

**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Doctor of Physical Therapy Program**

**PT 6201**

**Law and Ethics in PT Practice**

**Summer 2015**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Credit Hours:** 2

**Contact Hours:** 30 (10 weeks plus final)

**Schedule:** Mon & Wed  
9:00-10:20am (except where noted in yellow on the syllabus  
and/or noted on Blackboard)

Campbell Building Room 115

**Instructor:** Celia Pechak, PT, PhD, MPH  
Office: Campbell Building Room 311  
Office phone: 915-747-7289  
Office hours: Noon-1:00pm on Mon & Wed; or drop in or email  
for appointment (send me an email with 3 time options that you  
are open)  
E-mail: [cmpechak@utep.edu](mailto:cmpechak@utep.edu)

**Course Description:**

Ethical principles and legal factors which influence healthcare in general and physical therapy practice in Texas are introduced.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Explain content and purposes of key legal, ethical, and professional documents and principles that guide physical therapy practice (including APTA Code of Ethics, Texas PT Practice Act and Rules, APTA Guide for Professional Conduct, APTA Standards of Practice, APTA Core Professional Values, and health care principles). (CC-2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4)
2. Explain the limits of direct access in the state of Texas and how to advance it through the legislative process. (CC-2, 5.53, 5.66)
3. Determine the role of the physical therapist assistant based on professional and legal standards. (CC-2, 5.40)
4. Apply legal and ethical guiding documents and principles for physical therapy in the analysis of given scenarios. (CC-2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4)
5. Discuss federal statutes pertaining to the practice of physical therapy and patient rights (including ADA, HIPAA, Patient Self-Determination Act). (CC-2, 5.1)

6. Explain malpractice and risk management strategies related to the practice of physical therapy (including documentation and use of informed consent). (CC-2, 5.43)
7. Identify signs of domestic, child, and elder abuse, and legal and ethical implications for physical therapy practice. (CC-2)
8. Demonstrate effective communication and active teaching methods during a formal teaching presentation. (CC-2, 5.17)
9. Complete an accurate peer assessment including providing substantive suggestions for improvements. (CC-2, 5.13, 5.17)
10. Explain how you may use key legal, ethical, and professional documents and principles that guide physical therapy practice (including APTA Code of Ethics, Texas PT Practice Act and Rules, APTA Guide for Professional Conduct, APTA Standards of Practice, APTA Core Professional Values, and health care principles) to challenge the status quo of current practice. (CC-5.63)

**Required Texts (other required readings per Blackboard):**

APTA membership for online member only readings, including:

APTA Learning Center: Professionalism Module 3 – Ethical Compass

[http://learningcenter.apta.org/tp\\_professionalissues.aspx](http://learningcenter.apta.org/tp_professionalissues.aspx)

*Guide to Physical Therapist Practice 3.0.* Alexandria, VA: American Physical Therapy Association; 2014. Available at: <http://guidetoptpractice.apta.org/>

This is an older text but has very good information in it, and should be available at a low price online or through students from previous cohorts (also used in PT 6202):

Curtis K. *Physical Therapy Professional Foundations: Keys to Success in School and Career.* Thorofare, NJ: Slack; 2002. ISBN 1-55642-411-6

**Supplemental Text:**

Scott RW. *Promoting Legal and Ethical Awareness: A Primer for Health Professionals and Patients.* Mosby; 2008. ISBN-10: 0323036686

**Methods of Instruction:** Primarily active learning including: small group work, writing activities, class presentations, self and peer critiques

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Midterm written examination	30%
Homework/quizzes/APTA Module 3/peer critique	20%
Teaching assignment	15%
Final written examination	35%

**If you get a grade below an 80% on any exam or assignment, you are required to arrange a meeting with me and work out study strategies to improve your performance.**

## UTEP DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM GRADING SCALE

The following letter grade scale is used for the UTEP Physical Therapy Program:

Letter Grade Scale	Numerical Grade Scale
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	75-79
F	Below 75

**Course Content:** Refer to Topic Outline

**Attendance, Tardiness, Class Participation, and Professional Behaviors Policy:** (this is in addition to what is found in Student Handbook, and is specific to Dr Pechak's courses. Each faculty member has the right to have his/her own policy related to these issues. It is the responsibility of the student to follow the policy of each faculty member.)

