

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**RNSG 1146 (1:1:0)**  
**LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES FOR NURSES**

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**ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM**  
**NURSING DEPARTMENT**  
**HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION**  
**LEVELLAND CAMPUS**  
**SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE**

**FALL 2020**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

COURSE TITLE: RNSG 1146 Legal and Ethical Issues for Nurses

INSTRUCTOR: Jill Pitts MSN, RNC

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SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE

### **I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course consists of the study of the laws, regulations, and ethical considerations related to the provision of safe and effective professional nursing care; with attention given to the impact of the political process on the regulations surrounding the practice of nursing. Topics also included are confidentiality, the Nursing Practice Act, professional boundaries, peer review, Safe Harbor, ethics, and health care legislation. Student self assessment is encouraged in order to facilitate each student to become accountable and responsible for professional, personal, ethical, and legal growth and development within the practice of nursing.

Prerequisites: RNSG 1413, 1105, 1160, 1115, 1144, 1443, 2460, 2213, 2261, 1443, & 2461. BIOL 2401, 2402, 2420. PSYC 2314, ENGL 1301, & Humanities course.

## SPC ADN End-of-Program STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (EPSLOs)

1. **CLINICAL DECISION MAKING** – Provides competent nursing interventions based on application of the nursing process and demonstration of critical thinking, independent judgment, and self-direction while caring for patients and their families.
2. **COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT** – Communicates effectively utilizing technology, written documentation and verbal expression with members of the health care team, patients and their families.
3. **LEADERSHIP** – Demonstrates knowledge of basic delegation, leadership management skills and coordinates resources to assure optimal levels of health care for patients and their families.
4. **SAFETY** – Implements appropriate interventions to promote a quality and safe environment for patients and their families.
5. **PROFESSIONALISM** – Demonstrates knowledge of professional development and incorporates evidenced based practice in the nursing profession. Incorporates concepts of caring, including moral, ethical, legal standards while embracing the spiritual, cultural and religious influences on patients and their families.

## RNSG 1146 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

1. Demonstrate knowledge of professional development and incorporate evidence-based practice in the nursing profession. Incorporate concepts of caring, including moral, ethical, legal standards while embracing the spiritual, cultural, psychosocial, and religious influences on patients, their families, and the community in general.
2. Acquire an understanding of the Texas Nurse Practice Act and how it applies to the RN and LVN roles in leading to successful completion of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) Jurisprudence (JP) Exam.

3. Upon satisfactory completion of RNSG 1146, the student will meet all End of Program Graduate Outcomes (EPSLOs) as specifically applied to nursing and the nurse's legal/ethical scope of practice. In addition, competencies and foundation skills of SCANS, WECM and the DEC's will be met through completion of the course content.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

Unit I – Nursing Ethics and Disciplinary Action Unit II – Peer Review Unit III – Nursing Practice Unit IV – Nursing Licensure & Regulation Unit V – Debate Issues to address Political Processes, Legislative Issues and Health (See Appendix for unit objectives)

## **EVALUATION METHODS**

Successful completion of this course will result in a grade of “P”, based on a 77% grade point average on assignments; satisfactory achievement of course content, and regular classroom attendance. Additionally, the student must pass the Texas Board of Nursing Jurisprudence Exam in order to receive credit for the course. Upon successful completion of this course, each student will have demonstrated accomplishment of the student learning outcomes for the course, through a variety of modes (classroom participation, Blackboard postings, individual presentations, and group presentations).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Please refer to the SPC ADN Nursing student handbook “Honesty Policy”. This policy covers testing violations, record falsification violations and plagiarism violations for the ADN Program. Plagiarism violations may result in dismissal from the ADN Program.

### **Examples of student plagiarism<sup>1</sup>**

- Copying material without quotes, in-text citations, and/or referencing
- Paraphrasing content without in-text citation and/or referencing
- Copying ideas, words, answers, exams, or shared work from others when individual work is required
- Using another's paper in whole or in part
- Allowing another student to use one's work

- Claiming someone else's work is one's own
- Resubmitting one's own coursework, when original work is required (self-plagiarism)
- Falsifying references or bibliographies
- Getting help from another person without faculty knowledge or approval
- Purchasing, borrowing, or selling content with the intent of meeting an academic requirement for oneself or others

Smith, L. (2016), Nursing 2016, 46 (7) p. 17

### **COLLEGE HANDBOOK INFORMATION ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

**Cheating** - Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in the office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of coursework. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

**Plagiarism** - Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from themes, reports or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

### **VERIFICATION OF WORKPLACE COMPETENCIES**

Successful completion of the SCANS; DECS; Graduate Outcomes at the semester four level; and RNSG 1412 Student Learning Outcomes will allow the student to

graduate from the program. Upon successful completion of the program students will be eligible to apply to take the state board exam (NCLEX) for registered nurse licensure.

