

**University of Texas at El Paso
College of Health Sciences
Occupational Therapy Department**

**OT 6204 Legal and Ethical Considerations in Occupational Therapy
SYLLABUS SPRING 2024**

Instructor: Name: Grisel Contreras, OTD, MOT, OTR
Room: RSC 101
Cell Phone: 915-274-3105 email: grcontreras@utep.edu

Lecture: Mondays 1:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Lab A & B: NA

Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Course Description: The Legal and Ethical Considerations in Occupational Therapy course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of ethical principles and practices within the context of occupational therapy. The course is designed to equip future occupational therapists with the knowledge, skills, and ethical reasoning necessary to navigate complex situations and uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct in their professional practice.

General and Specific Objectives: *Based on the ACOTE 2018 standards.*

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) *Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics* and AOTA *Standards of Practice* and use them to guide ethical decision-making in professional interactions, client interventions, employment settings, and when confronted with personal and organizational ethical conflicts. **(ACOTE: B.7.1)**
2. Demonstrate knowledge of how the role of a professional is enhanced by participating and engaging in local, national, and international leadership positions in organizations or agencies. **(ACOTE: B.7.2)**
3. Identify and develop strategies for ongoing professional development to ensure that practice is consistent with current and accepted standards. **(ACOTE: B.7.4)**
4. Demonstrate knowledge of personal and professional responsibilities related to:
 - Liability issues under current models of service provision.
 - Varied roles of the occupational therapist providing service on a contractual basis. **(ACOTE: B.7.5)**
5. Demonstrate knowledge of various reimbursement systems and funding mechanisms (e.g., federal, state, third party, private payer), appeals mechanisms, treatment/diagnosis codes (e.g., CPT®, ICD, DSM® codes), and coding and documentation requirements that affect consumers and the practice of occupational therapy. **(ACOTE: B.4.29)**

6. Documentation must effectively communicate the need and rationale for occupational therapy services. **(ACOTE: B.4.29)**
7. Identify, analyze, and advocate for existing and future service delivery models and policies, and their potential effect on the practice of occupational therapy and opportunities to address societal needs. **(ACOTE. B.5.2)**
8. Provide care and programs that demonstrate knowledge of applicable national requirements for credentialing and requirements for licensure, certification, or registration consistent with federal and state laws. **(ACOTE: B.5.5)**
9. Demonstrate leadership skills in the ability to plan, develop, organize, and market the delivery of services to include the determination of programmatic needs and service delivery options, and formulation and management of staffing for effective service provision **(ACOTE B.5.6)**
10. Develop strategies for effective, competency-based legal and ethical supervision of occupational therapy and non-occupational therapy personnel. Analyze staff development and professional abilities and competencies of supervised staff as they relate to job responsibilities. **(ACOTE: B.5.8)**

UTEP OTD Curricular Threads:

This course addresses the following curricular threads

- Evidence-based practice

Areas of In-Depth Knowledge Development:

The UTEP OTD Program focuses on four areas of in-depth knowledge development: Clinical Practice Skills, Education, Advocacy, and Program and Policy Development. Students will choose one of these areas in which to concentrate with their OTD Capstone Experience and Project. OT 6204 can be applied to the following areas:

- Clinical Practice Skills
- Education
- Advocacy
- Program and Policy Development

Clinical/Experiential Objectives (if any): NA

UTEP Edge Experiences:

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Serve the community through structured academic learning opportunities.
- **CREATIVE ACTIVITIES:** Showcase your creative abilities through experiences that highlight your talents.
- **RESEARCH SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES:** Team-up with faculty to gain experience and make intellectual and creative contributions to your field.
- **STUDENT LEADERSHIP:** Develop professional values by assuming leadership roles in your campus experiences.

UTEP Edge Advantages:

- COMMUNICATION: Reach mutual understanding through effective exchanges of information, ideas, and feelings.
- CONFIDENCE: Be self-assured through appreciated your own talents, abilities, and qualities.
- CRITICAL THINKING: Analyze and evaluate issues in order to solve problems and develop informed opinions.
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Develop, organize, and manages ideas and opportunities turning them into new products, services, firms, or industries.
- GLOBAL AWARENESS: Understand and appreciate people, cultures, and ideas from around the world that impact our community.
- LEADERSHIP: Step up, think, and act critically and creatively to bring others together to accomplish a common task.
- PROBLEM SOLVING: Find solutions to difficult or complex issues.
- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Act ethically and responsibly for the benefit of society and the public good.
- TEAMWORK: Participate as an effective, efficient member of a group in order to meet a common goal.

