



## Syllabus: Introduction to Professional Nursing

### UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON SCHOOL OF NURSING

#### **N1300 Introduction to Professional Nursing Instructor**

##### **Instructor**

**Leslie Jennings, MSN/Ed., RN**

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##### **Course Description**

Designed to introduce and transition the freshman and transfer pre-nursing student to the language of nursing, critical thinking, the essential academic skills for incoming students and the interpersonal skills required for success in nursing school and the nursing profession. Selected concepts and processes for professional nursing will be included in the course, including an introduction to nursing's theoretical, philosophical, ethical, and legal dimensions.

##### **Textbook and Reading Materials**

Black, B. P. (2013). *Professional nursing, concepts and challenges* (7th ed.). Saunders Elsevier. ISBN 9781455702701

University of Texas at Arlington (2010). *No Limits: Foundation and Strategies for College Success*. Hayden-McNeil Publishing. ISBN: 978-0-7380-3724-0

##### **Course Credit Hours**

3 Credit Hours

##### **Placement in Curriculum**

Freshman level or transfer students with nursing major

##### **Prerequisites**

None

##### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- Develop self-management and academic skills necessary for academic and professional success.
- Describe University and School of Nursing policies and procedures that impact progression to acquire a degree.
- Use personal assessment information to identify how learning and personality style affect academic, interpersonal, and professional success.
- Identify and apply the principles of self care related to body, mind, and spirit
- Describe the role of the nurse as provider of patient-centered care, provider of patient-centered care, member of a profession, patient safety advocate, and member of the healthcare team.
- Identify the benefits of networking, mentoring, and participating in University and School of Nursing organizations and activities.
- Discuss the components of clinical reasoning, decision making, communication, and evidence-based practice and how a nurse uses these tools to provide comprehensive, efficient, safe, high quality care for patients.

- Explain the importance of accountability for optimal nursing care, legal and ethical standards, lifelong learning, cultural competence, professional development, promoting the nursing profession and participating as a citizen in our society.

### **Grading Policy**

In undergraduate nursing courses, all grade calculations will be carried out to two decimal places (i.e. 85.679 = 85.68) and there will be **no rounding of final grades**. Letter grades for assignments and end-of-course grades shall be:

- A - 90% - 100%
- B - 80% - 89.99%
- C - 70% - 79.99%
- D - 60% - 69.99%

**No extra credit projects are available to raise individual grades or final grade.**

### **Assignments**

Must be completed on time and submitted through Blackboard. Pay attention to due dates since the course will not accept assignments after the due date and time. Assignments will NOT be accepted by email.

### **Required Coursework**

#### **Weekly Discussions (18%)**

- A requirement of this course is completion of weekly discussion entries. You must submit an entry and reply to at least two of your online peers' post with reflective questions, substantive comments and/or relevant personal experiences. Each discussion board is 3% of your grade EXCEPT week 3 is 6%.

#### **Weekly Reflective Journal Entries (20%) ALL entries require APA format**

- One of the requirements of this course is completion of weekly reflective journal entries. Reflective journaling will help you focus upon your course and career goals, and enhance and reinforce your learning. Some entries will be completed prior to instructional activities and others afterward. For each, you should write your reflective comments, making connections to your prior experiences, this course, and beyond.

#### **Weekly Assignments (30%) All assignments submitted require APA format**

- **Personal Profile, Resume, & Goals (6%)**  
As you prepare for UTA Nursing School, it is important to "take inventory" of your skills, experiences, and goals. This assignment will help you utilize what you learned from the VARK and Meyers-Briggs activities to outline the strategies you should use in studying and the strengths you will bring to the nursing profession. You will also follow a given format to create a simple professional resume. Finally, you will use the "SMART" criteria to establish two S.M.A.R.T. goals.
- **SBAR Communication (6%)**  
For this assignment, you will read a real-life patient scenario, analyze the situation and communicate with the physician about the patient problems using SBAR
- **Math for Nurses (6%)**  
Begin to explore and develop math skills necessary for nursing medication administration and care.
- **Critical Thinking (6%)**  
For this assignment, you will read a real-world nursing scenario, analyze the situation, and devise a solution based upon what you have learned so far.
- **Philosophy of Nursing (6%)**  
In this assignment, you will write your philosophy of nursing, Use the guide on page 81 of the Master's textbook to guide the writing of your philosophy.

#### **Weekly Quizzes (20%)**

- Each week you will take a quiz to determine your progress.

#### **Final Quiz (12%)**

- The final is a cumulative exam to evaluate your knowledge and understanding of the outcomes of this course.

## Late Coursework

**Policy for late work in this course: ALL due times are Central Time.**

- Assignments (reflection journal and weekly assignments): There will be 5 points deducted for each day an assignment is late up until day 5 at which time the assignment will be a 0 UNLESS you have approval PRIOR to the due date from your coach for an extension.
- Discussion boards: Late initial post will result in a 0; Late peer post will result in a 0.
- Quizzes must be completed by the due date; otherwise, you will receive a 0. Quizzes can be made up if the student has documentation (can show proof/evidence) of an emergency. **No exceptions will be made.** The student must contact the faculty before the quiz, or if unable to do so, at least 24 hours after a missed quiz in order for a makeup to be considered.

The official time for assignments, discussion boards and quizzes will be determined by the submission time.

## Final week assignments, discussions, quizzes, etc.

Due to the short nature of this course, **all course work must be completed and/or submitted no later than the last day of the course** which is **Saturday at 08:00 am Central Time of week 5.** **During the final week no late assignments will be accepted.**

## Policy on Making up Missed Quizzes and Final Examination:

Quizzes and the final exam can only be made up if the student has documentation (can show proof/evidence) of an emergency. **No exceptions will be made.** The student must contact the faculty before the quiz, or if unable to do so, at least 24 hours after a missed quiz in order for a makeup to be considered.

## Computer Problems

If you have any computer issues or technological issues, please contact tech support immediately - 1-866-489-2810 or <http://uta.academicpartnership.com/support.asp>

## Course Questions

Please contact the **course coach** for questions regarding the course. Course coaches and faculty communicate regularly to resolve issues. If issues are not resolved by the course coach then you may contact the course faculty.

## Emailing Coaches/Faculty

When emailing course coach or faculty, **only UTA email** will be accepted and responded to for communication. In emails **under Subject include course name and number and the section number you are in;** otherwise, your coach and/or faculty will not respond. It is your responsibility to check your school email account daily.

## Grade Grievances

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog.

[http://web.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic\\_regulations.aspx#19](http://web.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#19)

## Drop Policy

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must contact their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must contact an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Drop dates for off-campus courses may be found on the website  
([http://academicpartnerships.uta.edu/documents/UTA\\_Drop\\_Dates.pdf](http://academicpartnerships.uta.edu/documents/UTA_Drop_Dates.pdf))

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors are required by law to provide “**reasonable accommodations**” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

### **PLAGIARISM**

Copying another student's paper or any portion of it is plagiarism. Additionally, copying a portion of published material (e.g., books or journals) without adequately documenting the source is plagiarism. If five or more words in sequence are taken from a source, those words must be placed in quotes and the source referenced with author's name, date of publication, and page number of publication. If the author's ideas are rephrased, by transposing words or expressing the same idea using different words, the idea must be attributed to the author by proper referencing, giving the author's name and date of publication. If a single author's ideas are discussed in more than one paragraph, the author must be referenced at the end of each paragraph. Authors whose words or ideas have been used in the preparation of a paper must be listed in the references cited at the end of the paper. Students are encouraged to review the plagiarism module from the UT Arlington Central Library via <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>. Papers are now checked for plagiarism and stored in Blackboard.

### **Student Support Services**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

### **Electronic Communication Policy**

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking

the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

To obtain your NetID or for login assistance, visit <https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/>. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at [helpdesk@uta.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uta.edu)

### **Student Feedback Survey**

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

### **Undergraduate Support Staff**

**Elizabeth Webb, Administrative Assistant I, AP BSN Program**

655 Pickard Hall, (817) 272-1237

Email: [ewebb@uta.edu](mailto:ewebb@uta.edu)

### **College of Nursing Information**

#### **Student Code of Ethics**

The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing supports the Student Code of Ethics Policy. Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the Code. The Code can be found in the Student Handbook.

