

Webster University ~ MSN Program
Spring 2010

NURN 5050 POLICY AND POLITICS IN NURSING AND HEALTH CARE

Spring II, 2010

Instructor: Dian C. Davitt PhD, RN

Tuesday: 5:30-9:30

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Course Description:

The course will examine the role of nursing in a political environment and policy within the health care arena. Social, economic, ethical and legislative issues influencing health care policy and nursing practice will be addressed. Various models of financing and establishing health care delivery systems will be explored. Nurses' roles within these systems will be reviewed in order to function effectively and assume a leadership role in the health care system.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the process of developing health policy.
2. Describe political action strategies to influence the development of health policy and the delivery of health care.
3. Explore the relationship between changes in society at large and in professional nursing education and practice.
4. Identify and discuss ethical issues impacting on nursing practice.
5. Discuss the effect of the political process on nursing practice.
6. Apply knowledge of the political process to affect selected nursing issues.
7. Analyze current and future trends within the health care system.
8. Describe the nursing implications of cost and quality in health care.
9. Discuss the role of research in the development of health policy.

Readings:

Chaffee, M., Mason, D., & Leavitt, J. (2007). *Policy and politics in nursing and health care* (5th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Saunders.

Required readings as assigned

Blackboard Vista: Students are expected to log on, participate in discussions and do ALL email communication through Blackboard.

Essential Course Content:

- Policy Process
- Politics
- Ethics
- Nursing organizations
- Nursling's role in the policy process
- Health care systems
- Economics
- Health care issues
- Policy research
- Health care reform

Course Requirements:

Web site evaluation: Locate 5 websites related to health policy and evaluate. Look for content, bias, point of view, appearance and ease of use. Submit through Blackboard via assignment drop box by 8 the Tuesday of week 2.

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/webcrit.html>

Letter to the editor: Select an issue that affects patient care of the nursing profession (local, state or federal) and write a letter (not required to submit it) to the editor identifying the issue and the health policy solution. (No more than 300 words).

Political Interview: Identify your federal and state elected officials <http://www.votesmart.org/> and the communities they serve, party affiliation and if they are in the minority or majority party and current committee assignments. Set up and interview with one of them. Utilizing your text for guidelines prepare questions. Remember that you as a nurse are the health care expert in a variety of specialties and they are the experts in politics and law. The knowledge you share helps the policy maker in issues affecting your specialty. You must thoroughly prepare for the interview by noting their voting record, committee membership, bills proposed and where they place their policy emphasis. Let them know that you are a constituent. Prepare a fact sheet to leave with them. If your first attempt at setting up and interview is not successful then look for other policy makers to interview. Critically analyze the experience noting areas discussed and the rationale.

Papers: www.jsu.edu/depart/oira/Resource%20Center/english%20comp%20rubric.pdf

One 7-8-page paper is required. The paper should deal with an ethical issue or with an economic issue. The paper is to be a scholarly, well-organized, formal paper in which you present and analyze a health care policy or policy issue that has relevance for nursing practice. Try to use issues with which you have personal and professional experience and preferably a topic that is currently a legislative bill in Congress or is being considered. This will allow you to research it from the beginning to the potential outcome. Cite the policy and attach a copy. Bring in relevant

arguments from the literature. Indicate how this became an issue, how it, and the current related laws or policies affect you, and any bills pertaining to it. Each paper should draw conclusions based on the analysis you have done and should describe the importance of the issue to the future of health care practice or the role of the advanced practice nurse.

Submit an outline and references as an attachment via Blackboard week 3

Topics will be posted and students will be paired to critique week 4

Outlines and reference lists will be sent to your review partner and instructor week 5

Responses to partners are due at the end of week 5

Drafts of your paper are due week 6 and are returned to your partner week 7

Final paper due week 8

Student Presentation:

Students will present to the class the relevant policy or policy issue explored in their paper. The goal is to help the class reflect on the ethical, economic and quality of care implications associated with the policy area. Presentations should be well organized and include appropriate content, summary and conclusions. Power Point is strongly recommended. An executive summary of your policy paper should be made available to the class the week previous to your presentation. You will select a class date for the presentation. Potential topics might be:

- Taxing the non-profit hospital
- Providing health care to illegal immigrants
- Making Medicare solvent
- Access to prescription drugs through foreign resources
- The U.S. as a leader in World Health issues
- Reforming the Interest Group Lobby
- Health Care reform

COURSE EVALUATION:

5%	Web site evaluation
10%	Letter to the editor
15%	Interview/Report
20%	Student Presentation
30%	Paper
20%	Participation in class and Blackboard

GRADING SCALE:

A/A-	Superior graduate work
B+/B/B-	Satisfactory graduate work
C	Work that is barely adequate as graduate-level performance
D/F	Work that is unsatisfactory
I	Incomplete work

CLASS POLICIES

- 1) Plagiarism: "Plagiarism" means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit. *for Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's*

own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

- 2) Attendance in class is expected. In case of illness or emergency, please notify me before class. Absences may result in a lower grade. If you miss more than 1 class meeting, your final grade WILL be decreased by a full letter grade (i.e. an A will become a B, a B+ will become a C+. If you miss more than 2 meetings, you may fail the class. Exceptions are made at my discretion.
- 3) Assignments turned in late without prior permission will not be accepted.
- 4) Classroom discussions are respected as confidential.
- 5) All information in the course syllabus is subject to change.
- 6) CELL PHONES ON VIBRATE!!!

WEEKLY OUTLINE: SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE DUE TO GUEST SPEAKERS

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Week 1- 3/16/10	Introduction Policy and Nursing	Mason Ch 1-4 Evaluate Web Sites Discussion questions via blackboard
Week 2- 3/23/10	Policy development/analysis	Mason Ch 5-7 Letter to the editor Discussion questions via blackboard
Week 3- 3/30/10	Healthcare delivery and finance	Mason Ch 13-15 Submit Paper topic Discussion questions via blackboard
Week 4- 4/06/10	Policy and politics in government	Mason Ch 22-24 Discussion questions via blackboard
Week 5- 4/13/10	Interest group politics	Mason Ch 25-26 Guest speaker Robert Spaniol RN, PhD, Director HIPAA Corporate Compliance University of Kansas Hospital Authority Discussion questions via blackboard
Week 6- 4/19/10 MONDAY Fieldtrip (No class on Tues 4/20)	Policy and politics in organizations	Mason Ch 29-30 Field trip to Jefferson City Meet with MONA @ 10 :00 Meet with Governor Holden Meet with Kyna Iman-Nurse Lobbyist Discussion questions via blackboard
Week 7- 4/27/10	Legal and ethical issues in healthcare	Mason Ch 8 and 12 Discussion questions via blackboard
Week 8- 5/04/10	The future of health policy	Mason Ch 32-34