### **ATTENDANCE:**

As all program faculty do, I believe that students should demonstrate their commitment to the profession and respect for faculty, guest speakers, and colleagues by attending all classes/labs, and arriving to class on time. I am expected to be at class/labs as scheduled and to be on time; I expect the same from you. I work hard to prepare for classes/labs, and to make them productive active-learning opportunities; I expect you to do your part by being prepared and regularly participating. I do NOT give credit for this...I expect it. Failure to arrive to class prepared and on time, and to not participate actively, and to fail to demonstrate professional behaviors may result in deductions to your final semester grade.

However, congruent with one's ability to request excused time off in the work setting, I permit **ONE excused absence of a single class\* or lab period per course per semester** for *any* reason. In order for your first absence to be excused, you must meet the expectation described further down. HOWEVER (with very rare exception [eg, documented serious illness or emergency] that will be considered on a case by case basis) there will be NO accommodations offered for missed class/lab time. Specifically I will NOT offer the opportunity to make up in-class quizzes or written examinations, either in advance or after the scheduled class, or provide individual tutoring for missed content. Additionally late work caused by your absence will not be accepted. You should make prior arrangements with a classmate to find out what you missed, turn in any work, and/or pick up any hand-outs. (**\*NOTE: Single class is defined as 1.5 hours**).

In order to be excused for your **first** missed class or lab, you must do the following:

- Email me at [cmpechak@utep.edu](mailto:cmpechak@utep.edu) at least 2 hours in advance if you will not be attending class or lab. I do not require you to give me a reason, but I expect

notice in WRITING by email. A phone call from you or message from one of your classmates is not acceptable.

If you miss a second (or more) class or lab for any reason, it will be considered unexcused unless it is due to documented illness or emergency. In these cases, you should email me and then arrange a meeting with me upon your return to school to discuss why you missed class. Documentation will be required for any additional absence (eg, doctor's note documenting illness or treatment). I will notify you after our meeting and review of your documentation whether or not the absence will be considered excused or unexcused.

Missing 50% or more of a class or lab will be considered an absence.

For each incident of an unexcused absence, 5% will be deducted from your final semester grade.

**TARDINESS:**

I use the clock on the computer to determine when class should start. If you expect to arrive late (eg, doctor's appointment), you should notify me in writing by email in at least 2 hours in advance. If you are consistently late for any reasons, I will contact you by email and/or request you to meet with me to discuss the problem. Each subsequent incidence of tardiness may result in 1% deduction from your final semester grade.

**PARTICIPATION and PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS:**

I expect you to arrive to class and lab prepared and to actively participate while not being disruptive. If you are consistently ill-prepared, not actively participating, and/or being disruptive, I will contact you by email and/or request you to meet with me to discuss the problem. Each subsequent incidence of poor preparation, poor participation, and/or disruption may result in 1% deduction from your final semester grade.

**Course and Program Policy:** See PT Program Handbook for all policies on exams, electronic device use, dress code, and scholastic dishonesty. Your instructors encourage you to periodically review all handbook policies, but in light of past experiences, **particularly direct you to review the policies on cheating, accumulated knowledge, Professional Behaviors/generic abilities, attendance, and the disclaimer that the syllabus is subject to change.**

**Special Accommodations (ADA):**

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 their office in Union Building East. For additional information, visit the CASS website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

