

**COURSE SYLLABUS FORMAT**  
Southeast Missouri State University

**Department:** Nursing

**Course Number:** NS612

**Title of Course:** Nursing Legal and Ethical Issues

**New:** Spring 2000

I. **Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:** Analyzes legal and ethical situations from the consumer and professional perspective encountered in advanced nursing roles. (2)

II. **Prerequisite(s):** Admission to graduate program or consent of instructor.

III. **Objectives of the Course:**

- A. Analyze common ethical dilemmas experienced by nurses in advanced roles.
- B. Engage in ethical decision making with evaluative considerations of the ethical methods used in the process.
- C. Discuss conflicts among personal, professional, and organizational perspectives when involved in ethical decision making.
- D. Evaluate the performance of an ethics committee established in a health care delivery system.
- E. Explore legal influences pertinent to advanced nursing roles.

IV. **Expectations of Students:**

- A. Apply a selected method of ethical decision making to an ethical dilemma commonly experienced by nurses in advanced roles.
- B. Present an ethical framework for decision making, evaluating applicability to advanced nursing roles.
- C. Attend an ethics committee meeting within the health care delivery system with written evaluation of experience.
- D. Present resolution to a legal problem commonly experienced by nurses in advanced roles.
- E. Active and knowledgeable participation in classroom discussions.

V. **Course Content Outline (Indicate number of class hours per unit or section):**

- A. Ethics: Major Concepts and Principles (2 hours)
- B. Nursing Ethics (2 hours)
- C. Ethical Dilemmas in Advanced Nursing Roles (4 hours)
- D. Frameworks for Ethical Decision-Making (4 hours)
- E. Ethics Committees in the Health Care Delivery System (4 hours)
- F. Legal Issues Pertinent to Advanced Nursing Role Implementation (2 hours)
- G. Student Presentations of Ethical Dilemmas (6 hours)
- H. Student Presentations of Legal Issues (6 hours)

TOTAL: 30 hours

VI. **Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:**

- A. Ahronheim, J.C. (1999). Ethics in clinical practice (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Frederick, MD: Aspen.
- B. Edge, R.S., & Groves, J.R. (1999). Ethics of health care a guide for clinical practice. Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers.
- C. Burkhardt, M.A., & Nathaniel, A.K. (1998). Ethics & issues in contemporary nursing. Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers.
- D. Additional readings from various resources will be required.

VII. **Basis for Student Evaluation:**

- A. Ethical Dilemma Case Study (20%)
- B. Oral & Written Presentation of Ethical Decision Making Framework Application and Evaluation (30%)
- C. Evaluation of Ethical Committee Assignment (10%)
- D. Presentation of Legal Issue (30%)
- E. Participation in Class Discussions (10%)

Total: 100%