

University of Calgary Faculty of Nursing

Philosophy and Practice in Palliative Care

COURSE OUTLINE

NURSING 517 (Undergraduate)  
NURSING 617 (Graduate)

Winter 2009  
Mondays 1300-1550  
Room: Professional Faculties 222



Course Professor/Coordinator:

Shelley Raffin Bouchal RN PhD CHPCN®  
University of Calgary  
Room 2224, Faculty of Nursing  
Professional Faculties Building (403220-6258)  
E- mail: [raffin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:raffin@ucalgary.ca)

## COURSE PHILOSOPHY:

Welcome to *Philosophy and Practice in Palliative Care*. This interdisciplinary course will introduce you to the knowledge and expertise in the field of palliative and hospice care. We intend this course to be meaningful and have practical application to various settings in the palliative care community. For some, this may be a first experience with palliative care. Others, may have cared for and or experienced personal loss involving family or friends. These experiences will impact your understanding as you grow and develop with the knowledge learned in this course.

An important focus throughout the course will include self- reflection, exploring your own beliefs, values and attitudes about life, illness, death, and dying. The course content reflects the holistic philosophies, values, and practices of an interdisciplinary approach to care. You will meet various members of the interdisciplinary team who will share their disciplinary perspectives and expertise.

This course is designed primarily as a theory course with exercises and discussion intended to engage you in a constant process of reflection on how caring for dying individuals impacts you both personally and in your practice. This course is highly recommended as a pre-requisite for further practicums in palliative care.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student will be provided with opportunities to:

- Reflect on death, dying and bereavement through personal, professional, theoretical and philosophical perspectives.
- Personally reflect and explore one's values, beliefs, attitudes, and life experiences related to issues with death and dying.
- Develop an understanding of professional responsibility, relationships, and boundaries (within the context of an interdisciplinary team) in caring for terminally ill individuals and their family.
- Demonstrate understanding of the philosophy of palliative care, the physiological, psychological, and spiritual dimensions of a life threatening illness.
- Demonstrate understanding of principles of symptom management, and supportive care.
- Examine best practices in palliative/hospice care.
- Demonstrate understanding of ethics and legal issues related to palliative care.
- Explore traditional and non-traditional places in which palliative/hospice care is provided.

## REQUIRED RESOURCES:

There is a variety of ways for you to access the required weekly readings.

**A Complete Reading Package** of weekly readings is available for purchase at the **Bound and Copy Students Centre**. You may also access the readings from a binder placed in the learning centre under the course Nursing 517/617. As well, many of the articles will be linked, available on blackboard, under "**Bibliography**". Those readings not available on blackboard (textbook readings) can be located in the binder in the LC.

## COURSE EVALUATION: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (N 517)

There are 3 assignments. For Assignment #1, there is a choice of 2 options.

### # 1 Option A

**Active Inquiry: Reflection and Analysis of Class Presentation/Content**  
(Choose 4 presentations/content)

50% of final grade

**Due Date:** The Monday following the scheduled topic

**Paper Length:** Each paper is not to exceed 6 double spaced pages **not** including references.

-APA format required

The purpose of this assignment is for you to critically analyze and reflect on specific class presentations in a scholarly manner. Focus questions below will guide you in: the development of your writing, assist you in clarifying your understanding of the information presented in the lecture, apply your learning to clinical practice, examine different perspectives and alternative approaches and relate the readings and other activities to the lecture topic. You will also consider 3 additional references that you choose from scholarly journals. Consider the following focus questions in your discussion:

#### *Contextual Awareness and Deciding What to Observe and Consider*

*This includes an awareness of what's happening in the context of the situation, (presentation) including values, cultural issues, and environmental influences*

- What impressions, reactions, questions, judgments, or feelings do you have related to the class presentation?
- What elements of the presentation excited and or surprised you? What was confirmed for you?
- What knowledge, values and beliefs did you bring to this class presentation that compliments your understanding?

