

## Welcome Letter for Health Legislation and Social Policy

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Hello and welcome to Health Legislation and Social Policy!

Dear Future Policy Students, As your instructor for Health Legislation and Social Policy - NUR 570, I wanted to make contact with the group. As you know, our class will be conducted online. We will use an asynchronous model so that you may choose the times you wish to engage in class work and online exercises during the week. However, during the first week of class we will meet for one time in person for an orientation to the use of Blackboard for the online course and to review class goals, methods and expectations. I will share the syllabus with you at that time.

Our orientation meeting is scheduled for 1/18 from 6 to 7 PM in Atrium Room 114 ( computer lab). For those students who have class that evening, please plan to meet with me at 4PM on the 18th for a course overview. If you are in the latter group and have limited or no experience with online Black board please let me know.

The text book for our class will be Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care (5th ed.) by Mason, D. J., Leavitt, J. K. and Chafee, M.W. (Eds.) The text book is available at the WPU bookstore. A new (6th) edition of the text will be released later in 2011. We will use the 5th edition for the class. If you wish to get a head start on the readings I would suggest starting with Chapters 1- 3. The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association ( 6th ed.) will also be a required resource.

I very much look forward to working with all of you . I am passionate about our potential as Nurses to benefit the world around us and I believe policy is one important way to do this. I hope to help you to develop knowledge and tools with which to impact policy in the ways you feel are important. I have appended below the course description and an explication.

All The Best, Sarah Valentine, MSN, RN, FNP

## COURSE DESCRIPTION CONSISTENT WITH WPUNJ CATALOG:

Explores the political process and development of social policy. Specific legislation that has had an impact on health care delivery is examined in detail with application to community based nursing. Emphasis is on the role of the community-based nurse as a politically active client advocate. Explication: This course explores the relationship of nursing to public policy. We look at the ways in which public policy affects our practice as nurses as well as the way policy interacts with factors affecting the health of those we serve or might serve. This course will expand our understanding of nursing 's potential for improving the health of others via political engagement and will begin to develop knowledge and tools for generating change through involvement in policy formation. We will examine spheres of political influence including the U.S. government, nursing organizations, nursing workplace settings and community structures.

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### **How to Access Blackboard:**

To log on to Bb point your web browser to <http://bb.wpunj.edu> and click the Login button in the upper left. Then enter your username and password in the spaces provided and click login again -- you'll find your course Bb sites listed on the right.

Some things to be aware of as you work with Blackboard:

1. You probably won't find all your courses listed; the only ones that will appear are those that have been activated by the professor teaching the course. Professors who don't use Blackboard will not activate their courses.
2. Your username is comprised of your lastname and firstinitial, usually appended with a numeral. If you don't know your WPUNJ system username password you can use the Username lookup link at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or go to it directly at <http://www.wpunj.edu/username>
3. If you are already logged in to the WPUNJ system through WPCConnect you won't have to re-enter your username and password -- just click the first login button.
4. Blackboard documentation can be found in two places: at Bb Home, <http://bb.wpunj.edu>, before one logs in, and in the Blackboard Support tab after one has logged on.
5. You can always obtain Bb help by using the Problem Report form at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or by going to it directly at <https://liberty.wpunj.edu/bb/support-center/> .
6. Blackboard courses will use student email; third-party email addresses will

not work on Bb

**Good luck and have fun in the course! Sarah Valentine, RN, MSN, FNP**