

**DRSC 4312 - Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Sciences**  
Spring 2019  
University of Texas at El Paso, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

**Professor:** Anita Bialunska, PhD

**Credit Hours:** 3 credits

**Class time:** Friday 12:30 - 3:20 PM

**Classroom:** 206 HSSN

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**Office Hours:** Thursday 1:00–3:00 PM

**Office:** 482 HSSN

**Course Description:** Introduction to legal and ethical principles in rehabilitation professions practice and research. A case-study approach will be used to introduce principles, identify issues and resolve ethical challenges commonly faced by health professionals.

**Textbook:** Stanford, C. C. & Connor, V. J. (2019). *Applied Law and Ethics for Health Professionals*. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Additional readings on *Blackboard*

**Course Goals:**

1. Introduce students to ethical issues commonly experienced in the health professions.
2. Present principles and methods of problem-solving to resolve ethical dilemmas.
3. Help students develop a working knowledge of the vocabulary and resources available to guide ethical decision-making.
4. Gain confidence in effective communication about ethical issues.

**Student Learning Objectives.** At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Define and give examples of morality and moral values, duties, rights, character traits and professional responsibilities.
2. Differentiate between laws, regulations, policies and ethical responsibilities and give an example of ways in which these may conflict.
3. Evaluate a professional code of ethics in a profession of interest and identify and describe the ethical duties illustrated.
4. Identify and illustrate several approaches to ethical problem solving.
5. Give examples of approaches to support and conflict in peer and professional relationships in the health care environment, including professional responsibilities, and “whistle-blowing”.
6. Analyze a patient “bill of rights” and identify the expectations that a patient would have of his/her health care providers.
7. Discuss approaches to cases where principles of confidentiality, information disclosure and informed consent must be applied.
8. Discuss ethical issues related to organ transplant, end of life care and suicide.
9. Explore global health ethical issues such as human security and environmental justice and related approaches.

**Course Format:** Lecture, in-class active learning assignments, use of Blackboard and iClicker for synchronous and asynchronous learning activities.

**Course Policies and Other Information:**

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations, you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148. You can also e-mail the office at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu) or go by Room 106, Union Building East. For additional information, visit the CASS website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>.

**Blackboard:** Class information will be posted on *Blackboard* including the syllabus, lecture notes, and assignment instructions. There will be many activities and assignments conducted online, so you will need to refer to this resource frequently (at least once per week). Go to the UTEP *Blackboard* site, log on with your ID, and choose DRSC 4312 from your list of accessible courses.

**iClicker:** the audience response system will be used to assess engagement of students in proposed activities and comprehension of the material.

**Academic Integrity:** All academic work must meet the standards described in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures, with particular attention to Section II: Student Affairs, Chapter 1, Section 1.2.2 Prohibited Conduct, § 1.2.2.1 Scholastic Dishonesty. Each student is responsible to inform himself or herself about those standards before performing any academic work. Additional specifications for this course include:

- All final assignments, except for the designated group projects, are individual.
- You are expected to turn in your own written work, which was done specifically for this course, for individual assignments.
- You must cite references for any work used that is not your own.
- Group assignments require participation by all team members.

**Attendance/Assignment Due Dates:**

- Regular attendance is expected, but if you are ill or cannot attend class, notify me before class time or within 24 hours by email, phone message, or in person. You are responsible for getting any work missed from a classmate.
- You are responsible for completing assigned readings before class and projects by the due dates as stated in the syllabus. Assignments are required to be submitted prior to or by the designated due date (at 11:59 PM). Late assignments will not be accepted, unless due to documented illness or emergency, *and will result in zero points*. A physician's excuse or documentation of an emergency is required for a late assignment to be accepted without penalty.
- Make up tests are not available without a physician's excuse or documentation of an emergency. If you are not present to take a quiz, that will be the grade that is dropped.
- Please notify me before class if you know you will not be able to attend class due to religious holidays so that we can arrange for work missed to be made up. You will **not** be penalized for absences or late assignments due to the observance of religious holidays.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Student learning outcomes and participation will be assessed by:

Assignment	Due Date	Point value	% of total	Description
Reflection papers	See calendar	10 (5 pts each)	5	Prepare a written reflection on an assigned reading (up to two pages, format info – see below). This needs to demonstrate the evolution of your thought processes about ethics.
Burning Questions	See calendar	20 (5 pts each)	10	Students will pose two thoughtful and well-informed questions on Blackboard, and will respond to at least two questions posed by classmates per discussion.
Midterm Exam	March 15	40	20	Exam will include multi-choice questions on all material covered to date.
Quizzes	See calendar	40 (10 pts each x 4)	20	These may be in-class or on-line, and will include pop quizzes.
Team Project: Review of law and policy	May 8	40	20	Students will be divided into groups and assigned a specific discipline, and will review state laws/regulatory policies related to ethics. You will be scored as a team <i>and</i> individually.
Final Exam	May 17	40	20	Exam will include short answer and essay questions and case studies over all material.
Participation Points		10	5	Active participation is expected, includes iclicker system and lack thereof will result in deductions of points
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>200 possible points</b>		

**Grades will be assigned as follows:**

180-200 points = A

160-179 points = B

140-159 points = C

120-139 points = D

Below 119 points = F

## Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment	What's Due
1/25	Syllabus Review Defining basic concepts History of ethics	Letters from a Birmingham Jail (King, 1963)	Introduce yourself due 1/30 11:59 PM
2/1	Decision Processes in Ethics: Models (part 1)	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 1 Assigning teams' work	Reflection paper #1 due 2/6, 2019 11:59 PM
2/8	Decision Processes in Ethics: Belmont, Tuskegee, Holocaust - Where are we now? (part 2)	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 2 and Ch. 3	Quiz #1 Chapters 1, 2, and 3
2/15	Professional Competence and News You Can Use	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 5 and Ch. 6	Reflection paper #2 due 2/18, 2019 11:59 PM
2/22	Legislation and professional regulations	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 7	Quiz #2 Chapters 5, 6, and 7
3/1	Review of Codes of Ethics across disciplines	Links to Codes of Ethics	Teams' short presentations on 3/1, 2019 and Burning questions #1 due 3/6, 2019 11:59 PM
3/8	Ethical decision-making; evidence- based practice	Finn, et al., 2005	
3/15	Mid-term Exam	Covers all material to date	
3/22	Spring Break	No class	
3/29	Cesar Chavez Day	no class	
4/5	End of life/feeding issues – debating the most ethical outcome.	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 8 New Yorker article	Burning questions #2 due 4/8, 2019 11:59 PM
4/12	The Scope of Confidentiality	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 4	Quiz #3 Chapter 4
4/19	How are ethical decisions made?	Watch <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>	Burning questions #3 due 4/19, 2019 11:59 PM
4/26	Ethical issues in global healthcare Watch <i>What are we doing here?</i>	Yassi, et al., 2013	Burning Questions #4 due 4/29, 2019 11:59 PM
5/3	Controversial Issues in Healthcare	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 9	Quiz #4 Chapter 9 Teams' Projects due 5/8, 2019 11:59 PM
5/10	Pseudoscience in clinical practice – how do we know what to do?	Review of websites	
5/17	Final Exam	Comprehensive; On-line	Due by 1:00 pm

**\*\*NOTE:** This schedule represents a general outline for the semester, and may be modified at Dr. Anita Bialunski's discretion, according to pace of the class and the needs of the students.