#### **APA Format**

APA style manual will be referenced by the UTACON with some specific requirements for the undergraduate courses. The sample title page and instructions, as well as a Manuscript Preparation document can be found at <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/msn/apafORMAT> (refer to handout in week one and <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx> or <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10>)

#### **Professional Conduct on Blackboard and Social Media Sites**

The Blackboard Discussion Board is to be viewed as a professional forum for student discussions. Students are free to discuss academic matters and consult one another regarding academic resources. The tone of postings on the Blackboard Discussion Board is to remain professional in nature at all times. It is not appropriate to post statements of a personal or political nature, or statements criticizing classmates or faculty. Statements considered inappropriate will be deleted by course faculty. Announcements from student organizations may be posted to the designated level discussion board (not associated with this course).

Students are to refrain from discussing this course, including clinical situations, written assignments, peers, or faculty on all social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. Failure to comply with these expectations may result in further action including but not limited to removal from the discussion board.

#### **No Gift Policy**

In accordance with Regents Rules and Regulations and the UTA Standards of Conduct, the School of Nursing has a "no gift" policy. A donation to the UTA School of Nursing Scholarship Fund would be an appropriate way to recognize a faculty member's contribution to your learning. For information regarding the Scholarship Fund, please contact the Dean's office.

**The Student Handbook can be found at:** <http://www.uta.edu/nursing/bsn-program/> and clicking on "BSN student handbook."

**Evaluation:**

- Discussions: 18%
- Reflective Journal Entries: 20%
- Assignments: 30%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Final Exam: 12%

**Course Planning Calendar Assignment (ALL due times are Central Time)**

	Assignment	Due Date are Central Time
<b>Week 1: Essential Academic Skills</b>	VARK Questionnaire	N/A
	True Colors Questionnaire	N/A
	Photo of yourself to your profile	WED 0800
	Discussion – Personal Strengths	First post WED 0800 Week 1 Replies MON 0800 Week 2
	Reflective Journal – Learning	MON 0800 Week 2
	Assignment – Personal Profile, Resume, & Goals	MON 0800 Week 2
<b>Week 2: Interpersonal Skills</b>	Quiz	MON 0800 Week 2
	Reading Activity: Quality and Culture Quiz	N/A
	Discussion – Burnout	First post WED 0800 Week 2 Replies MON 0800 Week 3
	Reflective Journal – Coping Mechanisms	MON 0800 Week 3
	Assignment – SBAR Communication	MON 0800 Week 3
	Quiz	MON 0800 Week 3

<b>Week 3: Role of the Professional Nurse</b>	Discussion – Exploring Nursing	<b>First post WED 0800 Week 3 Replies MON 0800 Week 4</b>
	Assignment – Math for Nurses	<b>Mon 0800 Week 4</b>
	Reflective Journal – Stereotypes	<b>MON 0800 Week 4</b>
	Quiz	<b>MON 0800 Week 4</b>
<b>Week 4: Critical Thinking in Nursing Practice</b>	Assignment – Applying Critical Thinking to the Nursing Process	<b>MON 0800 Week 5</b>
	Discussion – Evidence-Based Practice	<b>First post WED 0800 Week 4 Replies MON 0800 Week 5</b>
	Reflective Journal – Critical Thinking	<b>MON 0800 Week 5</b>
	Quiz	<b>MON 0800 Week 5</b>
<b>Week 5: History, Theory, and Nursing Practice</b>	Reflective Journal – Board of Nursing	<b>SAT 0800 Week 5</b>
	Assignment – Philosophy of Nursing	<b>SAT 0800 Week 5</b>
	Discussion – Patient Safety	<b>First post WED 0800 Week 5 Replies SAT 0800 Week 5</b>
	Final Exam	<b>SAT 0800 Week 5</b>