



**Professional Practice 3: Nursing Ethics – NURS 221**  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program

**Course Outline**

**COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** January 2009  
**OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 2022  
**COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE:** September 2027

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**GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Building on previous Relational Practice and Professional Practice courses, this course focuses on the growing body of knowledge related to nursing ethics. Beginning with an understanding of bio-medical ethics that have dominated nursing ethics in the past and moving to an understanding of developing ethical theory related to nursing and nursing issues, participants have opportunities to explore nursing ethics in the context of their nursing practice.

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**Program Information:** This course is required for the second year (semester four) of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program. The materials in this course represent a component of a four year integrated BSN program.

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**Delivery:** This course is delivered face-to-face.

**COTR Credits:** 3

**Hours for this course:** 45 hours

**Typical Structure of Instructional Hours:**

Instructional Activity	Duration
Lecture Hours	45
Seminars / Tutorials	
Laboratory / Studio Hours	
Practicum / Field Experience Hours	
Other Contact Hours	
<b>Total</b>	45

**Practicum Hours (if applicable):**

Type of Practicum	Duration
On-the-job Experience	N/A
Formal Work Experience	N/A
Other	N/A
<b>Total</b>	

**Course Outline Author or Contact:**

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Signature

**APPROVAL SIGNATURES:**

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Department Head Signature

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Dean Signature

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Valid from: January 2022 – September 2027

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Education Council Approval Date

**COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT:**

**Prerequisites:** Enrollment in the Bachelor of Science Nursing Program

**Corequisites:** None

**Flexible Assessment (FA):**

Credit can be awarded for this course through FA

Yes  No

Learners may request formal recognition for flexible assessment at the College of the Rockies through one or more of the following processes: External Evaluation, Worksite Assessment, Demonstration, Standardized Test, Self-assessment, Interview, Products/Portfolio, Challenge Exam. Contact an Education Advisor for more information.

**Transfer Credit:** For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>.

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

**Prior Course Number:** N/A

## **Textbooks and Required Resources:**

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

*No textbook. See COTROnline for reading schedule*

*Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator*

*<http://go.cotr.bc.ca/tuition/tCalc.asp> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.*

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## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- understand oneself as a moral agent (in the role of a nurse) enacting ethical decisions in relation with others in a variety of health care settings;
  - explore one's ethical and moral foundations gaining valuable insight into one's ethical center as an individual and as a professional;
  - examine several traditional ethical theories and conduct critical examinations of each theory's fundamental beliefs and assumptions;
  - examine the relationship between traditional ethical theories and the Canadian Nurses Association Code of Ethics, gaining valuable insight into the origin and importance of relevant values and normative directions (for individuals and professionals);
  - utilize an ethical decision-making model, in order to provide a guideline for facing and solving ethical situations faced in nursing;
  - examine a variety of case-studies that illustrate various ethical dilemmas encountered in nursing practice;
  - explore the concept of relational ethics, including many challenges it presents, such as ethnic, cultural, gender, ethical and spiritual difference;
  - study contemporary applied ethical issues such as (but not limited to) informed consent, medical futility, and resource distribution; appreciate the significance of central ethical concepts in Nursing, such as Moral Agency, Moral Leadership, Moral Community, Moral Distress and Moral Uncertainty;
  - examine the moral climate of nursing in respect to Legality, Economic and Social Issues, Institutional Values, Multiculturalism and Spirituality;
  - integrate critical reflection, values, personal experience, logic, and theoretical knowledge into a workable code of ethics for nursing practice;
  - articulate verbally and in writing arguments on a variety of ethical issues in nursing; and
  - examine differing ways of ethical inquiry and analysis of situations that other members of the interprofessional team may have.
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## COURSE TOPICS:

- Foundations in ethical reasoning; Ethical Theory & Ethical Principles
- Ethical decision-making
- Relational Ethics and Principlism as central to nursing ethics
- The Canadian Nursing Code of Ethics as an orientation and guide for Canadian nurses
- Issues related to patient and professional self-determinism
- Issues related to end-of-life care
- Economic issues
- Legal issues
- Ethical issues related to professional nursing practice

*See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.*

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## EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT:

Assignments	% Of Total Grade
Term Papers	50%
Reflection	10%
Debate Assignment	20%
Quiz	10%
Participation	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

*Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments and use of electronic aids.*

**Note:** Late assignments or missed exams will not be accepted without *prior* notification to the instructor

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## EXAM POLICY:

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of "0" for the exam.

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**COURSE GRADE:**

Course grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	F
Mark (Percent)	≥ 95	94-90	89-85	84-80	79-75	74-70	69-65	64-60	< 60

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**ACADEMIC POLICIES:**

See [www.cotr.bc.ca/policies](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/policies) for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

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**COURSE CHANGES:**

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor endeavours to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.