

NURN 5050 POLICY AND POLITICS IN NURSING AND HEALTH CARE

Instructor; Dian C. Davitt PhD, RN

Office: Room 102

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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

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:

Political Action Project: This is a group or individual (depending on the size of the class) project designed to create an opportunity for students to gain experience as a change agent. If you work in a group, you must agree on a policy issue that you are all concerned about and are willing to take some action on. In the seventh class, students will share with each other ways that they intervened in policy issues this 8 weeks and their individual plans for continued activism. For this semester, you might focus on FEMA, single party pay, reductions in Medicaid benefits, election issues, stem cell legislation etc.

Papers:

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. 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.

Student Presentation:

As we move into the final months before the 2008 Presidential Election we need to become savvy consumers. In an effort to make this interesting, we will divide the class into the two major parties. Each group will research the following areas in regard to the health care agenda of the party. We will present this information during weeks 5 and 6 of class. The Democratic Plan will be week 5 and the Republican Plan week 6. Utilize party headquarters, the Internet, your congressmen etc. Good luck and may the best party win !!!! Have a reference list available for the class ahead of time so that they can be prepared with questions. The areas to be covered will be posted on Blackboard.

This assignment will replace the usual presentations for the Policy and Politics in Nursing course.

COURSE EVALUATION:

20%	Participation and Attendance
20%	Political Action Project
30%	Ethical/Economics Issue Paper
30%	Student Presentation

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

- 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.*[1]
- 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!!!

SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE DUE TO GUEST SPEAKERS

WEEKLY OUTLINE:

Week 1 3/19	Introduction to Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is a policy?• What is a policy issue?• Types of policy• Policy stakeholders• Policy process• Steps of the policy process• Policy analysis• Position statements	Mason Ch 1-5
Week 2 3/26	Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role of government/nursing/media• How a bill becomes law (national/state)• Influencing the political process	Mason Ch 6-12;
Week 3 4/2	Policy and Politics in Government Guest Speaker: Richard Martin Campaign Manager Governor Holden, Senator McCaskill Guest Speaker: Rowena Conklin past MONA lobbyist	Mason Ch 22-28
Week 4 4/9	Policy and Politics in Organizations Field Trip Jefferson City Visit to MONA : Jill Kliethermes Executive Director MONA Lobbyist: Kyna Iman Healthy people 2000 and 2010 ANA Agenda for Healthcare 2005 MONA.	Mason Ch 29-33
Week 5 4/16	Remaking Missouri Medicine Remaking American Medicine... Healthcare for the 21st Century PRESENTATION-REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRATIC	Mason Ch 13-21

Week 6 4/23

**Guest Speaker: Robert Spaniol Director
HIPPA Corporate Compliance
University of Kansas Hospital Authority**

Reading: Dimick, Chris. "E-Discovery: Preparing for the Coming Rise in Electronic Discovery Requests." *Journal of AHIMA* 78, no.5 (May 2007): 24-29.

Available at

http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/materials/12_07/ehr/ediscovery.html

Health care financing-costs

PRESENTATION-REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRATIC

- US economy
- Managed care
- Long-term care
 - Medicare/Medicaid
 - Medical savings account

Week 7 4/30

**NURN 6000 PRESENTATIONS
PAPER DUE**

Week 8 5/7

Health services research

POLITICAL ACTION PROJECT DISCUSSION

- Program evaluation
- Evidence-based practice
- Outcomes research
- Human genome project

PAPER DUE