

**NURS 4212-110, 80230, Professional Issues,  
Fall 2023**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

**Mode of instruction and course access:**

*This is a 100% online course and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [https://tamuct.instructure.com/].*

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Catherine Pena

Office: Remote

Email: Canvas email for course related concerns; Monday-Thursday 1200-1700, by appointment only.

**Student-instructor interaction:**

Emails and messages within Canvas; students may expect a response within 24 to 48 hours Monday-Friday. *Students are expected to check Canvas daily for announcements, assignment updates, or any other messages corresponding to the course.* Office hours may also include synchronous online student's learning and serving as a resource person to guide the student in the learning process.

**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

**SAFEZONE.** SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
  - [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756]
  - [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp)  
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

**For updates on COVID information**, please monitor the University [website](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/)  
[<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

This course provides opportunities for analysis of elements that reflect the progressive development of the role of the professional nurse. It formalizes a framework that integrates the issues of political action, socio-legal concerns, multiculturalism, and ethical models into nursing practice through the debate process. Prerequisite(s): NURS 3300, NURS 3304, GOVT 2305, and GOVT 2306.

**Course Objective:** By the end of this course the student will be able to offer solutions to current workplace and workforce issues involving nursing as a profession

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- 1) Identify means by which professional nurses affect quality of health care delivery based on political, legal, ethical, and policy issues.
- 2) Examine professional nursing from historical and contemporary perspectives, including the philosophy and theoretical foundations that define professional nursing practice.
- 3) Demonstrate reasoning at the level of a baccalaureate prepared nurse pertaining to membership in the profession, provision of patient care and advocacy.

### **Competency Goals Statements (certification or standards):**

- Essential II: Basic Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Care and Patient Safety.
- Essential III: Scholarship for Evidence Based Practice
- Essential IV: Information Management and Application of Patient Care Technology
- Essential VI: Interprofessional Communication and Collaboration for Improving Patient Health Outcomes.
- Essential VIII: Professionalism and Professional Values

### **Required Reading and Textbook(s):**

- American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington D.C: American Psychological Association. ISBN-13: 978-1433832178 ISBN-10: 1433832178
- Huston, C.J. (2020). *Professional issues in nursing: Challenges and opportunities* (5th ed.). Lippincott Williams & Wilkins: Philadelphia. ISBN – 9781496398185

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Module 1:**

Enrollment Verification Assignment, required

Refresh APA references and citation for success in course assignments.

Entry Into Practice-Debate Presentation, Chapters 1 (20 points), *Audio Required*-Group Presentation (Part 1, 10 points) and Individual Comments (Part 2, 10 points)  
Discuss and debate the pros and cons of BSN entry level nursing versus ADN level nursing  
Investigate the legal, ethical and professional issues surrounding the nursing profession that affects patient care. Debate professional issues that affect the professional nurse's practice

### **Module 2:**

Nursing Profession-Discussion, Chapter 4, 6 & 9 (10 points)  
Investigate the legal, ethical and professional issues surrounding the nursing profession that affects patient care. Debate professional issues that affect the professional nurse's practice

### **Module 3:**

Assignment: Mandatory Staffing-Choice of format, Chapter 10 (10 points)-Material of Choice  
Investigate the legal, ethical and professional issues surrounding the nursing profession that affects patient care

Social Media, Instructional Material/Technology in Health Care- Discussion Chapters 13 & 19 (10 points)  
Investigate the legal, ethical and professional issues surrounding the nursing profession that affects patient care

Medical Errors/Assuring Provider Competence-Group Presentation, Chapter 14 & 20 (20 points)  
*Audio Required*  
Investigate the legal, ethical and professional issues surrounding the nursing profession that affects patient care.

Provider Competencies-Discussion, article read (10 Points)  
Investigate the legal, ethical and professional issues surrounding the nursing profession that affects patient care.

### **Module 4:**

Whistle Blower-Discussion, Chapter 15 & 16 (10 points)  
Investigate the legal, ethical and professional issues surrounding the nursing profession that affects patient care

Assignment: Academic Integrity, Chapter 18 (10 points)- APA Paper  
Investigate the legal, ethical and professional issues surrounding the nursing profession that affects patient care

Health Care Reform-Discussion, Chapter 21 (10 points)  
Examine political strategies that may be effective in influencing health care policy at the local, state and federal levels. Debate professional issues that affect the professional nurse's practice

Professional Image-Discussion, YouTube Video (10 points)

Debate professional issues that affect the professional nurse's practice

Nursing Policy and Politics-Group Presentation, Chapters 22, 24, & 25(20 points) *Audio Required*

Examine political strategies that may be effective in influencing health care policy at the local, state and federal levels. Debate professional issues that affect the professional nurse's practice

### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

*Student must attend live presentation as required. No make up or alternative assignment will be considered in the course.*

Discussion Questions X 6	60 Points	45%
Assignments X 2	20 Points	15%
Enrollment Verification	Enrollment Verification	Registrar Verification
Entry Level Debate Presentation (part 1 & 2)	20 Points	20%
Group Presentations x 2	40 Points	20%
Total:	150 Points	100%

**Percent**      A=90-100  
                          B=80-89  
                          C=70-79  
                          D=60-69  
                          E=50-59  
                          F=59 or below

### Posting of Grades

All student grades will be posted on the Canvas Grade book. Students should monitor their grading status often and report to the instructor any discrepancies. Quiz and exam grades taken through Canvas are posted upon successful submission. Faculty graded assignments and discussion posts will be posted within 72 hours after the due date and time. Friday assignment grades will be posted within 72 hours of the following Monday. Debate presentation final grades may take up to a week to post.

### Grading Policies

#### Late Assignments:

Assignments are due on the date and time outlined in the course schedule and syllabus. A 10% deduction will be taken for each day an assignment is past the due date. This includes all quizzes, discussion boards, and any other written work in the course. Exceptions will be granted at faculty discretion and only if arrangements were *made prior to the due date*.

This course does not grant make up or alternative assignments, submissions after the due date are final and will be graded accordingly. Resubmissions will not be considered unless faculty has granted with prior notice of due date. All grades are final.

#### Group Participation:

Course contains multiple group assignments that require equal peer participation and collaboration. All members are expected to contribute and participate towards final assignment/project. Peer Review evaluations may be required and considered towards final grade. If equal participation and collaboration towards the final assignment/project is not demonstrated, individual point deduction may apply. No editing, or changes of any kind, are to be made to the final copy without group consent or agreement. Individual assignments will not be accepted for group assignments.

#### Additional Research & APA Requirements:

Self-guided research and material search will be required throughout the course. Several assignments will require additional research for supportive material through the use of outside resources. Students are required to follow APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition citing/referencing and copyright guidelines for all assignments.

#### Power Point & Studio/Arc Presentations:

All presentations require audio narration. Presentations without audio will not be accepted and will receive a late point deduction until resubmitted with audio, refer to late deductions statement. No exceptions.

#### Similarity Reports:

APA written papers will require a similarity report less than 20%, if results are higher, the assignment will be returned to student for corrections and late deductions will apply until requirement is met.

### **COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

#### **Complete Course Calendar**

*\*\* Please note that schedule may change due to unforeseen circumstances advance notice will be given as time allows*

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<b>MODULE 1</b>			
September 4	APA references and citation examples, 7 <sup>th</sup> edition	No reading, refer to APA manual	Written assignment  ** Enrollment Verification
September 18 September 25 comments	Entry Into Practice	Chapter 1	Entry Level Debate-Group presentation (Part 1)  Individual comments (Part 2)
<b>MODULE 2</b>			
October 2	Nursing Profession	Chapter 4, 6 & 9	Discussion #1
<b>MODULE 3</b>			
October 9	Mandatory Staffing	Chapter 10	Material of Choice- Assignment #1
October 16	Social Media  Technology in Health Care	Chapters (13 & 19)	Discussion #2
October 30	Medical Errors/Assuring Provider Competence	Chapters 14 & 20	Group Presentation #1
November 6	Provider Competencies	Online Article	Discussion #3
<b>MODULE 4</b>			
November 13	Whistle Blower	Chapter 15 & 16	Discussion #4
November 20	Academic Integrity in Nursing	Chapter 18	APA Paper – Assignment #2
November 27	Health Care Reform	Chapter 21	Discussion#5
December 4	Professional Image	YouTube Video	Discussion #6
December 11  <b>No submissions will be accepted past December 13<sup>th</sup> – no exceptions</b>	The Nursing Profession  Nursing Policy, and Politics	Chapters (22, 24 & 25)	Group Presentation #2

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

### **Technology Requirements**

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

### **Canvas Support**

Use the Canvas Help tab, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can search the support articles or use the Email, Call, or Chat buttons at the bottom of the support pop-up to contact the Canvas Help Desk.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### **Online Proctored Testing**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio requires use of the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in installed.

### **Other Technology Support**

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

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## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

### Warrior Center for Student Success

The Warrior Center for Student Success is a comprehensive academic support department at A&M-Central Texas, dedicated to fostering an environment of excellence and empowerment among its student body. The center offers a wide range of programs and services to ensure every student reaches their full potential, and is a haven for students seeking guidance, resources, and a strong support network to excel in their educational journey.

