and classes are attended, with consistency.

Absence from Course Commitments
Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term **without** supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should also note that the instructor may **designate** one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes), when there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g. 72 hour no late penalty period), or when timed assessments (e.g., quizzes) are available over an extended period of time (e.g., when you are given a 72 hour time period to start – and finish – the assessment).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays. Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examination dates. The Faculty of Health Sciences has set School-specific dates for these Special Examinations. Please speak with your instructor about the date on which the Special Examination for this course will be held.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Plagiarism

Student work is expected to be original. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and could lead to a zero on the assignment in question, a zero in this course, or your expulsion from the university. You are plagiarizing if you insert a phrase, sentence or paragraph taken directly from another author without acknowledging that the work belongs to him/her. Similarly, you are plagiarizing if you paraphrase or summarize another author's ideas without acknowledging that the ideas belong to someone else. All papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Completion of Course Work

Within this course, you may only use artificial intelligence tools (e.g., "ChatGPT") in ways that are specifically authorized by the course instructor. <u>All submitted work must reflect your own thoughts and independent written work.</u>

Re-submission of Previously Graded Material

Without the explicit written permission of the instructor, you may not submit any academic work for which credit has been obtained previously, or for which credit is being sought, in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

Use of Statistical Pattern Recognition on Multiple Choice Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner. Students are further expected to attend to announcements presented through Brightspace, and to read emails generated in this way.

Brightspace

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: https://westernu.brightspace.com/. If students need assistance with OWL Brightspace, they can seek support on the OWL Brightspace Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Online Proctoring

Tests and examinations in this course may be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca.