University of Colorado, College of Nursing Graduate Course Syllabus

Course Number	Course Name			
NURS 6070	**Policy and Politics of Health**			
			Didactic:	**Clinical**
Term:	Summer 2025	**Course Credits:**	3	
Course Website:	https://ucdenver.instructure.com/courses/565375			

Section Instructor(s):	I03 Kathryn Reed, DNP, WHCNP-C Kathryn.reed@cuanschutz.edu	**Class Meeting: Day/Times** **Optional Zoom sessions TBA**	Online via Canvas LMS (Learning Management System) Asynchronous
Course lead	Kathy Shaw, DNP, RN Kathy.shaw@cuanschutz.edu		
Contact:	Canvas or Outlook email		
Office Hours:	Available upon request Standing office hours TBA		

COURSE Overview:

This online course prepares students to promote health by examining the influence of policy at local, state, national and global levels. Students will analyze healthcare policies to provide context for developing partnerships, models of care, and emerging ethical and legal issues affecting health promotion and disease prevention.

This is a completely online course; however, there is a Practicum Experience where students are required to attend 1 policy meeting or interview a policymaker. Course faculty must approve the experience. **This course will run over 10 weeks.**

 University Course Catalog Description: Examine policy influence on health, healthcare and nursing at local, state, national and global levels. Analyze policies in the context of sociopolitical and health performance environments. Engage in a policy meeting or interview a policy maker.

Content Outline:

1. Health Policy and Advocacy
    a. Introduction to health policy
    b. Health policy advocacy
    c. Ethical and global health policy issues
2. Policy Analysis (focus on selected health policy topic) and impact of Influencers.
    a. Policy analysis in the policy-making process
    b. Determining Influencers (stakeholders)
    c. Evaluating policy performance
    d. Developing policy arguments
3. Developing an Effective Health Policy Advocacy Strategy
    a. Using an advocacy model to guide strategy
    b. Professional leadership and political competency/advocacy
    c. Effective communication with policymakers.
4. Behavioral Health Tools of Engagement (T.O.E.)

Course Competency Outcomes	
1	Examine the significance of health policy for population health, vulnerable populations, and the nursing profession.
2	Create a plan for engaging and informing policy makers.
3	Evaluate a health policy based on sociopolitical and health performance criterion and formulate recommendations.
4	Advocate for health policy by engaging in a policy meeting or interviewing a policy maker.

Course Prerequisites:
Admission to the MS Program or permission of the instructor.

Required Texts and Materials:

Mason, D., Dickson, E., McLemore, M., & Perez, G. (2021). Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care (8th ed). Elsevier. ISBN: 9780323554985

Supplementary (optional) Texts and Materials:
Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2020). American Psychological Association, 7th edition. ISBN: 9781433832178

Week/ date	Topic	Required Textbook Chapters & Readings	Assignment(s)	Due Date(s)
1 June 2-8	**Introduction to the Legislative Process, Health Policy and Advocacy** Learning competency 1	Introduction 1, 2 & 15; Chapters 4, 6, 38 & 39 See the Canvas module for additional content.	**Individual assignments:** post your introduction and read other's introductions. **Legislative Quiz**	**Posts due by 6.8.2025** **Quiz due 6.8**
2 June 9-15	**Ethics and Global Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health** Learning competency 1	Chapters 7, 22, 28, 82; review Ch 23-36 See Canvas module for additional content.	**Individual assignments**: In assigned discussion groups, individually post about 1 SDOH and respond to 2 peers. Post your personal topic of inter course and your practicum expe Canvas assignment.	**Post by: 6.12.2025 Respond by: 6.15.2025** **Topic/meeti ng choice due 6.15.2025**
3 June 16-22	**Change Theories, Policy Analysis** Learning competency 3	Chapters 8 & 9; Pg 59-60 See Canvas module for additional content.	**Meet with your assigned Topic Group**. Establish group norms. **Group completes the Policy Analysis**.	**Due: 6.22.2025**
4 June 23-29	**The Intersection of Change and Policy** Learning competencies 1, 2, 3	Chapters 14 & 17; Pg 2-7 See Canvas module for additional content	Group determines one **specific** healthcare issue to focus on for the semester. **Group completes the ECLIPSE template on chosen topic.**	**Due: 6.29.2025**
5 June 30-July 6	**July 4th- HOLIDAY**		Work on **individual and group assignments**	
6 July 7-13	**Healthcare Reform, Drivers of Health, Influencer Analysis** Learning competencies 1, 2,3,5	Chapter 40 & Page 67 See Canvas module for additional content.	**Individual and group assignment: Influencer Analysis** Individually complete maps; group reviews individual maps and summarizes maps for use in **Advocacy Strategy**	**Due: 7.13.2025**
7 July 14-20	**The Policy Brief as an Advocacy Communication Tool** Learning Competency 2, 3, 5	Chapters 73 & 74, See Canvas module for additional content	**Individual assignment:** post Policy Brief to small group discussion and respond to peer briefs.	**Post by: 7.17.2025 Respond by: 7.20.2025**

8 July 21-27	**Developing Effective Health Policy Advocacy Strategies** Learning competency # 4, 6, 7	Chapters 49, 50 & 67 See Canvas module for additional content.	**Individual assignment:** Record policy forum /meeting/interview video and respond to at least two peers**.** Complete self/peer evaluation on group work.	**Post and respond by: 7.27.2025** **Eval due 7.27.2025**
9 July 28-Aug 3	**Advocacy Strategies** Learning competency # 6,7	See Canvas module for content.	**Group assignment:** Submit group Advocacy Strategy Presentation **Individual Assignment: post group Advocacy Strategy to assigned small group;** Review/respond substantially to all groups other than your own.	**Due 8.2.2025 Post to small groups by: 8.2 Respond by: 8.8.2025**
10 Aug 4- 10	**Course Reflection and Next Steps**		**Individual assignment**: record brief video reflection	**Due 8.10.2025**
	Integrated Behavioral Healthcare for Nurses	See the information in syllabus and Canvas.	**Online Canvas module Virtual simulation Reflection discussion board**	**Can be completed at any time; Due to earn course grade**
Aug 20	**Final course grades due to Registrar**			

Tools of Engagement: Mental Health, Communication, and Longevity in Nursing

Integrated Behavioral Healthcare for Nurses
  This module focuses on how to create a collaborative, integrated, whole-person and equitable approach to physical and behavioral health. Material in this module focuses on coordination of care across the various health care systems and resources that may be involved in treating an individual patient, including awareness of behavioral health care resources and continuity between the medical and behavioral health care systems, and strategies for overcoming barriers to patient participation in mental health and substance use treatment. This module's content is complementary to the Mental Health Responder module's content on mind-body interactions and is also complementary to the interprofessional MI communication techniques presented in the Therapeutic Communication module. The modules are designed to be taken in any order.
Objectives:

1. Understand the connection between mental and physical health.
2. Identify barriers to accessing quality mental health and substance use treatment.
3. Define integrated behavioral healthcare.
4. Identify the impact of integrated behavioral healthcare on patient outcomes.
5. Recognize strategies to provide integrated behavioral healthcare approaches in nursing across the continuum of care.

Module requirements:

1. *Online module – self enroll in the Canvas course.*
2. *Oxford Medical Simulation (OMS) – complete the virtual simulation.*
3. *Discussion board posting in the Tools of Engagement module.*

Instructions for Canvas course self-enrollment and the virtual simulation account access information, will be sent to students via email. After completion of the module, the virtual simulation and the discussion board posting you will receive a certificate of completion. Course faculty will be receiving confirmation of your progress and completion for this assignment. **Completion of all three components is a requirement for successful completion of this course.**
 Resources:

- Questions or issues with access or scheduling can be forwarded to: nursing.elt@cuanschutz.edu
- Questions related to the content and other participation questions can be forwarded to the Coordinator, Laurra Aagaard, Laurra.Aagaard@cuanschuz.edu
- Issues with access to Oxford Medical Simulation (OMS): https://intercom.help/oxford-medical-simulation/en

Course Evaluation:

I.   **Assignments**

II.   **Basis for Final Grade**

Assignment:	Possible Points:	Percent of Final Grade:
Introduction (individual)	2	2
Legislative quiz (individual)	5	5
Submit topic choice and policy forum attending or interview with a policy maker with rationale	Complete/incomplete	0
SDOH- Small group discussion (individual)	8	8
Policy Analysis (group)	10	10
Literature Review, Evidence Table, and ECLIPSE (group)	15	15
Influencer Analysis (individual and group)	10	10
Policy Brief (individual)	10	10
Policy brief small group discussion (individual)	5	5
Policy forum or interview video and discussion (individual)	15	15
Advocacy Strategy Presentation (group)	10	10

