



## Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Sciences

University of Texas at El Paso, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

Professor: Anita Bialunska, PhD, CBIS

Summer II 2019



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**Credit Hours:** 3 credits

**Class time:** M, W, & F 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Classroom:** 206 HSSN

**E-mail:** [abialunski@utep.edu](mailto:abialunski@utep.edu)

**Office Hours:** Thursday 10:00–11:00 AM

**Office:** 482 HSSN

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## 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 faced by health professionals.

## Textbook

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

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard

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## Course Goals

1. Introduce students to ethical issues experienced in the health professions.
2. Present principles and methods of problem-solving to deal with 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, suicide, and medical marijuana.
9. Explore global health ethical issues such as human security and environmental justice and related approaches.

## Course Format

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*In-class and online modules, active learning assignments; use of Blackboard for synchronous and asynchronous learning activities.*

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## Course Policies and Other Information:

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***Blackboard: Is an integral part of the course.***

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Class information will be posted on *Blackboard* including calendar, syllabus, each module instructions, and assignments instructions. There will be many activities and assignments conducted online, so you will need to refer to Blackboard frequently, at least every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday between 7 pm and 10 pm to check out for updates. Go to the UTEP *Blackboard* site, log on with your ID, and choose DRSC 4312 from your list of accessible courses.

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### ***Online Communication Code***

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- Communicating online remember that you're dealing with other human beings.
  - What might be acceptable in an online message board is not when posting professional or academic blog content.
  - Understand that we may disagree and that exposure to other people's opinions is part of the learning experience when done courteously and respectfully.
  - Cyber-Harassment is unacceptable here including trolling, flaming, bullying, sexual inappropriateness, and stalking.
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***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/>.***

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**After getting a letter of accommodations from the CASS student has to meet with the professor (same or next week) during the office hours to discuss how to implement particular accommodations in this course.**

## 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 assignments, except for the designated group projects, are individual.
- You are expected to turn in (online only using Blackboard) your own written work, which was done specifically for this course, for an individual assignment.

- You must cite references for any work used that is not your own.
- Group assignments require participation by **all** team members.
- Tests are posted on Blackboard with specific instruction included in Schedule, i.e. either require LockDown Browser, or have to be taken in class, or can be taken remotely, outside the class.

### 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 keeping track of all assignments, and 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 (posted on Fridays) are required to be submitted **prior to or by** the designated due date (Saturdays 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 able 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

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*Student learning outcomes and participation will be assessed by:*

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Assignment	Due Date	Point value	% of total	Description
Burning Questions	See calendar	20 (5 pts each x 4)	20	Students will pose reflections and at least two thoughtful and wellinformed questions on Blackboard and will respond to questions posed by classmates per discussion.
Quiz	Jul 12	10	10	It will be a part of an on-line module.
Team Project: Review of law and policy	Aug 2	30	30	Students will be divided into groups and assigned a specific discipline and will review state laws/regulatory policies related to ethics. During the last class you will present briefly conclusions about your assigned discipline. You will be scored as a team.
Final Test	Aug 5	40	40	Final test will be comprehensive and include short answer, true/false, matching questions and case studies over all material.
TOTAL		100 possible points		

Extra Credit Assignment (10 points) is an option. It will include participation in a research study conducted in Dept. Rehab. Sciences. Details will be provided by Professor.

## Grades will be assigned as follows

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*90-100 points = A*

*80-89 points = B*

*70-79 points = C*

*60-69 points = D*

*Below 59 points = F*

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