Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Nursing and Health Sciences

Health Law and Ethics
HLSC 4310
FALL 2013

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This is an online course. It is asynchronous and entirely self-paced, subject to assignment deadlines and discussion units.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A comprehensive study of the legal and ethical aspects of the health care delivery system is presented.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TEACHING METHODS

Web discussion, web lecture, independent reading and study will be used to stimulate the development of an understanding of the legal and ethical principles of health care. The student is responsible for identification of individual learning needs, self-direction, and demonstration that learning has occurred. Faculty will provide guidance to assist student’s successful completion of this course.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to follow instructions associated with the assignments for this course. Students who are confused about an assignment should contact the instructor in a timely manner. Technical problems associated with Blackboard should be anticipated and addressed via TAMUCC Tech Support! Late submitted work due to “BB issues” is not ordinarily an accepted justification. Please practice good time management and post assignments on time (or ahead of schedule) to avoid late penalties. Bottom line- understand the distance learning platform and submit work as scheduled!!

Plagiarism vs. Paraphrasing: The former is evidence of academic dishonesty and will cause serious damage to your career. The latter may or may not be offensive and abusive, depending on the adequacy of citations and use of one’s own words and
thoughts. **CUIDADO….MUY PELIGROSO!!** It is best to avoid close paraphrasing and cite the words and works of others unambiguously.

The highest standards of academic honesty are expected from the student. Faculty adheres to the University policy regarding academic honesty as published in the University Catalog. Refer to APA Manual, and the TAMUCC Lib for the proper way to use and cite quoted material.

The TAMUCC Lib and the Purdue University “OWL” (Online Writing Lab) have a wealth of resources on academic integrity and writing skills. This is a VERY serious matter, especially for licensed professionals, such as nurses!!

**REQUIRED TEXT**


*If you can get a used copy really cheap, do so……save pesos.*

Other readings noted in class assignments. The instructor will be posting a considerable amount of course content and related materials for which you are responsible. You will find it in the Discussions area as well as in the Units and Course Content.

**GRADING & EVALUATION**

1. Each student will be expected to have read the textbook in full during the first 6 weeks of the course; the assigned text is not unduly long or burdensome; the text should be reviewed not with an emphasis on retention of trivia but with a focus on understanding key concepts and terms.

2. **The core of the course and the heart of an interactive, dynamic distance learning course are the discussion units, of which there will be a number throughout the course.** A substantial portion of your grade is allocated to this activity. Specifications, dates, topics and related information will be posted within the classroom. Suffice it to say, participation, on a regular, weekly, substantive and responsive manner, including student interactions, will be expected and encouraged. **NOTE:** Waiting until the end of the multi-week unit to post your participation is NOT indicative of “A” quality or even fully acceptable work!! You will find this instructor is far more active in the discussions than many other faculty; the same is expected of good students!!

3. Students are expected to complete a course evaluation at the end of the course. An evaluation indicating high satisfaction and great esteem for the faculty is not mandatory……*but it really is appreciated……*
4. Final grades are based on the following criteria:

- Unit Participation, Discussions 35% (in all forms, evenly distributed among the discussion units)
- Research Paper (Appellate Opinion Analysis) 30%
- Final Examination 35%

Total 100%

5. Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75 - 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67 - 74</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>66 &amp; Below</td>
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ASSIGNMENTS

All students are expected to have read and completed all assignments **ON TIME**. Late penalties will be (reluctantly) imposed for work not excused. Details on the research paper will be provided in the BB classroom. **Please note**- Assignments are to be copied and pasted, with a backup only in Word acceptable. If you have format/APA concerns, attach a backup copy. If you either attach a document only or one I cannot open or (worse) you think you posted an assignment to BB for grading but in fact its merely listed as an “attempted posting” (that is, its not allowing grading), you have NOT completed an assignment for grading. There will be a major penalty! Tech Support should be on your speed dial……..Please address frustration, screams, anger, etc to my colleagues in Texas….not to your hard working instructor……

ATTENDANCE

If you are unable to meet the deadline for a scheduled Unit and/or Assignment please contact the instructor as soon as possible. I will work with you if I can. Having said that, please plan for the expected “unexpected.” I have heard every excuse under the sun….

EXAMINATIONS

Each student will take a comprehensive final examination that will reflect the student's knowledge of all of the health care law topics covered in the course. The examination will consist of somewhat subjective, narrative questions for which critical thinking and problem recognition, coupled with cogent, lucid writing, are the key criteria. Memorization of trivia is not the focus of your exam!

ACADEMIC HONESTY
The university catalog contains the University statement on academic integrity. It is essential that anyone considering a health career demonstrate honesty and integrity in their academic and professional life. Even lawyers are expected to behave ethically! Therefore, cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade in the course and possibly further disciplinary action by the university.

COURSE SCHEDULE:
The material in this syllabus and dates identified in the classroom are subject to change. Students will be notified of changes in a timely manner. Please stay informed, however, via checking into the classroom often and reading announcements and emails.

The precise dates for the discussion units and the due dates for the research paper and final exam and the germane textbook chapters will all be posted in the Discussions area. In addition, course materials will be posted with the discussion units to make them more accessible to you. We will start with Unit I. Text chapters will be identified with the units as well. This teaching style may be a departure from that employed by my faculty colleagues; please do not worry……you will find our focusing on the Discussions very handy and productive!

FINAL WORD

As a former Texan and having taught nurses and other heath professionals for years, I consider it an honor and pleasure to be your faculty member. Faculty (usually) is not “the enemy”….I serve as your facilitator and guide on a journey of exploration to the legal field. If you work reasonably hard on participation, writing assignments clearly and on time and reading your text and other materials, you will succeed here. In fact, I earnestly wish you to succeed in my course and in your other courses. I grade fairly and seek to bring a sense of humor, open-mindedness and even kindness to this shared experience…..so do your best, never hesitate to contact me about anything and prepare yourself for the study of law and ethics. If I can enhance and improve the course, please let me know. If there are issues you wish to discuss in the Units, please let me know too. All points of view are welcome without fear or retribution. Best of luck y Buena suerte!!