Advocacy Strategy Presentation small group discussion (individual)	5	5
Final course reflection and take away (individual)	5	5
NURS 6070 TOTAL	**100**	**100%**
Integrated Behavioral Healthcare for Nurses	Complete/ Incomplete (Required)	0%

Grading Scale   **Grade Dissemination**

Letter Grade	Percent
A	94 –100%
A-	90 –93%
B+	87 –89%
B	84 –86%
B-	80 –83%
C+	77 – 79%
C	74 – 76%
C-	70 – 73%
D+	67 –69%
D	64 – 66%
D-	60 –63%
F	0 – 59%

Grades will be posted in Canvas. Every effort will be made to post grades within 2 weeks of assignment due dates.

Using Artificial Intelligence:
Utilizing ChatGPT or other generative language models is not necessarily a form of plagiarism; it depends on how these are used. In line with JAMA's new policy on generative AI models (https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2807956), you must:
1. Disclose any way in which these models or tools were used to create content or assist with writing or paper preparation, including the name of the tool, version number, and a description of how the tool was used (e.g., for initial idea generation, as part of an Internet reference search, as a style editor), and also,
2. Take responsibility for the integrity of the content generated by these tools, including the accuracy of any references cited.

You can meet this disclosure requirement by adding an addendum to your paper about the use of the technology; the statement about using AI tools does not count toward the page limit within the paper itself. Note, this guidance includes the use of all writing assistive tools (e.g., Grammarly) which include generative AI components. If you are in doubt whether your use of a writing tool is allowable, err on the side of full disclosure.
Failure to disclose your use of AI could be considered plagiarism and result in disciplinary consequences.

Please refer to the University of Colorado, College of Nursing student handbook for detailed information about college policies and expectations. Handbooks are located at: https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/student-life/student-handbooks

Policies
Course Procedures

I.   **Course Policies: Grades**

a.   ***Rounding of Final Course Grades*** Final Course letter grades are calculated and submitted to the registrar based on whole numbers. A minimum standard of rounding in all courses is necessary to provide consistency and transparency to students. Only the final course grade that represents the completion of all coursework will be used for rounding purposes. The calculated final course grade will be rounded using the number in the tenth position after the decimal of the final grade calculations. Final course grades of 0.5 and higher will be rounded up to the next whole number. When the number at the tenth decimal place is less than 0.5 the grade is rounded down to the next whole number. For example, a final course grade of 87.52% will be rounded up to 88%. A final course grade of 87.49% will result in a final grade of 87%.

b.   ***Attendance Policy:***

   i. Class attendance and participation is a professional expectation.

      a. Take responsibility for keeping up with the readings and assignments for each scheduled class or content area.

      b. Class participation and completion of all learning activities is required for successful completion of this course.

      c. Participate in discussions (in class or online) to define, interpret, summarize, give examples, make conclusions, etc. about the concepts discussed and about what your classmates have discussed.

UC Denver Student Attendance and Absences Policy: https://www.ucdenver.edu/docs/librariesprovider284/default-document-library/7000-student-affairs/7030--student-attendance-and-absences.pdf?sfvrsn=beaffdba_4

c.   ***Late Work Policy:***
      Due dates for assignments are clearly posted on the syllabus. It is your responsibility to submit these assignments on time and according to their defined critical elements. Late assignments turned in 24 hours after a posted deadline will not be graded and the student will receive a zero for that assignment unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor. Any assignments turned in late and before 24 hours will incur a 10% grade reduction.

d.   **Late work** is defined as: Any assignment submitted after the posted due date.

e.   **The consequence for late assignments is**:
      The student will receive a 10% reduction for any assignment submitted after the due date AND before 24 hours late. The student will receive a 0 for any assignment turned in 24 or more hours after the due date unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor.

f.   **Extra Credit Policy:** There is no extra credit in this course.

g.   **Make-up Exam Policy:** There are no exams.

h.   **Grades of Incomplete Policy:**

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

   i. ***Rewrite/Resubmit Policy:*** The opportunity for rewrite or resubmit will be negotiated with the instructor of the course on an individual student basis.

   j. ***Group Work:*** Be respectful to each other. Kind words, attend meetings as scheduled, and meet timelines. Establish norms for your group in week one.

