**Abstract**

**Title: Teaching Compassion: Incorporating Jean Watson’s Caritas Processes into a Care at the End of Life Course for Senior Nursing Students**

**Background**

The Institute of Medicine report on Death in America recommends that all clinicians across disciplines and specialties who care for people with advanced serious illness should be competent in basic end of life care, including communication skills, interprofessional collaboration, and symptom management. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has identified that nursing students are not well prepared to deliver quality care to those patients who are facing serious illness and end of life. Nurses are required to provide competent, compassionate, and culturally sensitive care for patients and their families at the time of diagnosis of a serious illness through the end of life

**Purpose** The authors utilized Jean Watson’s theory of Transpersonal Care and the Caritas Processes™ in teaching students compassionate care in the course, Care at the End of Life. This course addresses issues faced by patients, families, and health care providers at the end-of life.

**Findings** Watson’s Caritas Processes™ and concepts of caring moments, and multiple ways of knowing were integrated into each of the course modules. Through required readings from Watson’s publications, videos, lectures, guest speakers, discussion, assignments and projects,

students were introduced to the foundation of Caring Science as they addressed issues faced by patients, families, and health care providers at the end-of-life.

**Conclusion:** Students reported that following the course they were more aware of how to provide compassionate care at the end of life.

Costello, M. & Barron, A. (2017) Teaching Compassion: Incorporating Jean Watson’s Caritas Processes into a Care at the End of Life Course for Senior Nursing Students. International Journal of Caring Sciences 10 (3) 1113-1117.