Required Texts:



Kornblit, B., & Howard, B. S. (Eds.). (1 C.E.). *Everyday Ethics & Occupational Therapy* (1st ed.). AOTA Press. (Original work published 2023)

Technology Requirements

Course content is delivered via Blackboard learning management system (LMS). When you connect to this course, locate in the margin and click on course. Please ensure your UTEP email account is operational and that you have access to the Web. You may utilize any of the primary browsers, such as Explore, Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc. Should you encounter technical difficulties, try switching to another browser.

Methods of Instruction:

- Students must have regular access to a computer and your UTEP email account. This course utilizes a student-centered approach to teaching via team-based learning (TBL) activities, with minimal use of lectures by faculty. Will use TBL

group participation with faculty guidance and problem-based learning in teams, exploratory learning for active learning by doing, with peer and instructor feedback.

- **Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments will be assigned utilizing the latest peer-reviewed evidence on the weekly topic. Students are expected to come to class prepared, including but not limited to completing all assignment reading. Students are expected to read each chapter for understanding.
- **Lectures:** both the instructor and students will provide lectures on course materials relevant to all the learning objectives in an interactive way to allow for discussion. Lectures are designed to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills required for future clinical practice.
- **Class discussions:** during class time as the instructor(s) facilitated. Special emphasis will be directed towards basic concepts in occupational therapy. Students will be expected to contribute to every discussion and be prepared to answer questions. A team-based approach will be utilized for all class discussions.
- **Oral Communication:** Many aspects of the course will include oral instructions not provided in writing. Students are expected to listen, understand, and clarify verbal instructions. Oral communication is both in sending and receiving the instructions, and students will have an opportunity to practice both aspects during this course.
- **Non-verbal Communication:** Students will have multiple opportunities to practice non-verbal communication throughout the course. The instructor will provide private individual feedback to students as needed.
- **Safety:** Students will be exposed to various safety issues during classroom and simulated learning experiences.

Methods of Evaluation:

- **Team Activities/Application Activities:** These are a key part of this course, and students are expected to attend all programmed portions. Students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor *before* class time if any issue arises that may interfere with their ability to participate or require them to step out of the class during unscheduled breaks. Active participation in all daily discussions, community outings, and class/laboratory experiences in this course will be noted by instructors during each session. Students deemed to be disinterested, unengaged, or otherwise occupied will not receive participation points at the instructor's discretion with no recourse on the part of the student. Students should arrive prepared for class to discuss, answer questions, and participate in all class lectures, meeting times, and activities. Students should try to use the bathroom during scheduled breaks offered approximately once per hour during instruction. Any student not engaged in the class, completing other activities unrelated to the course or the assigned activity, or completing assignments such as studying for another course will be asked to leave the

class. Absence, tardiness, and participation points can all be affected by each incident.

- **Individual and Group Quizzes** related to the assigned topics will include *individual* and *team* quizzes.
- **Module Examinations (4):** Students will take four examinations, including information discussed in the classroom and from weekly quizzes.
- **Professional Behaviors**
 - **Oral Communication:** Students will be expected to speak professionally and listen for and ascertain important verbal instructions from the instructor. Oral communication will be evaluated regularly during the course by the instructor first by purposely providing information without written instructions on formal assignments, class participation, and other activities. Students' speaking skills will be evaluated during presentations and interactions with the instructor and classmates.
 - **Non-verbal Communication:** The instructor will evaluate students for non-verbal communication during each class and outside class activities. At the instructor's discretion, students will be provided individual feedback with point deductions on participation as they occur.
 - **Written Communication:** The student is expected to complete all written assignments and will receive individual feedback on writing skills. It is each student's responsibility to review all feedback on all assignments and contact the instructor for needed clarification.
 - **Online Etiquette:** Students must have cameras on during online classes. Students must be ready to participate, have the microphone off when not speaking, dress appropriately, and be aware of their surroundings. Students must stay seated and stay present. No food is allowed during active class time. Use break time to eat and hydrate. Students will be expected to speak in a professional manner as well as listen to and ascertain important verbal instructions from the instructor. Students' speaking skills will be evaluated during presentations and interactions with the instructor and classmates

Participation: Participation will be evaluated during each lecture as part of your professional behavior. All portions of this course will require various amounts of self-directed learning. It will be demonstrated by:

- Completing all blackboard (BB) assignments/exercises as indicated
- Actively participating in lecture discussions
- Equally sharing responsibility for group presentation work
- Turning in requested lecture activities as requested

Professional Behaviors:

1) Punctuality and Attendance: Students are expected to arrive/connect to Blackboard Collaboration Ultra meeting promptly (5-10 minutes prior to beginning of class) and to attend every class.