#### *Exploring and Imagining Alternatives*

*This involves exploring other possibilities important in this situation*

- What new knowledge have you gained from this presentation?
- What do you need to research further to gain a greater understanding of the material?
- How did the articles (minimum 3 articles) you researched concur or differ with the presentation?
- Were there other alternatives presented in these articles?

#### *Application to Practice*

*This involves considering the evidence and determining what key interventions would be effective for palliative patient care*

- How will this presentation and the research you did impact your practice? What will you do the same and what will you do differently?
- What challenges do you anticipate in the implementation of this knowledge?
- What further learning needs do you have related to this presentation?

OR

### #1 Option B

#### Scholarly Paper: Analysis of a Theme or Concept in Palliative Care

**50% of final grade**

**Due Date:** February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009.

**Paper Length:** This paper is not to exceed 20 double spaced pages.

**Expected References:** Minimum 20

This assignment is an opportunity to write a scholarly paper on an over-arching theme or concept enmeshed in the lives of patients, families and caregivers in palliative care. In discussing the theme you may wish to consider: 1) reviewing and applying the pertinent literature including theoretical foundations, 2) analyzing and synthesizing possible applications to practice, and 3) personal experience, 4) clinical observation. Please discuss your chosen topic early in the course with the course professor.

### #2 PARTICIPATION

**15% of final grade**

**Due Date:** Last day of class

The success and process of this course involves reflection and discussion on the part of the participants. As a participant you bring to the class values and life experiences that shape and add to the richness of discussion. Your contribution is important to your growth as well as the growth of your fellow classmates. Although the final evaluation of this mark rests with faculty, you (the student) will participate in providing a self-evaluation of your participation, including a proposed grade out of 15. The evaluation submitted should include an assessment of your contribution to discussion in general.

### #3 FINAL EXAM

**35% of final grade**

The final term test will occur during final exam week. The test consists of multiple choice and short answer questions/matching, taken from required readings, class power-points, and class discussion. Course content from all weeks is testable. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam.

FACULTY OF NURSING UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

## Grading System

98.0 – 100	A+
93.0 – 97.9	A
88.0 – 92.9	A-
83.5 – 87.9	B+
78.0 – 83.4	B
73.5 – 77.9	B-
69.0 – 73.4	C+
63.5 – 68.9	C*
59.0 – 63.4	C-
54.5 – 58.9	D+
50.0 – 54.4	D
49.9 or less	F

## COURSE EVALUATION: GRADUATE STUDENTS (N. 617)

### # 1 Active Inquiry: Reflection and Analysis of Class Content (Choose 4 presentations)

40% of final grade

**Due Date:** The Monday following the scheduled topic

**Paper Length:** Each paper is not to exceed 6 double spaced pages  
-APA format required

The purpose of this assignment is for you to critically analyze and reflect on specific class presentations in a scholarly manner. Focus questions below, will guide you in; the development of your writing, assist you in clarifying your understanding of the information presented in the lecture, apply your learning to clinical practice, examine different perspectives and alternative approaches, and relate the readings and other activities to the lecture topic. You will also consider in your discussion 3 additional references that you choose from scholarly journals. Consider the following focus questions in your discussion:

#### *Contextual Awareness and Deciding What to Observe and Consider*

*This includes an awareness of what's happening in the context of the situation, (presentation) including values, cultural issues, and environmental influences*

- What impressions, reactions, questions, judgments, or feelings do you have related to the class presentation?
- What elements of the presentation excited and or surprised you? What was confirmed for you?
- What knowledge, values and beliefs did you bring to this class presentation that compliments your understanding?

#### *Exploring and Imagining Alternatives*

*This involves exploring other possibilities important in this situation*

- What new knowledge have you gained from this presentation?
- What do you need to research further to gain a greater understanding of the material?
- How did the articles (minimum 3 articles) you researched concur or differ with the presentation?
- Were there other alternatives presented in these articles?

#### *Application to Practice*

*This involves considering the evidence and determining what key interventions would be effective for palliative patient care*

- How will this presentation and the research you did impact your practice? What will you do the same and what will you do differently?
- What challenges do you anticipate in the implementation of this knowledge?
- What further learning needs do you have related to this presentation?

