NU 508: Policy, Politics, and Change
Syllabus

C5:2012

COURSE START DATE: 7/2/2012
ONLINE DATES: 7/2/2012 to 8/10/2012
ON CAMPUS DATES: 7/9/2012 to 7/13/2012
Course END DATE: 8/10/2012

COURSE DESCRIPTION

For more information on this course, including the official course description and any prerequisites, can be found in the GPS Catalog at http://www.sjcme.edu/gpscatalog/

COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course will serve to enhance your knowledge and understanding of the political process and provide the skills needed to serve as agents of change in the health policy arena. The course will explore and discuss health policy issues affecting nursing practice and provide a framework for health policy analysis. Ongoing discussions of contemporary policy issues will serve as the impetus to engage in political activism and advocacy to serve an active role as leaders in the health policy arena.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Provide an overview of the political process and discuss the impact of policy and politics on the nursing profession.

2. Discuss the implications of historical, economic, cultural, political, legal, technological, and globalization factors on public policy making.


4. Define the characteristics of health care delivery systems and discuss variables that influence practices, processes and outcomes.

5. Discuss current policy issues affecting nursing practice and health care delivery and evaluate strategies and resources to address cost, access, and quality issues in health care.
6. Develop and evaluate your personal strategies to influence change in workplaces, organizations, communities, and governments.

**COURSE FORMAT**

This is an accelerated five week online course with an additional week in the classroom, providing the opportunity to continue the online dialogue in a group setting. You will acquire the skills outlined in the course objectives through the following:

- Readings from the textbook and required readings, which may include case studies.
- Lecture notes
- Active dialogue with your instructor and fellow learners via the course bulletin board
- Active dialogue and discussion in person with your instructor and classmates.
- **Class Participation:** You are expected to participate in the online dialogue a minimum three times per week per discussion question, preferably on non-consecutive days.

**COURSE GUIDELINES**

Students are expected to read on topics for each session, actively participate in on-line discussion questions posted, complete all assignments timely, read all faculty and student correspondence, as well as interact with each other and the faculty member. Students are to respond to the Discussion Board question and to one another as well. To stimulate ongoing discussion, challenge one another’s thinking, introduce new information, and present diverse perspectives. Attendance and active participation during the on campus sessions are required.

Nursing is about interaction with others— with our patients, peers, colleagues, members of the public, elected officials, and so forth. These interactions take many forms, whether to comfort or confront, to inform or to question, to stimulate or to challenge. To generate interaction among the students in this hybrid course, a discussion question related to the readings will be posted each week on the Discussion Board in Angel. Participation is evaluated on the basis of the student’s preparation and quality of contribution to the these discussions (e.g. evidence of critical thinking, analysis, reflection),

This course consists of various written assignments over the course of 6 weeks. Each written assignment consists of readings and activities to promote active learning relevant to the topic of discussion. Assignments will be evaluated, as applicable, based on the following criteria: Quality and depth of responses demonstrate evidence of preparation, research, and creativity
Expresses ideas clearly, formatting and overall appearance of submission is well organized and unified

Uses appropriate grammar, syntax, and spelling

Cites references in text correctly, including reference list; uses APA (6th ed.)

Evaluates and applies knowledge gained to practice (e.g., uses examples outside of text or uses clinical practice examples) as appropriate

**REQUIRED TEXT(s)**


**SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS**


CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 - Online
Topic: Introduction to Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care
Required Readings: Mason, Leavitt and Chaffee (2011) Chapters 1, 2, 6, 9, and 64
Assignments: Online discussion

Week 2 –On campus
Topic: Health Care Reform: Implications for Policy and Nursing Practice
Required Readings:


Assignments:

Roundtable Discussions:
Contemporary Policy Issues
The Future Role of Nursing
Health Care Debate
Week 3 – Online
Topic: Health Care Delivery Systems: Access, Cost, and Quality
Required Readings:
Mason, Leavitt and Chaffee (2011) Chapters 13, 14, 15, and 16


Assignments: Critique: Health Care Reform Due

Week 4 – Online
Topic: Required Policy Issues in Health Care and the Nursing Profession Readings:
Mason, Leavitt and Chaffee (2011) Chapters 7, 8, 65

Assignments: Online Discussion

Week 5 – Online
Topic: Policy Assessment, Development, Analysis and the implications for Nursing Practice
Required Readings: Mason, Leavitt and Chaffee (2011) Chapters 47, 49, 91, and 101

Assignments: Policy Analysis Paper Due

Week 6 – Online
Topic: Political Activism and Advocacy


Assignments: Online Discussion

Policy Advocacy Project Due

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Current information regarding College policies affecting your course can be found on the Resources/Policy section of the course homepage. On this page, you will find vital information, including the following:

- Current Student Handbook, outlining course-specific policies
• Access to support resources, including advising and online tutorial services
• Student Success Guides

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments should be submitted via the Assignment Submission Form on your ANGEL course site.

EVALUATION

• Discussion Board Forums 30%
• Policy Analysis Paper 20%
• Health Care Debate: Cost, Access, Quality and Future Implications 10%
• Critique on Health Care Reform: Implications for Policy and Practice 20%
• Final Project: Policy Advocacy .................................................. 20%
Welcome to NUR 508 Policy, Politics and Change. I am excited about the opportunity to teach this course this summer and look forward to getting to know you all during our on-campus session. Since becoming a nurse in 1998, I have spent the majority of my career working in the long term care arena in Maine and am very passionate about the issues affecting the older adult population. My interest in this arena has been further developed through ongoing education completing graduate degrees in business and nursing with certification as a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner. I am currently completing doctoral studies towards a PhD in Public Policy with a concentration in health services.

I currently teach the online version of this course for SJCME and also teach in a baccalaureate nursing program for the University of Maine at Fort Kent. I continue to remain active in the home health care arena serving in an administrative capacity. Through these experiences, I hope to instill in you the passion to engage in political activism and advocacy through the knowledge and awareness gained through this course.
HOW DO I ACCESS DISABILITIES SERVICES?

Anyone who would like information or needs access to accommodations or services related to disabilities should contact the college’s Accommodations Office. Please contact your Academic Advisor or refer to the Student Handbook for more information.

This course was developed by Saint Joseph’s College of Maine for the exclusive use of students enrolled in the College’s Division of Graduate and Professional Studies.

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