II. Course Policies: Technology

a. E-Mail Policy:

Students and faculty must use University of Colorado assigned email addresses or Canvas for all email correspondence. The College of Nursing has the right to send communications to students via e-mail and the right to expect that those communications will be received and read in a timely fashion. Not reading e-mail does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with communication sent to his or her official e-mail address.

Laptop and Mobile Device Usage Policy: Laptops are allowed in class during all class lectures, but must be turned off and stored during exams. Turn off or mute cell phones and pagers during class time. NO cell phone conversations or text messaging is permitted during class or exam time

III. Course Policies: Student Expectations

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and are responsible for all content and class work assigned and/or covered in class or online. CU CON Policy Statement Professional Role Behaviors: https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/student-life/student-handbooks/section-vii-conduct-focusedpolicies#ac-professional-role-behaviors-prb-1

a. Professional Role Behavior and Honor Code:

Students are expected to engage in conduct that a) is consistent with designated policies and procedures of the course and college and b) demonstrates professional behaviors. Students are expected to have read and abide by the **CU-CON Policy Statement for Professional Role Behaviors and the Student Honor and Conduct code**: "The health professions are based on a high degree of trust by the individuals they serve. Students entering the health professions have a particular obligation, therefore, to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity and respect for others" (Student Handbook).

b. Graduate Program Policies and Procedures:

Please refer to the Student Handbook, which can be found online on the main College of Nursing webpage. https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/student-life/student-handbooks

c. Students Called for Military Duty:
Please contact the course coordinator if you are called for military duty. Plans will be made according to the length of military service and class or clinical time missed.

d. Course Ethics:
Merriam-Webster's online dictionary (2005) defines plagiarizing as: To steal and pass

off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source…to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source. (Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, http://www.m-w.com, accessed 08/26/07).

e. The CU College of Nursing Student Honor and Conduct Code policy requires that course professors and fellow students who suspect plagiarism or other violations of the honor code must immediately report the incident to the Student Honor and Conduct Committee. This committee evaluates the situation and determines the appropriate consequences. Potential consequences include termination of the student's enrollment in the College of Nursing. If you are caught violating the honor code, faculty will recommend your dismissal to this committee and to the Dean.

f. Your personal integrity is something that takes you a lifetime to build, but only seconds to destroy. Faculty will expect that all work submitted by you is authentic; and that all online testing answers are your individual work, without any assistance from any other person, the Internet, or any other sources, unless I have stipulated that you may use a specific source to complete the assignment.

IV. Professional Behavior:

The expected outcomes of the student's ability to conduct oneself in a professional manner, and to lead and to engage in effective group interaction will be demonstrated by the student's professional behaviors in the classroom and to their peers. Successful achievement of these outcomes is based on the following critical elements: The student will:

- Adhere to the CON Guidelines for Professional Role Behaviors and the UCD Student Honor and Conduct Code.
- Be considerate of your classmates and faculty and help promote an effective learning atmosphere.
- Communicate to faculty and peers in a professional and respectful manner at all times.
- Email: Professional communication is expected in all emails sent to faculty or other
- students. Use of professional titles, appropriate subject lines, and proper written communication structure.
- Turn off or mute pagers and cell phones during class time. NO cell phone conversations or text messaging is permitted during class or exam time.
- Take responsibility for keeping up with the readings and assignments for each scheduled class or content area.
- Class participation and completion of all learning activities is required for successful completion of this course. Participate in discussions (in class or online) to define, interpret, summarize, give examples, make conclusions, etc. about the concepts discussed and about what your other classmates have discussed.
- Children are not allowed in classrooms. Students must find alternative childcare during class time.

Professional Behavior: refer to the CU CON Policy Statement Professional Role Behaviors: : https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/student-life/student-handbooks/section-vii-conduct-focused-policies#acprofessional-role-behaviors-prb-1

CU CON Children in the Workplace and/or Classroom Policy: https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/studentlife/student-handbooks/section-iv-policies-responsibilities#ac-learning-environmentphysical-space-8

V. Civility: Our commitment is to create a climate for learning characterized by respect for each other and the contributions each person makes to class. We ask that you make a similar commitment.

