The University of Southern Queensland  

Course Specification

Description: The Law and Health Care Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>NUR</td>
<td>5340</td>
<td>28140</td>
<td>3, 2003</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>TWMBA</td>
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Academic Group: FOSCI
Academic Org: FOS004
HECS Band: 1
ASCED Code: 060399

STAFFING
Examiner: Jackie Doolan
Moderator: Cath Rogers-Clark

RATIONALE
The expectations of an experienced Registered Nurse and Midwife include a cognisance of the law of their country. If they commit a crime unwittingly they cannot plead ignorance to exempt them from the consequences of their actions. In practice, Registered Nurses and Midwives are faced with many complex legal dilemmas that challenge them to make decisions that will both safeguard themselves and ensure safe practice. To do so effectively, these practitioners need to have a high level of understanding and knowledge of the relevant legal concepts and principles pertaining to their practice.

SYNOPSIS
This course focuses on law for the experienced Registered Nurse and Midwife. It will increase the students' knowledge and understanding of the legal aspects of the relevant Acts and Regulations with regard to their nursing practice.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to, in their context of practice:

- analyse the principles leading to an action in a claim of civil negligence;
- distinguish principles of criminal negligence as compared to civil negligence;
- evaluate the elements of a valid informed consent;
- critically assess own position of being responsible at law;
- critically assess their role in nursing practice in relation to Acts and Regulations governing their practice; and
- propose and evaluate strategies for safe practice in the form of risk management strategies.
### TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Professional Liability - Negligence/Malpractice/professional Misconduct; False imprisonment; Statutory law concerning practice; Documentation and reporting; Record keeping/confidentiality/privacy; Poisons Act/phone orders/transcribing AND</td>
<td>35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Consent - ethical challenges to obtaining an informed consent; emergencies; informed valid consent, assault AND</td>
<td>35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Criminal Law and Nursing or Midwifery Practice OR Mental Health Legislation OR Occupational Health and Safety Legislation</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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### TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the 'Book Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au by entering the author or title of the text.


### REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

*Journal of Law and Medicine*, The Law Book Co Ltd,


STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>120</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>ESSAY 1</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>12 Dec 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSAY 2</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>05 Jan 2004</td>
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<td>ESSAY 3</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>30 Jan 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximize their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 5% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of a pass in this course, students must: (i) obtain an overall mark of at least 50%; and (ii) obtain an overall mark of at least 50% for each assessment item.

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6. Examination information:
   There is no examination in this course.

7. Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.

8. University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might
contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL
http://www.usq.edu.au/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/ or in the printed version of the
current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

9 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the
assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch
date, if requested by the Examiner.

10 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. If requested,
students will be required to provide a copy of assignments submitted for assessment
purposes. Such copies should be despatched to USQ within 24 hours of receipt of
a request being made.

11 The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in
extenuating circumstances.

12 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed
or printed on paper-based media.

13 Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise
disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should
contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements.

14 In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their
area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day.
Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the
Examiner's convenience.

15 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who
have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally
prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up).
An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student
will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non
directed personal study.