Health Law

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

3 sem. hrs. (3:0) Introduces law and the legal system with special emphasis on health-related topics and policies, and key health law issues. Includes the study of the legal and regulatory environment of health care and the administration of health services with a review of the laws pertaining to healthcare institutions, physicians, and other healthcare workers who contribute to patient care. Tort and contract law are emphasized. The course addresses policy issues and ethics through topics like patient rights, reproduction, and end of life decisions.

Prerequisite: Completion of 3000 level courses

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. Understand legal standards applicable to health care professionals and organizations.
2. Understand the role of legal rules and regulations in strategy and planning.
3. Use legal reasoning as a broad analytic and communications tool.
4. Identify the relationship between ethical values and legal norms.
5. Promote ethical values as being integral to effective decision-making.
6. Understand the functions of and interaction between courts, legislatures, regulators.
7. Apply basic tort, contract, and corporate law principles.
8. Analyze the role of the legal system in health policy and health care delivery.
9. Identify and discuss emerging US health policy issues.
10. Apply course material to problem-solving and decision-making skills.

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:**

George D. Pozgar, *Legal and Ethical Issues for Health Professionals (5th Ed.)*, Jones and Bartlett Learning, Publishers. **ISBN:** 9781284144185

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, small groups of students 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 students should be thoroughly knowledgeable of the case or case study 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.

Graded Discussions

Individual graded discussions will address current issues in health law. Students will post original essays and reply to the postings of peers.

Examination

Each student weekly quizzes that will reflect the student's knowledge of basic legal terminology as well as the basic health care law topics.

Research Paper

Students will complete a research paper based on current legal/ethical issues relevant to healthcare administration or health delivery.

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 contribution to the final course grade is as follows.

- Case Presentation/Discussion Participation
- Research Paper
- Chapter Quizzes:

Grading Scale of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences:

- 90 – 100%: A
- 83 – 89%: B
- 75 – 82%: C
- 67 – 74%: D
- Less than 67%: F

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

University catalog related to academic integrity and honesty:  http://catalog.tamucc.edu/


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

Civil Rights Reporting

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to fostering a culture of caring and respect that is free from discrimination, relationship violence and sexual misconduct, and ensuring that all affected students have access to services. For information on reporting Civil Rights complaints, options and support resources (including pregnancy support accommodations) or university policies and procedures, please contact the University Title IX Coordinator, Sam Ramirez at Samuel.ramirez@tamucc.edu or Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Rosie Ruiz at Rosie.Ruiz@tamucc.edu ext. 5826, or visit website at Title IX/Sexual Assault/Pregnancy.

Limits to confidentiality. Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, are not able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report alleged or suspected civil rights discrimination that is observed by or made known to an employee in the course and scope of their employment. As the instructor, I must report allegations of civil rights discrimination, including sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator if you share it with me.

These reports will trigger contact with you from the Civil Rights/Title IX Compliance office who will inform you of your options and resources regarding the incident that you have shared. If you would like to talk about these incidents in a confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with counselors in the University Counseling Center.
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

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/](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/) for the University procedure and see [http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/](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.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. See TAMUCC Academic Calendar for the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
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| 1    | **Read syllabus and course schedule**  
      Post your Introduction to your classmates by Sept 1 in BB Discussion Forum | **Syllabus Quiz** (complete quiz by Sunday before 11:59 pm) |
| 2    | Read CH 1: Intro to Ethics  
      **Review Powerpoint**  
      Read CH 2: Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas  
      **Review Powerpoint** | Ch 1 Quiz and Ch 2 Quiz (you must complete by Sunday before 11:59pm)  
      Activity 1: Turn in Word Doc by Sunday before 11:59pm |
| 3    | Read CH 3: End of Life  
      **Review Powerpoint** | Ch 3 Quiz (you must complete by Sunday before 11:59pm)  
      Activity 2: Turn in Word Doc by Sunday before 11:59pm |
| 4 and 5 | Read CH 4: HC Ethics Committee  
      Read CH 5: Development of Law  
      **Review Powerpoint** | Ch 4 and 5 Quiz (you must complete by Sunday before 11:59pm)  
      Ch 4 Graded Discussion (Turn in Word Doc by Sunday before 11:59pm) |
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<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 and 7</td>
<td>Read CH 6: Introduction to Law&lt;br&gt;<strong>Review Powerpoint</strong>&lt;br&gt;Read CH 7: Gov’t, Ethics and the Law&lt;br&gt;<strong>Review Powerpoint</strong></td>
<td>Ch 6 and 7 Quiz (you must complete by Sunday before 11:59pm)&lt;br&gt;Ch 5 Graded Discussion (you must complete by Sunday before 11:59pm)&lt;br&gt;Activity 3: Sole Supplier (due by Sunday before 11:59pm)</td>
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<td>8 and 9</td>
<td>Individual Research Paper details published.&lt;br&gt;Read CH 8: Organizational Ethics and the Law&lt;br&gt;<strong>Review Powerpoint</strong>&lt;br&gt;Read CH 11: Employee Rights and Responsibilities&lt;br&gt;<strong>Review Powerpoint</strong></td>
<td>Ch 8 and 11 Quiz (Complete by Sunday before 11:59pm)&lt;br&gt;Review Research Paper Details, format and deadline.&lt;br&gt;Activity 4: A Pharmacist Refuses (Complete by Sunday before 11:59pm)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Read CH 9: HC Professionals’ Ethical and Legal Issues,&lt;br&gt;<strong>Review Powerpoint</strong>&lt;br&gt;Read 10: Physicians’ Ethical and Legal Issues&lt;br&gt;<strong>Review Powerpoint</strong></td>
<td>Ch 9 and 10 Quiz (Complete by Sunday before 11:59pm)&lt;br&gt;Ch 9 Graded Discussion (See your assigned question in chart in Unit Excel file. Post answer and two replies to other students in Blackboard Discussion Group by Sunday before 11:59pm)&lt;br&gt;Activity 5 (Submit Answers as Word Doc by Sunday before 11:59pm)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Read CH 12: Patient Consent&lt;br&gt;<strong>Review Powerpoint</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>OUTLINE of Research Paper due</strong></td>
<td>Ch 12 Quiz (Complete by Sunday before 11:59pm)&lt;br&gt;Ch 10 Graded Discussion (See your assigned question in chart in Unit Excel file. Post answer and two replies to other students in Blackboard Discussion Group by Sunday before 11:59pm)&lt;br&gt;<strong>OUTLINE of Research Paper due Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Read CH 13: Patient Abuse&lt;br&gt;<strong>Review Powerpoint</strong>&lt;br&gt;DRAFT of Research Paper due</td>
<td>Ch 13 Quiz (Complete by Sunday 11:59 pm)&lt;br&gt;DRAFT of Research Paper due Sunday</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Read CH 14: Patient Rights and Responsibilities</td>
<td>Ch 14 Quiz (Complete by Sunday 11:59 pm)</td>
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<td><strong>Review Powerpoint</strong></td>
<td>Activity 6 (Submit Word Doc answers in Blackboard by Sunday before 11:59 pm)</td>
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<td><strong>Comments returned to each of you by Professor before Sunday 11:59 pm</strong></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Research Paper (100 points) due Sunday before 11:59 pm; turn into BB</td>
<td>Research Paper (100 points) due Sunday</td>
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