VI. Inclement Weather Policy:

https://ucdenver.edu/emergencymanagement#ac-natural-disasters-and-severe-weather-conditions-1
UC Denver Emergency Weather: (877) 463-6070 or https://www.cuanschutz.edu/police/cu-alerts/anschutz-alerts

CU CON Inclement Weather Policy (refer to the policy for Anschutz and Legacy) https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/student-life/student-handbooks/section-iv-policies-responsibilities#acinclement-weatherfacility-closure-9

Campus Assessment, Response & Evaluation (CARE*):* The purpose of the team is to assess whether individuals pose a risk to themselves or others and to intervene when necessary and, more generally, to identify and provide assistance to those in need. The team takes a preventive approach to risk assessment by offering resources, referrals, and support to both the concerning individual and those impacted by their behavior. Additional information regarding this resource may be found at:
http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/CARE/Pages/defau

Writing Center: Writing assistance is available through the Writing Center. Additional information regarding this resource may be accessed at: **https://clas.ucdenver.edu/writing-center/**

Religious Observances: The University of Colorado Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus has a legal obligation to accommodate students who must be absent from an educational activity in order to observe religious holidays or other observances. Students should speak to the faculty member to request accommodations for religious observances in advance during the first week of class. Requests received by faculty must be kept confidential and should be considered unless they create an undue hardship. If the student and faculty member cannot agree on an accommodation, the matter should be referred to the Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs for resolution.

lV. University Policies

l. Access
Disability Access: the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is committed to providing equitable access to our programs for students with disabilities (e.g., psychological, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, and physical). To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom and clinical settings please contact **The Office of Disability, Access, and Inclusion** at: disabilityaccess@cuanschutz.edu or begin the process via the website:

https://www.cuanschutz.edu/offices/office-of-disability-access-and-inclusion. Accommodations are not provided retroactively, therefore, students are encouraged to begin this process early.

Nondiscrimination and Sexual Misconduct:
The University of Colorado Denver is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment. University policy and Title IX prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, pregnancy, creed, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, gender identity, gender expression, political philosophy or political affiliation in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its

educational programs and activities. University policy prohibits sexual misconduct, including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or related retaliation.

Title IX requires the university to designate a Title IX Coordinator to monitor and oversee overall Title IX compliance. The University Title IX Coordinator is available to explain and discuss: your right to file a criminal complaint; the university's complaint process, including the investigation process; how confidentiality is handled; available resources, both on and off campus; and other related matters. Students may report allegations of discrimination or harassment through the Office of Equity: https://www.ucdenver.edu/offices/equity.

II. Academic Honesty Student
Code of Conduct:

Students are expected to know, understand, and comply with the ethical standards of the university, including rules against plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submissions, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty.

For suggestions on ways to avoid academic dishonesty, please see the Academic Honesty Handbook at https://clas.ucdenver.edu/writing-center/students/plagiarismturnitin

Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas or words without acknowledgement. The incorporation of another person's work into yours requires appropriate identification and acknowledgement. Examples of plagiarism when the source is not noted include: word- for-word copying of another person's ideas or words; the "mosaic" (interspersing your own words here and there while, in essence, copying another's work); the paraphrase (the rewriting of another's work, while still using their basic ideas or theories); fabrication (inventing or counterfeiting sources); submission of another's work as your own; and neglecting quotation marks when including direct quotes, even on material that is otherwise acknowledge.

Cheating *involves the possession, communication or use of information, materials, notes, study aids, or other devices and rubrics not specifically authorized by the course instructor in any academic exercise, or unauthorized communication with any other person during an academic exercise. Examples of cheating include: copying from another's work or receiving unauthorized assistance from another; using a calculator, computer, or the internet when its use has been precluded; collaborating with another or others without the consent of the instructor; submitting another's work as one's own.*

Fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information - creating results not properly obtained through study or laboratory experiment. Falsification involves deliberate alteration or changing of results to suit one's needs in an experiment or academic exercise.

Multiple *submissions* involves submitting academic work in a current course when academic credit for the work was previously earned in another course, when such submission is made without the current course instructor's authorization.

Misuse of academic materials

 includes: theft/destruction of library or reference materials or computer programs; theft/destruction another student's notes or materials; unauthorized possession of another student's notes or materials; theft/destruction of examinations, papers, or assignments; unauthorized assistance in locating/using sources of information when forbidden or not authorized by the instructor; unauthorized possession, disposition, or use of examinations or

answer keys; unauthorized alteration, forgery, fabrication, or falsification of academic records; unauthorized sale or purchase of examinations, papers, or assignments.

Complicity in academic dishonesty involves knowingly contributing to or cooperating with another's act(s) of academic dishonesty.

Important Dates to Remember The College of Nursing academic calendar is available at
https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/student-life/academic-calendar-and-resources