Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

HLSC 4310: Health Law

Syllabus
Fall 2015

FACULTY: Mr. Gary Hall

OFFICE: Island Hall, Office 328B

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

TELEPHONE: (361) 885-0943

EMAIL: Blackboard email is preferred contact method
       gary.hall.attorney@gmail.com

FAX: (361) 885-0191

CREDITS: semester hours (3:0)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
A study of the legal and related ethical aspects of the health care delivery system including
governing boards, liabilities, consent and malpractice as well as other related topics. Current
governmental, state, and other regulating bodies are presented.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Understand legal standards applicable to health care professionals and organizations
- Understand the role of legal rules and regulations in strategy and planning
- Use legal reasoning as a broad analytic and communications tool
- Identify the relationship between ethical values and legal norms
- Promote ethical values as being integral to effective decision-making
- Understanding the functions of and interaction between courts, legislatures, regulators
- Analyzing the role of the legal system in health policy and health care delivery
- Developing strategies for and ways of communicating with attorneys
- Applying basic tort, contract, and corporate law principles
- Understanding law’s limits in providing definitive answers

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REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:


Other readings as noted in class assignments

LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TEACHING METHODS:

Discussion, lecture, independent reading, group assignments, and in-class exercises are used to stimulate the development of an understanding of the principles of health care law and ethics.

In preparation as a knowledge worker, the student is responsible for the identification of individual learning needs, self-direction, and demonstration that learning has occurred. TAKE NOTES; ask questions - there is no such thing as a stupid question. Review your notes between classes and ask your instructor to clarify points that are not well understood before the start of another topic. Faculty will provide guidance to assist every student’s successful completion of this course.

Case Presentations and Class Participation

Although all students are expected to have read and be prepared to discuss all assigned cases, each student will serve as the lead discussant on selected cases. (The number will vary depending on the number of students enrolled in the course). As lead discussant, the student should be thoroughly knowledgeable of the case assigned and will be expected to provide the facts, issue, and holding of the case, as well as be prepared to answer any additional questions. Cases will be assigned randomly for preparation of a written brief of the case.

Examination

Each student will take a comprehensive final examination that will reflect the student's knowledge of basic legal terminology as well as the basic health care law topics. The examination will consist of objective and essay components.

Appellate Brief and Oral Argument

Students, in four-person teams, will be required to prepare an appellate brief on a selected case scenario and present oral argument related to such topic. Specifics regarding the content of such brief and oral argument will be given to students in the first 3 weeks of class.

Attendance

Students are required to attend 80% of all scheduled classes. With prior notice and sufficient
justification, attendance at less than 80% of the scheduled classes may be permitted. Substantial remedial work will be required for each class missed. You do not need to call me if you are going to miss class.

Miscellaneous

Be sure to photocopy all papers before handing them in. Recording devices are prohibited in the classroom.

**GRADING OF COURSE ACTIVITIES**

The relative contribution to the final course grade is distributed as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Course Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Presentation/Participation</td>
<td>33.3% of final course grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appellate Brief/Oral Argument</td>
<td>33.3% of final course grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>33.3% of final course grade</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading Scale of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83 – 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 – 82%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 – 74%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 67%</td>
<td>F</td>
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Extra credit work will not be accepted.

**POLICIES:**

**Evaluation Input From Students**

The faculty of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences places great value on evaluative input from students. Evaluation of courses, instructors and clinical facilities provides the College with important data which is used to strengthen the program. Data is analyzed as to trends and themes and is important to curriculum and sequencing decisions. All evaluations for courses posted are online. The online mechanism allows us the opportunity to tabulate and store information in order to analyze trends within the curriculum. Please be assured that this information is secured and not released until after grades are submitted. No names are available to faculty. In order to garner some reliability and validity, the College must have representative data from the student population. That representation, based on the literature, has been set at 70%. The College is anticipating that students will thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process which will assist the faculty with the growth of the program. A link to evaluations will be available on Blackboard toward the end of the semester. Thank you in advance for your assistance with the evaluation process.
Academic Integrity and Honesty

It is expected that University students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to a penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own). Please see the following sites for additional information:

- University Student Handbook and Code of Conduct: [http://www.tamucc.edu/~students](http://www.tamucc.edu/~students)
- University catalog related to academic integrity and honesty: [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/)
- University Rules and Procedures: [University Procedure 13.02.99.C3.01 Academic Misconduct Cases](http://www.tamucc.edu/~students)

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 361.825.5816 or visit the office in CCH 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disabilities Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816

Title IX

As part of the Texas A & M Corpus Christi University policy, pregnant students are urged to contact the Title IX office for facilitation of academic issues impacted by pregnancy, delivery and subsequent complications. Contact information: Mr. Samuel Ramirez, Title IX Coordinator or Ms. Rosie Ruiz, Deputy Title IX Coordinator (825-5826).

Active Military Duty

Active duty military personnel, military spouses, and veterans with special circumstances (eg: deployment, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the course and clinical instructor.

Grade Appeals Process

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The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) adheres to the University’s student grade appeal procedures described in Section 13.02.99.C2.01 (revised May, 2013) and follows those guidelines. See http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/ for the University procedure and see http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/ for the CONHS process identified in the Student Handbook.

Support Services

Students are encouraged to seek faculty assistance in accessing University Services, including tutoring, health services, personal counseling, degree counseling, financial aid, learning resources, job/work placement, career guidance, and computer/technical support/instruction. If a student is interested in other support services provided by the University, the student is encouraged by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the University to seek these services.