Course Outline

Code: NUR222
Title: Health, Law and Ethics

School of: Nursing, Midwifery & Paramedicine
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2019
Course Coordinator: TBA
Course Moderator: Sam Edwards

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1 Description
The principles of law and ethics are applied by nurses & midwives in everyday practice. You will examine the Australian legal system and relevant statutory bodies in order to understand legislation affecting health policy and nursing & midwifery practice. Ethical principles guide the practice of health professionals and you will gain an understanding of ethical decision making frameworks relevant to nursing & midwifery. You will apply knowledge presented in the course within a social justice framework to critically appraise contemporary legal and ethical issues in health care practice.

1.2 Course topics
Ethical theories and principles:
- Ethical decision making
- Contemporary ethical issues
Legislative and legal frameworks in health practice
- Legislation and law relevant to the practice environment
- Contemporary legal issues

2. What level is this course?
200 level Developing - Applying broad and/or deep knowledge and skills to new contexts. May require pre-requisites and introductory level knowledge/skills. Normally undertaken in the 2nd or 3rd year of an undergraduate program

3. What is the unit value of this course?
12 units
4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
<th>Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On successful completion of this course you should be able to:</td>
<td>You will be assessed on the learning outcome in task/s:</td>
<td>Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify, describe and apply aspects of the Australian legal system and statutory bodies to nursing and midwifery practice.</td>
<td>Task 1 Task 2</td>
<td>Creative and critical thinkers. Knowledgeable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Define and apply contemporary professional ethical standards to decision making and practice.</td>
<td>Task 1 Task 2</td>
<td>Ethical. Creative and critical thinkers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critically analyse health situations from an ethical and legal perspective.</td>
<td>Task 1 Task 2</td>
<td>Creative and critical thinkers. Ethical.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the USC Glossary of terms for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

5.1 Enrolment restrictions
Enrolled in Program SC385 or SC391 or SC392 or SC393 or SC394 or SC335 or UU301 or XU301

5.2 Pre-requisites
Nil

5.3 Co-requisites
Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites
PAR222

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)
Nil

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale
Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress
During the weekly face to face tutorial (starting from week 1) an in class multiple choice quiz will be undertaken. This is an unmarked formative self assessment that allows you to identify the need for additional study or support. Feedback will be included in the general discussion of the questions in class and you will have the opportunity to clarify concepts and learning with the tutor during this time. If required, you are also able to make an appointment with the course co-ordinator to discuss concepts and learning.
6.3 Assessment tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task No.</th>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
<th>Individual or Group</th>
<th>Weighting %</th>
<th>What is the duration / length?</th>
<th>When should I submit?</th>
<th>Where should I submit it?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Short answer response and reflection</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>2500 words</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Blackboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Audio Presentation</td>
<td>Group</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>15 min audio recording and summary sheet. (max 3 pages + references)</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Blackboard Safe Assign</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Task 1: Short answer response and reflection

**Goal:** Nurses and midwives have legal and ethical responsibilities and accountabilities in practice. The goal of this assessment is to apply your understanding of ethical and legal principles and requirements to the roles and responsibilities of nurses and midwives.

**Product:** Written assignment – short answers to a total of 2500 words

**Format:** You will be required to develop short answer responses to set case studies. Your responses will draw on theory, legislation, professional codes and practice standards. You will also provide a reflection based on your experience.

**Criteria:**
- Knowledge of key legislation professional codes, standards and guidelines relevant to practice
- Knowledge of ethical principles and professional codes, standards and guidelines relevant to practice
- Evidence of reflection from experience
- Use and citation of sources using Harvard style referencing
- Structure/clarity of written expression

Assessment Task 2: Audio Presentation

**Goal:** Nurses and midwives are required to communicate through a wide range of mediums to a diverse audience. The goal of this task is to apply your knowledge and understanding of legal and ethical principles in assessing and presenting a case study to an audience.

**Product:** A Fifteen (15) minute audio presentation with a 3-page written summary, both to be uploaded to Blackboard by the participating pair of students.

**Format:** You will work in pairs and will prepare an audio presentation using the example available on Blackboard as a guide. The audio presentation will be fifteen minutes long and will address legal and ethical principles related to a provided case study. Both members of the group will be involved in the production and delivery of the audio presentation and written summary. You are to present the audio presentation as a media report (like the Health Report example provided). You will also prepare a 3-page written summary of the selected case. The report and the written summary need to consider and draw on sources of relevant legal and ethical theory, professional codes, standards and guidelines. You need to discuss the application of principles to clinical practice and make conclusions based on your analysis of the case.

**Criteria:**
- Application of key legislation relevant to the case study
- Application of ethical issues/theory relevant to the case study
- Application of ethical decision making
- Evidence of conclusions made based on analysis
- Citation and referencing of sources using Harvard style referencing
- Clarity and structure of information provided in the audio presentation
- Written communication structure and expression in the summary
7. **What are the course activities?**

7.1 **Directed study hours**

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. A 12 unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location: Specific Campus(es) or online:</th>
<th>Directed study hours for location:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USC Sunshine Coast</td>
<td>12 weeks of vodcasts (up to 60 min in total each week)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USC Gympie</td>
<td>Tutorial - 2 hours x10</td>
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<tr>
<td>USC Fraser Coast</td>
<td>Online activities for Weeks 4 &amp; 10 tutorial (2 hours each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USC Caboolture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.2 **Course content**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Module #</th>
<th>What key concepts/content will I learn?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to the course, Introduction to Ethics &amp; Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics and Ethical &amp; Legal decision making frameworks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics, Law and Nursing &amp; Midwifery practice Including Student Nurse requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adult patients – consent &amp; refusal of consent (Online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Patient safety and negligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics, Law and mental health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Children as patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics, Law and the elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>End of Life issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous Perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics, Law and health information management (Online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics, Law and reproduction, pregnancy &amp; birth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the course activities may be subject to variation.

8. **What resources do I need to undertake this course?**

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1 **Prescribed text(s)**

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below as they are required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2 **Specific requirements**

Nil
9. **Risk management**
Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers, and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University’s general health and safety principles by reviewing the online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module for students, and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. **What administrative information is relevant to this course?**

10.1 **Assessment: Academic Integrity**
Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2 **Assessment: Additional requirements**

**Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment**
Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 **Assessment: Submission penalties**
Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task’s identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task’s identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task’s identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.
To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.
10.4 Study help
In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to Student Hub.
Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 Links to relevant University policy and procedures
For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:
- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10.6 General Enquiries
In person:
- USC Sunshine Coast - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- USC South Bank - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- USC Gympie - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- USC Fraser Coast - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- USC Caboolture - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890
Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.7 School specific information
NMBA Registered Nurse standards for practice addressed in this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NMBA Registered Nurse standards for practice</th>
<th>Criterion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard 1: Thinks critically and analyses nursing practice</td>
<td>1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 2: Engages in therapeutic and professional relationships</td>
<td>2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 3: Maintains the capability for practice</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 4: Comprehensively conducts assessments</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 5: Develops a plan for nursing practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 6: Provides safe, appropriate and responsive quality nursing practice</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 7: Evaluates outcomes to inform nursing practice</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Competency Standards for the Midwife</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and professional practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery knowledge and practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery as primary health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective and ethical practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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