## **BLACKBOARD**

Blackboard is an e-Education platform designed to enable educational innovations everywhere by connecting people and technology. This educational tool will be used in this course throughout the semester.

## **FACEBOOK**

The nursing program has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SPCNursing17/>

## **SCANS AND FOUNDATION SKILLS**

Completion of course content will satisfy required scans and foundation skills.

While there are no external workplace (clinical) experiences included, classroom role play, and group experiences provide situations and settings in which the student may apply workplace competencies. Successful completion of the end of program graduate outcomes (EPSLOs) will allow the student to complete specific program requirements. Upon successful completion of the nursing program, the student will be eligible to take the State Board Exam (NCLEX) for licensure as a Registered Nurse.

## **SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIAL**

Required Text: Willmann, James H. (annotations.) (current edition) Annotated Guide to the Texas Nursing Practice Act, Austin, Texas, Texas Nurses Association or equivalent

Marquis, B. & Huston, C. (10<sup>th</sup> Edition) Leadership Roles and Management Functions in Nursing, Theory and Application

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The SPC ADNPN policy must be followed. Refer to the SPC ADNPN Student Nurse handbook to review this policy. In addition, refer to the attendance policy found in the South Plains College Catalog

([http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=47&navoid=1229#Class\\_Attendance](http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=47&navoid=1229#Class_Attendance)).

Class attendance is mandatory. The instructor will initiate a student's withdrawal if a student misses more than 3 hours of class. Tardy time will be cumulative throughout the semester.

### **ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

1. All required work must be in on time. Assigned outside work is due on the dates specified by the instructors. Assignments turned in later than the due date will not be accepted unless the student clears the circumstance with the instructor. A grade of zero will be given for the assignment if the student has not communicated with the instructor before the assignment is due.
2. A student should retain a copy of all assignments turned in. If an assignment turns up missing, the student is responsible for turning in the copy or redoing the entire assignment if a copy was not retained.
3. The only exam is the Texas Board of Nursing Jurisprudence Exam. A student must communicate with the course instructor if unable to complete the test on the scheduled day. (If the student has taken the Jurisprudence Exam in an LVN Program, a copy of the certificate or proof of taking the exam must be turned in to the instructor, please ask for guidance in seeking this information if needed).

### **GRADING POLICY**

1. A student must receive a minimum grade of "P" to pass.
2. Grading scale: 77% or better = "P"  
<76.99% = "F"

Note: The student MUST pass the Texas Board of Nursing Jurisprudence Exam to receive credit for this course. Students who do not pass or are not eligible to take the NJE \*, will receive an "I" (Incomplete) until such time as the exam is passed, not to exceed six months. If the course Grade requirements are not met after six months, the "I" will be converted to an "F"

### **Course grade will be compiled of the following:**

All Students Nursing Jurisprudence Exam 25%

All students: Blackboard posts and Critiques before the first class 20%

Students in Groups 1-8 :

Summaries and critiques before the second class day 20%

Debate participation (Groups 1-8) 35%

Students in Groups 9-12:

Blackboard questions related to the mini presentations 20%

Mini Presentations (Groups 9-12) 35%

Grades must total 77% or better to receive a « P » for the course.

### **COMPUTER USAGE**

As computer technology in the field of health occupations continues to become more popular, computers will be used in this course for several assignments. All students have access to computers and printers on the South Plains College campus. Students will be expected to utilize computers to access assignments and classroom resources. All registered students are supplied with a working email account from South Plains College. In order to take exams, students must have their username and password.

### **COMPUTER LAB USAGE**

The computer lab B in the Allied Health Building may be used for printing by students. Please be advised that it will not be available if the lab is used for testing 10 minutes before the scheduled test time. The Nursing computer lab opens at 7:30 AM. You may also utilize the computer lab at the technology center for printing when the nursing lab is not in use. Plan printing in advance so that you have the materials needed (i.e. Powerpoints) before class begins.

**ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO KNOW THEIR SPC STUDENT USERNAME AND PASSWORD.**

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Class will meet weekly on Mondays or Wednesdays via Zoom from 0900 to 1500 for 2 weeks during the semester. Please see detailed calendar on Blackboard course RNSG 1412.



## **COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Electronic communication between instructor and students in this course will utilize the South Plains College “My SPC” and email systems. We will also utilize text messaging or phone calls for communication. The instructor will not initiate communication using private email accounts. Students are encouraged to check SPC email on a regular basis each week of class. Students will also have access to assignments, web-links, handouts, and other vital material which will be delivered via Blackboard. Any student having difficulty accessing Blackboard or their email should immediately contact the IT Help Desk or an instructor for direction.

## **CAMPUS CARRY**

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at:

([http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human\\_resources/policy\\_procedure/hhc.php](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php))

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

## **PREGNANCY ACCOMMODATIONS STATEMENT**

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student’s responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Crystal Gilster, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Rules and regulations relating to the students at South Plains College are made with the view of protecting the best interests of the individual, the general welfare of the entire student body and the educational objectives of the college. As in any segment of society, a college community must be guided by standards that are stringent enough to prevent disorder, yet moderate enough to provide an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and personal development.

