

N. LEARNING RESOURCES

1. Praxis Experience

- Personal experience with ethical decision-making
- Nursing practice experience/reflection

2. Textbooks and Material to be Purchased by Students

A list of recommended textbooks and materials is provided for students at the beginning of each semester.

3. Other Resources

- Selected readings
- Selected audio-visual resources

O. ENDS-IN-VIEW

In this course students have opportunities to:

- develop a heightened awareness of the predominance of ethics in their professional and personal lives
- examine various ethical theories, concepts and principles
- appreciate the rich complexity of moral reasoning and ethical decision-making
- develop strategies for ethical decision-making
- apply ethical decision-making model(s) to ethical problems in nursing practice.

P. OVERVIEW OF COURSE CONTENT

The focus of this course is applied ethics as it relates to nursing practice. An outline of the concepts and essential content is presented below. Additional content may be included, and will vary depending on the experiences, interests and choices of course participants.

Ethical perspectives such as:

- utilitarianism
- Kantian deontology
- care ethics
- moral relativism

Concepts such as:

- advocacy
- autonomy
- paternalism
- informed consent

Principles such as:

- beneficence/non-maleficence
- justice
- fidelity

Ethical problems in nursing practice (research findings, praxis examples)

- moral distress of nurses
- inequities in resource allocation
- informed consent
- prolongation of life
- team conflict and communication

Decision-Making Models which:

- empower individuals and families
- adhere to fundamental principles
- include relational (fidelity) and contextual (care) elements
- respect autonomy
- attend to cultural issues
- attend to team and family input
- attend to professional codes and standards of conduct

Q. LEARNING PROCESS

Learning activities in this course are designed to actively engage students in achieving an understanding of the concepts, theories and skills of applied ethics in nursing practice. Students are provided with opportunities to understand ethical decision-making through debate, discussions, case studies, critical reflection, and critical thinking.

R. COURSE EVALUATION

Course evaluation is consistent with Douglas College evaluation policy. An evaluation schedule is presented at the beginning of the course. Respect for individual choices and an openness to negotiate will guide decisions about methods of evaluation.

This is a **graded** course.

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