**Tentative Topic/Assignment Outline:**

Date	Topic	Reading Assignments <b>See Blackboard for additional required reading assignments each week</b>	CO
Week 1 Class 1 May 27 1-4pm Rm 234	Introduction to Law and Ethics; Role of APTA	Find & download the following documents on <a href="http://www.apta.org">www.apta.org</a> for reference throughout the course: <i>Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist</i> <i>Guide for Professional Conduct</i> <i>Professionalism and Core Values</i> <i>Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy</i> <i>Guide to Physical Therapist Practice</i> Curtis pp. 115-118 Find & download the following at the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners website for reference throughout the course and your career! <b>Texas PT Practice Act</b> <b>Texas PT Rules</b> (June 2014) For today's class: compare and contrast the purposes of the <i>Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy</i> with the <i>Guide to Physical Therapist Practice</i>	1,10
Week 2 Classes 2-3 June 1 & 3	Values Ethics Professional conduct Ethical decision making POPTS	APTA <i>Core Professional Values</i> APTA <i>Code of Ethics</i> POPTS document (on Blackboard) RIPS Model (on Blackboard) Curtis pp. 71-75 <b>Expect QUIZ on previous week's material and/or this week's required reading</b>	1,4,10
Week 3 Classes 4-5 June 8 & 10	<i>Texas PT Practice Act</i> <i>Texas PT Rules</i> <i>Standards of Practice for PT</i> Medicare & Student Supervision Sexual harassment Inappropriate Patient Sexual Behavior  (Student teaching Mon & Wed)	<i>Texas PT Practice Act</i> <i>Texas PT Rules</i> <i>Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy</i>  Readings on Blackboard  Synthesis assignment  <b>Expect QUIZ on previous week's material and/or this week's required reading</b>	1,2,3,4, 8,9,10

Week 4 Classes 6-7 June 15 & 17	Malpractice and Negligence  <i>(Student teaching Mon &amp; Wed)</i>  Mid-term exam review	Dronberger article (on Blackboard) Bennett article (on Blackboard)  <b>Expect QUIZ on previous week's material and/or this week's required reading</b> Review your weekly objectives, and come prepared with YOUR questions	6,8,9
Week 5 Classes 8-9 June 22 & 24	MID-TERM EXAM Mon, June 22, 9-10:20am  Wed: Legal System, Federal and State Statutes, Administrative Law	Comprehensive through Weeks 1-4 material	5
Week 6 Classes 10-11 June 29 & July 1	Risk Management & Compliance Liability Insurance Incident Report OSHA  <i>(Student teaching Mon &amp; Wed)</i>	Physical Therapy Claims Study – focus on pp. 28-36 for Risk Management  Download the following document from Risk Management section of APTA website at <a href="http://www.apta.org/riskmanagement/">http://www.apta.org/riskmanagement/</a> <b>HPSO: Risk Control Self-Assessment Checklist for Physical Therapists</b>  Hand-Off Communication article (link on Blackboard)  Sisola & Baker article (on Blackboard)  <b>Expect QUIZ on previous week's material and/or this week's required reading</b>	5,8,9
Week 7 Classes 12-13 July 6 & 8	HIPAA, FERPA  Patient Rights/Disability Rights  <i>(Student teaching Mon &amp; Wed)</i>	HIPAA Frequently Asked Questions on APTA website (link on Blackboard)  Patient's Bill of Rights (link on Blackboard)  A Guide to Disability Rights Laws (on Blackboard)  <b>Expect QUIZ on previous week's material and/or this week's required reading</b>	5,8,9

<p>Week 8 Classes 14-15 July 13 &amp; 15</p>	<p>Patient Self-Determination Act, DNR, Living Will, POA</p> <p>Restraints</p> <p>Abuse: Domestic, Child, Elder</p>	<p>Morrell DNR article (on Blackboard)</p> <p>Restraint article (on Blackboard)</p> <p>Domestic, Child, Elder Abuse info (on Blackboard)</p> <p><b>Expect QUIZ on previous week's material and/or this week's required reading</b></p>	<p>5,7</p>
<p>Week 9 Classes 16 is July 22</p> <p><b>Class 17 is FRI July 24 9-10:20</b></p> <p><b>**NOTE: Different day</b></p>	<p>Affordable Care Act &amp; PT</p> <p>Healthy People 2020</p> <p>Documentation &amp;/or case studies</p>	<p>See Blackboard for readings that need to be done</p> <p>Complete APTA Module 3 – turn in documentation of completion at start of class on WED</p> <p><b>MUST BE APTA MEMBER TO ACCESS</b></p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Week 10 Classes 18-19 July 28 &amp; 30</p>	<p>LEGAL JEOPARDY</p> <p>Documentation &amp;/or case studies</p> <p>Final Exam review</p>	<p>No required reading</p> <p>Review Weekly Objectives &amp; bring YOUR questions</p>	<p>4</p>
<p><i>Friday Aug 1</i></p> <p><i>Room TBA 9:00- 10:20am</i></p>	<p><b>FINAL EXAM</b></p>	<p>Comprehensive weeks 1-10</p>	<p>1-10</p>