WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: NURSE AS DECISION MAKER
COURSE NUMBER: NUR 313

IDEA ESSENTIAL ITEMS: Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)

Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

IDEA IMPORTANT ITEMS: Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.

Developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values.

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

1. Discuss the major ethical theories.
2. Apply ethical standards to nursing practice.
3. Examine one’s role as a nurse in ethical decision making.
4. Evidence critical thinking skills in class discussion, written work, online assignments, and oral/visual/voice-enhanced presentations.

II. METHODOLOGY & POLICIES

A. Teaching Method Options
   Readings, Lecture, Multimedia, Discussion Board, and Group Activities

B. Evaluation Methods
   Rubrics and grading criteria are provided for all assignments. Please read the rubrics and the grading criteria before completing the assignments. Following the assignment criteria will optimize your efforts toward successful course completion.

Journals (4 entries at 5% each) (Objectives 1-4)
This assignment enables the student to apply principles of ethical decision-making to a practice based situation. Students will respond to several questions in each entry. Specific guidelines will be provided by the course faculty.

**Term Paper**

(Objectives 1-4)

This assignment is intended to demonstrate comprehension of the objectives of this course. Students will choose an ethical issue related to nursing and complete a term paper. The paper will include: discussion of the issue, application of ethical theory, ethical principles involved, fallacies of reasoning commonly used, legal and ethical standards that are applicable, the role of the nurse in the decision-making process and any other relevant information. APA and references are required for this paper.

**Presentation**

(Objectives 1-4)

***This assignment is used for outcomes assessment and cannot be altered. Use of rubric required for grading. Faculty must complete established outcomes assessment process.*** Students will present key content from their term papers. Information will include a brief description of the issue, and key information regarding application of an ethical theory, relevant ethical and legal standards, ethical principles, and fallacies of reasoning, and the role of the nurse in the decision-making process.

**Research Article Review**

(Objectives 1-4)

Students will examine a peer reviewed research article related to course concepts. Students will create a “fact sheet” that outlines key components of the study, identify nursing practice applications and submit an appropriate reference. Students will share the information with classmates. Further guidelines will be provided by the faculty.

**Participation/Activities**

(Objectives 1 - 4)

The success of this course depends on active participation and critical reflection by all students.

Please note: A minimum grade of C- is required to pass this course.

* The instructor reserves the right to change or add assignments as needed

### III. COURSE POLICIES:

**College of Health Professions Attendance Policy:** Because class sessions are highly interactive, any student’s absence diminishes the quality of learning for everyone.

Students are expected to attend all in-class sessions and to log on and participate in all online
sessions as the course format requires. Failure to do so may be considered an unexcused absence. Be apprised that faculty have the ability to monitor your access to Blackboard sessions. Please note that your weekly attendance is electronically tracked and is a criterion for your final course grade. Communication with your course faculty is essential.

**College of Health Professions Response Time Policy:**

Faculty will generally respond to all student communication within 24-48 hours unless a weekend or holiday. Please refer to your course faculty’s specific availability as noted within the course.

**Online Learning Considerations:**

Online learning courses are offered in a seven week format which is designed to move the motivated student through the nursing curriculum at an accelerated pace. A significant amount of the student learning is done via independent assignments and requires the use of the Internet and the Blackboard course learning management system.

Resources for Online Students, including Blackboard Technical Support, can be accessed at: [http://www.wilmu.edu/onlinelearning/dl_current.aspx](http://www.wilmu.edu/onlinelearning/dl_current.aspx)

Rev 7.20.12, 8.2015