A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. When a student enrolls at South Plains College, it is assumed that the student accepts the obligations of performance and behavior imposed by the college relevant to its lawful missions, processes and functions. Obedience to the law, respect for properly constituted authority, personal honor, integrity and common sense guide the actions of each member of the college community both in and out of the classroom.

Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. A student is not entitled to greater immunities or privileges before the law than those enjoyed by other citizens. Students are subject to such reasonable disciplinary action as the administration of the college may consider appropriate, including suspension and expulsion in appropriate cases for breach of federal, state or local laws, or college rules and regulations. This principle extends to conduct off-campus which is likely to have adverse effects on the college or on the educational process which identifies the offender as an unfit associate for fellow students.

Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw.

Rules and regulations regarding student conduct appear in the current Student Guide.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and

interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

## **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

## **SCANS COMPETENCIES**

RESOURCES: Identifies, organizes, plans and allocates resources. C-1 TIME--Selects goal--relevant activities, ranks them, allocates time, and prepares and follows schedules. C-2 MONEY--Uses or prepares budgets, makes forecasts, keeps records, and makes adjustments to meet objectives C-3 MATERIALS & FACILITIES--Acquires, stores, allocates, and uses materials or space efficiently. C-4 HUMAN RESOURCES--Assesses skills and distributes work accordingly, evaluates performances and provides feedback. INFORMATION--Acquires and Uses Information C-5 Acquires and evaluates information. C-6 Organizes and maintains information. C-7 Interprets and communicates information. C-8 Uses computers to Process information. INTERPERSONAL--Works With Others C-9 Participates as members of a team and contributes to group effort. C-10 Teaches others new skills. C-11 Serves clients/customers--works to satisfy customer's expectations. C-12 Exercises leadership--communicates ideas to justify position, persuades and convinces others, responsibly challenges existing procedures and policies. C-13 Negotiates--Works toward agreements involving exchanges of resources resolves divergent interests. C-14 Works with Diversity--Works well with men and women from diverse backgrounds. SYSTEMS--Understands Complex Interrelationships C-15 Understands Systems--Knows how social, organizational, and technological systems work and operates effectively with them C-16 Monitors and Correct Performance--Distinguishes trends, predicts impacts on system operations, diagnoses systems' performance and corrects malfunctions. C-17 Improves or Designs Systems--Suggests modifications to existing systems and develops new or alternative systems to improve performance. TECHNOLOGY--Works with a variety of technologies C-18 Selects Technology--Chooses procedures, tools, or equipment including computers and related technologies. C-19 Applies Technology to Task--Understands overall intent and proper procedures for setup and operation of equipment. C-20 Maintains and

Troubleshoots Equipment-Prevents, identifies, or solves problems with equipment, including computers and other technologies.

## FOUNDATION SKILLS

**BASIC SKILLS**--Reads, writes, performs arithmetic and mathematical operations, listens and speaks F-1 Reading--locates, understands, and interprets written information in prose and in documents such as manuals, graphs, and schedules. F-2 Writing--Communicates thoughts, ideas, information and messages in writing, and creates documents such as letters, directions, manuals, reports, graphs, and flow charts. F-3 Arithmetic--Performs basic computations; uses basic numerical concepts such as whole numbers, etc. F-4 Mathematics--Approaches practical problems by choosing appropriately from a variety of mathematical techniques. F-5 Listening--Receives, attends to, interprets, and responds to verbal messages and other cues. F-6 Speaking--Organizes ideas and communicates orally.

**THINKING SKILLS**--Thinks creatively, makes decisions, solves problems, visualizes, and knows how to learn and reason F-7 Creative Thinking--Generates new ideas. F-8 Decision-Making--Specifies goals and constraints, generates alternatives, considers risks, and evaluates and chooses best alternative. F-9 Problem Solving--Recognizes problems and devises and implements plan of action. F-10 Seeing Things in the Mind's Eye--Organizes and processes symbols, pictures, graphs, objects, and other information. F-11 Knowing How to Learn--Uses efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply new knowledge and skills. F-12 Reasoning--Discovers a rule or principle underlying the relationship between two or more objects and applies it when solving a problem.

**PERSONAL QUALITIES**--Displays responsibility, self-esteem, sociability, self-management, integrity and honesty F-13 Responsibility--Exerts a high level of effort and preservers towards goal attainment. F-14 Self-Esteem--Believes in own self-worth and maintains a positive view of self. F-15 Sociability--Demonstrates understanding, friendliness, adaptability, empathy, and politeness in group settings. F-16 Self-Management--Assesses self accurately, sets personal goals, monitors progress, and exhibits self-control F-17 Integrity/Honesty--Chooses ethical courses of action.

