



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND HEALTH

HLTH 530 SPECIAL TOPIC: APPLIED ETHICS & LAW FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

30 POINTS
TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24 to 30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Last assessment item due: 24 June 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

SECTION 1: OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Class times and locations

1st School

Dates: Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 March 2016
Times: 09.00 – 17.00 daily
Venue: CS802, Level 8, Clinical Services Building (CSB), Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown, Wellington

2nd School

Dates: Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 May 2016
Times: 09.00 – 17.00 daily
Venue: CS801, Level 8, Clinical Services Building (CSB), Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown, Wellington

Important Notice

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health at Victoria University of Wellington, uses all reasonable skill and care in an effort to ensure the information and course content information contained in this outline is accurate at the time of going to print.

Students should be aware, however, that in the event course timetables and venues need to be changed, all attempts will be made to notify the students.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator

Dr Martin Woods
Ph: 04 463 5034
Email: martin.woods@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Thursdays 10-12pm

Postgraduate Student Administrator

Caleb Aveling
Ph: 04 463 6647
Email: caleb.aveling@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday – Friday 09.00 – 17.00

Office Hours

The Graduate School office will be open 09.00 – 17.00 weekdays from Tuesday 5 January 2016 and close on Thursday 22 December 2016.

Postal Address

Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health
Victoria University of Wellington
P O Box 7625
Newtown
Wellington 6242

Physical Address

Level 7, Clinical Services Block (CSB)

Wellington Regional Hospital

Riddiford St, Newtown

Wellington 6021

Communication of additional information

All course information and information on changes that occur during the course will be conveyed to students via Blackboard or student VUW email.

SECTION 2: COURSE INFORMATION

Prescription

This course will enable health care professionals to develop advanced skills in the interpretations, analysis and application of ethics and law in professional practice

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Examine and critique the ethical and legal aspects that are embedded within the healthcare context.
2. Evaluate the responsibilities of healthcare professionals in relation to perceived ethical and legal issues in healthcare.
3. Critically analyse the value to healthcare professionals of ethical and legal concepts, theories, codes and guidelines.

Teaching format

There will be 4 School days held in Wellington which will be delivered in two blocks of 2 days each over the trimester. The days will be a mix of lectures and small group activities. A distance component supported by Blackboard forms part of the course and supports student achieving their learning objectives. Online discussion groups are available to give students ways of continuing discussion about course material outside of the class room.

Workload

As a guide each 30-point course at the Graduate School requires students to allocate approximately 10 hours per point for self-directed study, research, assessments and attendance at Schools. Consequently 300 hours should be spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and mid-trimester break.

This course comprises approximately 32 hours of course contact time for lectures, group work and on-campus activities. The amount of time you should notionally assign to the completion for each of the assignments is as follows:

1. Assignment Number One: An examination and critique of the ethical and legal issues within the current healthcare context (30%): 80 hours
2. Assignment Number Two: Presentation of professional responses to a significant ethico-legal issue in practice (20%): 54 hours
3. Assignment Number Three: A critical analysis of a currently significant health care issue with particular emphasis on ethico-legal theoretical and applied perspectives (50%): 135 hours.

SECTION 3: ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Assessments

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay: Critique of the ethical and legal issues within the current healthcare context (3000 words)	30%	1	1 April 2016
2	Presentation: Professional responses to a significant ethico-legal issue in practice (15 minutes)	20%	1, 2	23-24 May 2016
3	Essay: A critical analysis and theoretical/conceptual response to a currently significant health care issue (4000-4500)	50%	2,3	24 June 2016

Approval is required in writing from the course coordinator if you wish to use work you have submitted from a previous course or have written for your organisation.

Marking criteria for each assessment will be posted on Blackboard.

Assignment Number One

Assignment: **Essay: Critique of the ethical and legal issues within the current healthcare context.**

Due Date: 1 April 2016

Word Limit: 3000 words.

This assignment is worth 30% of your final grade

This essay focusses on those ethical and legal issues that significantly affect your own practice as a health care professional. That is, upon a significant issue and its subsidiary underpinnings that has or is currently of considerable interest to you in your workplace and/or professional studies.

You are requested to:

- a) Describe in adequate detail the nature of your current professional practice, with particular emphasis on those ethical or legal issues that are of concern or interest to you within your sphere of influence or activity.
- b) Select one particular ethico-legal issue from your previous description and discuss both an applied (i.e. from anecdotal and other possible sources*) *and* a conceptually focused critique of the ethical and legal issues that are related to that issue.
- c) Provide a brief synopsis (1 page maximum) of the main points from both a & b above (to serve as a guide for classroom use in Block Two).

* To be discussed in a classroom session in Block One

This assignment meets learning objectives: 1

Please submit this assignment as one MSWord file via Blackboard.

Assignment Number Two

Assignment: **Presentation: Professional responses to a significant ethico-legal issue in practice**

Due Date: 23-24 May 2016

Word Limit: 15 minutes max.

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade

This assignment focusses on your ability to express the ethical and legal dimensions and concerns of an issue that is of current interest to you *within your own area of practice*. Most importantly, you are also required to offer a satisfactory professionally focused response to that issue.

You are asked to provide a presentation* to your classmates of no more than 15 minutes in total that covers:

- a) Your current workplace situation, with brief references to a range of ethical and/or legal issues that affect your practice.
- b) The main elements of the particular professional issue that you have selected to highlight.
- c) A reasonably precise description and analysis of why exactly that issue carries with it significant ethical and legal concerns in your own professional practice.
- d) At least three possible professional responses to that issue, and conclude with a justification of which particular response you consider to be the most appropriate.
- e) A list of references is required at the end of the presentation.

* A Power Point presentation is normally expected, although possible alternatives will be considered in advance upon request (i.e. before School Block Two).

This assignment meets learning objectives: 1 and 2.

Please submit this assignment to your lecturer as a Power Point print out (3 slides per page, with notes sections) at the end of your presentation.

Assignment Number Three

Assignment: **Essay: A critical analysis and theoretical/conceptual response to a currently significant health care issue**

Due Date: 24 June 2016

Word Limit: 4000-4500 words.

This assignment is worth 50% of your final grade

This essay will be presented in the style of a completed draft of an article prepared for submission to a suitable journal (which in most cases will be *Nursing Ethics*). You are therefore required to assimilate all of the recently acquired ideas and knowledge from your studies towards this course and utilise them in an article format.

You are requested to:

- a) Examine and consider the various styles of articles in the journal *Nursing Ethics*.
- b) Select a suitable ethical and/or legal topic for publication (which most likely will be a reflection of the materials within your two previous assignments) and a suitable article style.*
- c) Produce a 4000-4500 word long draft article that would be suitable for publication in that journal. The main aim of the article is to present a contemporary and pertinent critical analysis and theoretical/conceptual response to a currently significant health care issue.
- d) The draft should include all of the normal headings and subheadings (e.g. abstract, introduction, etc.), references, and any other additional materials. *

* N.B. Specific details to undertake this will be provided during classroom time in School Block Two.

This assignment meets learning objectives: 2 and 3

Please submit this assignment as one Microsoft Word file via Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

For submission details, please see individual assessment items. Student coursework assignments submitted by the due date will normally be returned with feedback within three weeks of the due date.

Extensions

An extension to a deadline will only be considered where there are extenuating circumstances. An application for an extension must be made by you in writing/e-mail to the course coordinator at least 24 hours before the due date. When communicating your request you must include the following information:

- name, student number and contact details
- course code
- date of submission and request date for new submission
- reason for extension request

Upon receipt of your request, course coordinators may grant an extension of up to 2 weeks. Any further request for an extension may require Head of School approval.

Penalties

Late assignments or assignments with extensions may be subject to delays in marking and may not receive comprehensive feedback.

A penalty will be incurred for late submission of work **where no prior arrangement** has been made as follows:

- Work submitted up to 7 days after the due date without an extension will receive a 2 grade penalty. For example a B+ to a B-.
- Work submitted 8-14 days after the due date without an extension will receive a 4 grade penalty. For example a B+ to a C.
- Work submitted more than 15 days late without an extension will not be marked and will receive an 'E' (fail) grade.

SECTION 4: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Set texts

There is no set text for this course.

Recommended reading

Johnstone, M. J. (2015). *Bioethics: a nursing perspective*. (6th ed.) Chatswood: Elsevier.

N.B. A full range of other suitable readings will be discussed in the classroom during the first day of Block One and made available on Blackboard.

Ethics conduct

Students are expected to adhere to ethical principles in all aspects of their coursework. This applies to academic integrity and also to the way information about, or from, individuals in the practice setting is managed. Good ethical practice must be maintained in all learning activities. The Human Ethics Committee at Victoria University of Wellington has granted approval for the incorporation of data or observations from patient/client/individuals into coursework from the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, and expects adherence to the instructions below.

Students are expected to adhere to their professional codes of conduct and standards, relevant legislative frameworks and contractual obligations to any employing organisation at all times. In addition, all students in classes where assignments might include observations, reports, images, photographs or descriptions of individuals (patients or colleagues) with whom they have worked in a clinical or practice setting as part of an assignment, must:

1. Read and sign the "Information for using individual data in an assignment: Student agreement statement"
2. Determine whether verbal or written informed consent is required, according to the guidelines provided in the student agreement statement and in consultation with their course coordinator if they are unsure;
3. Provide the patient/client/individual, or the parent/guardian of the child, whose data they intend to use with full information about how they intend to obtain and use the data;
4. Provide written information and obtain written informed consent if required.

Should students have any concerns about ethical aspects of their course requirements they should discuss them with the course coordinator.

Your Course Coordinator will discuss the ethical implications and special requirements (if any) for this particular course.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf

- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Blackboard Information

Students enrolling for this course will need access to the Victoria flexible learning system (Blackboard) via the Internet.

Blackboard is an online environment that supports teaching and learning at Victoria by making course information, materials and learning activities available online via the internet. Blackboard provides web-based access to course content, assessment, communication and collaboration tools. Instructions for using this will be provided as part of timetable during the 1st School. Students will need to be able to access the Internet on a regular basis.

How to log onto Blackboard

- Open a web browser and go to myVictoria.ac.nz
- Enter your account username which you can find in your *Confirmation of Study* sheet
- It is usually made up of 6 letters of your last name and 4 letters of your first name
- Enter your password. If you have never used Victoria computer facilities your initial password is your student ID number
- Click on the Blackboard icon
- Alternatively, if you want to access Blackboard without going through the myVictoria portal, just log on at <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>

Off Campus access

Blackboard is available from any location where you can access the Internet. This may be your home, work or an Internet café.

Problems with access? Contact ITS service desk **04 463 5050**