## #2 Scholarly Paper - A Critical Analysis of a: A) Personal or Professional Loss or B) An End Of Life Care Policy

**45% of final grade**

**Due Date:** March 16, 2009

**Paper Length:** This paper is not to exceed 10-15 double spaced pages –APA format  
**Expected References:** Minimum 20

- Select one of the following:
  - A topic of personal +/- clinical interest that relates to loss, bereavement, death or dying
  - An end of life care policy

### *Components of Scholarly Paper*

1. Introduction to paper
  - a) Why this clinical topic/policy is important - overall impact of this clinical topic/policy on your personal and professional self.
2. Choose a post modern theoretical or philosophical position to frame your clinical topic/policy.
3. Analysis & critique
  - a) Analysis & critique of the research literature addressing the clinical topic/policy, with a focus on advanced nursing practice literature (not to exclude other literature)
  - b) Based on your analysis & critique of the literature, summarize what you have learned and the gaps you have identified about your selected clinical topic/policy
4. Address one or more of the following areas:
  - Discuss questions for further nursing research
  - Discuss relevant implications for nursing practice
  - Discuss relevant implications for policy and/or programming

## # 3 Participation

**15% of final grade**

**Due Date:** Last day of class

The success and process of this course involves reflection and discussion on the part of the participants. As a participant you bring to the class values and life experiences that shapes and add to the richness of discussion. Your contribution is important to your growth as well as the growth of your fellow classmates. Although the final evaluation of this mark rests with faculty, you (the student) will participate in providing a self-evaluation of your participation, including a proposed grade out of 15. The evaluation submitted should include an assessment of your contribution to discussion in general.

FACULTY OF NURSING GRADUATE PROGRAM

Grading System

If the grade on your assignment is:	The percentage will be taken from:	If the total for all assignments is:	Your final grade will be:	And the GPA for the course will be:
A+	4.0	3.95 - 4.00	A+	4.0 - Outstanding
A	4.0	3.85 - 3.94	A	4.0 - Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.7	3.50 - 3.84	A-	3.7 - Very good performance
B+	3.3	3.15 - 3.49	B+	3.3 - Good performance
B	3.0	2.85 - 3.14	B	3.0 - Satisfactory performance (Note: The grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each year of the program)
B-	2.7	2.50 - 2.84	B-	2.7 - Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (Note: Students who accumulate two grades of B- or lower may be required to withdraw from program by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, regardless of their grade point average)
C+	2.3	2.15 - 2.49	C+	2.3 - Unsatisfactory (Note: All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of graduate studies course requirements)
C	2.0	1.85 - 2.14	C	2.0
C-	1.7	1.50 - 1.84	C-	1.7
D+	1.3	1.15 - 1.49	D+	1.3
D	1.0	0.50 - 1.14	D	1.0
F	0	0.00 - 0.49	F	0



## **STUDENT MISCONDUCT**

A single offence of cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct on term work, tests, or final examinations, etc., may lead to disciplinary probation or a student's suspension or expulsion from the Faculty by the Dean, if it is determined that the offense warrants such action. Familiarize yourself with the University of Calgary Calendar (2008-2009) p. 54-57 for further information regarding student misconduct policies

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Information (such as a phone number, address, tracking sites of practicums, etc.) that you may be asked to provide is collected under the authority of the Universities/Colleges Act and Freedom of Information and protection of Privacy Act, Section 32(c). It will be used for Practicum placement and for contact purposes. Your personal information is protected by Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection and Privacy Act and can be reviewed on request. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information contact the Graduate Student Administrator, Pat Jolly at 220-7288.

## **APPEALS AND APPRAISALS**

For information on appeals and reappraisals please refer to the 2008/2009 University of Calgary calendar page (50-53). Please note the 15-day timeline from the receipt of a mark and a request for reappraisal and/or appeal to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate/Graduate Programs.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Students with a disability who may require academic accommodation are advised to register with the Disability Resource Centre in MacEwan Students Centre Room 293 (Telephone 220-8237). Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.