**ADA Access and Accommodations:** Texas A&M University-Central Texas ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities by providing appropriate accommodations and support services. If you believe you have a physical, learning or socio-emotional disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please visit Access and Inclusion [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>] for more details or contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential.

**Success Coaching and Peer Mentoring:** Our experienced Success Coaches work one-on-one with students to develop personalized action plans, set academic goals, and build effective study strategies, time management skills, and resilience. Our Peer Mentors provide a valuable support system, offering guidance, encouragement, and a relatable perspective to help students navigate their academic and personal challenges. For more details call 254-501-5836 or 254-501-5928 or visit [Academic Support](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html>]. Click the link to schedule a session (virtual or in-person) with a success coach [bit.ly/3q7uB50](https://bit.ly/3q7uB50) or visit WH, 111.

**Testing Services:** We offer a secure and comfortable environment for students and members of the community to take courses and distance learning exams, as well as placement tests and professional certification exams. Our Testing Service also offers resources and support referrals for testing related challenges (test anxiety, learning disabilities, etc.) and supports all approved ADA accommodations. Call (254) 519-5830 or visit the [Testing Center](https://www.tamuct.edu/testing-center/) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/testing-center/>].

**Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction Services:** Our team of qualified Tutors and Supplemental Instructors assist students in various non-writing subjects, promoting academic comprehension and enhancing learning outcomes. Click the link to schedule a tutoring session with a TAMUCT tutor (virtual or in-person) or view tutor availability [bit.ly/43Q6wNz](https://bit.ly/43Q6wNz). You may also chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for a variety of subjects through our partnership with Tutor.com, an online tutoring platform that is free to all TAMUCT students. To learn more please visit [Tutoring Services](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring>] or call (254) 501-5836 or visit the Tutoring Hub in Warrior Hall, 111.

### Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to



support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Student Conduct Office. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more information regarding the [student conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas), [https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas].

## **Drop Policy**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpid=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlSso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%2fStart%2f53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Records and Admissions Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Records and Admissions Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Records and Admissions Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

## **Pregnant and/or Parenting Students Rights and Accommodations**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of [Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights](#), the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs, (254) 501-5909, can assist students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting by provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodations. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible through the [Pregnancy & Parenting webpage](#) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](#) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

[Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972](#) specifically prohibits discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery

from any of these conditions

[<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html>].

Students experiencing any form of discrimination due to any of these conditions are encouraged to reach out to the Title IX Coordinator, 254.519.5716, [titleix@tamuct.edu](mailto:titleix@tamuct.edu), Founders Hall 317B, or the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 254.501.5909, Warrior Hall 105.

### **Title IX Rights and Reporting Responsibilities**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas is committed to creating a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you or another student has experienced any form of gender discrimination or sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and/or sex-based stalking, help and support are available. Our university strongly encourages all members of our campus community to report incidents and seek support for gender discrimination and sexual misconduct through the Title IX Office. You may contact the Title IX Office at 254.519.5716, [titleix@tamuct.edu](mailto:titleix@tamuct.edu), Founders Hall 317B, or learn more by visiting the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

Please be aware that that under [Title IX](#), [Texas Senate Bill 212](#), and [System Regulation 08.01.01](#), [<https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf>] all university employees are mandated reporters and are required to disclose information about suspected or alleged violations as listed above and defined in System Regulation 08.01.01. If the Title IX Office receives information about an incident, they will reach out to offer information about resources, rights, and procedural options as a member of the campus community. Although I have an obligation to report, you will, in most cases, control how your case will be handled. When working with the Title IX Office you will have access to resources and accommodations but also have the opportunity to express if you wish to move forward with an investigation. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the options available to you as a student. Community members are not required to respond to this outreach.

If you or another student wishes to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the [Student Wellness & Counseling Center](#), [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-counseling.html>], 254.501.5955, or [swacc@tamuct.edu](mailto:swacc@tamuct.edu), located in Warrior Hall Room 207L or the Student Support Advocate, 254.501.5978 or [ssa@tamuct.edu](mailto:ssa@tamuct.edu), located in founder Hall Room 317D.

### **University Library & Archives**

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing approximately 1,203,947 eBooks and 134,750 journals, in addition to the 96,879 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled

for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](#)

[<https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments>]. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group workspaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](#)

[<https://tamuct.libguides.com/index>]

### **University Writing Center**

Located in Warrior Hall 416 and online, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The face-to-face hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday and Thursday in Warrior Hall 416. Online tutoring is available Monday thru Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](#) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

### **OTHER POLICY STATEMENTS**

#### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX

Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

### **Behavioral Intervention**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online

[<https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas>].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

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### **Copyright Notice**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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[c.pena@tamuct.edu](mailto:c.pena@tamuct.edu)