- a. **Tardiness** without prior approval from instructor will result in **1 point** off the computed final grade percentage per incident up to **5%** of final grade. A text message, voice message, or email to the instructor can be left for approval.

b. **Any excused/unexcused** absence will result in an automatic deduction of **5%** in the final grade calculation for the course as determined by the instructor. You are expected to make up missed work and get information and materials missed from your classmates and the instructor.

- 2) **Time Management:** Late assignments will be deducted **10 points** off the grade, per day they are late. If assignments are due at the beginning of class and turned in after class has begun, **5 points will be deducted.**
- 3) **Acceptance of and participation in giving and receiving constructive criticism:** Students will be responsible for assessing fellow students' performance and modifying performance based on feedback.
- 4) **Attendance and participation in service learning:** Students will be provided with online activities to enhance their understanding of ethical dilemmas within the occupational therapy profession.
- 5) **Disruptive Behavior:** Behaviors that detract from students learning will not be tolerated. These behaviors include but are not limited to talking during class when an instructor or other student has the floor, attire that distracts from students' learning, entering and exiting during instruction, and incoming messages on electronic devices.
- 6) **Electronic devices:** Cell phones and other devices should be turned off during class.

Course Grading:		Letter Grade Equivalents:
Quizzes IRAT	10%	A = 90 – 100
Quizzes TRAT	5%	B = 80 – 89
Exam I	15%	C = 70-79
Exam II	15%	F = below 70
Exam III	15%	
Exam IV	15%	
Application Activities	15%	
Professional Behavior	10%	
Total =	100%	

Academic Integrity: Students must be above reproach in all scholastic activities. Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the university. “Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission of credit of any work or materials that are attributed in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” Regents Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3.22. Since scholastic dishonesty hard the individual, all students and the integrity of the university, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

From the UTEP Dean of Student Affairs

(<http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386>). It is an official policy of the university that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. "Cheating" includes:

1. Copying from the test paper of another student, engaging in written, oral, or any other means of communication with another student during a test, or giving aid to or seeking aid from another student during a test;
2. Possession and/or use during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes, books, or specifically designed "crib notes";
3. Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters but which will be used again either in whole or in part without permission of the instructor; or accessing a test bank without instructor permission;
4. Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student for an assignment without authority;
5. Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test; and
6. Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit

Plagiarism means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors. NOTE: This includes cutting-and-pasting and photocopying from on-line and other material.

Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on scholastic dishonesty. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further 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 email the office at 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/>

OT6204 Ethical Considerations on Occupational Therapy
Spring 2024: Mondays 1:00 to 2:50 PM_Rehab Science Complex Room 101

Tentative Class Calendar

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the class calendar if necessary.

Date	Lecture Topics	Assignments and In-Class Activities	ACOT E OBJ
Week 1 01/15/20 24	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	<i>No Class</i>	
Module 1: Introductions and Foundation			
Week 2 01/22/20 24	AOTA Code of Ethics and Standards & Practice AOTA website	-Review Syllabus -Group Assignment -Code of Ethics AOTA 2020 Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics. <i>Am J Occup Ther</i> November/December 2020, Vol. 74(Supplement_3), 7413410005p1-7413410005p13. doi: https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S3006	B.7.1 B.7.2
Week 3 01/29/20 24	AOTA Code of Ethics and Standards & Practice Chapter 2. Occupational Therapy Core Values and Principles Chapter 3. Ethical Decision-Making Framework	-i-RAT 1 -t-RAT 1 -Application Activity AOTA 2020 Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics. <i>Am J Occup Ther</i> November/December 2020, Vol. 74(Supplement_3), 7413410005p1-7413410005p13. doi: https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S3006	B.7.1
Week 4 02/05/20 24	AOTA Code of Ethics and Standards & Practice Chapter 4. Moral Distress	-i-RAT 2 -t-RAT 2 -Application Activity: Case Study AOTA 2020 Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics. <i>Am J Occup Ther</i> November/December 2020, Vol. 74(Supplement_3), 7413410005p1-7413410005p13.	B.7.1

	<p>Chapter 7. Ethical Considerations in Cognition</p> <p>Chapter 8. Ethics of Evaluation</p>	<p>doi: https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S3006</p>	
<p>Week 5 02/12/20 24</p>	<p>Exam Module #1</p>		
<p>Module 2: Professional Integrity, Responsibility, and Accountability</p>			
<p>Week 6 02/19/20 24</p>	<p>Professional Development</p> <p>Chapter 14. Culturally Responsive Care</p>	<p>-i-RAT 3 -t-RAT 3 -Application Activity: Case Study</p> <p>American Occupational Therapy Association; AOTA 2021 Standards for Continuing Competence in Occupational Therapy. <i>Am J Occup Ther</i> November/December 2021, Vol. 75(Supplement_3), 7513410040. doi: https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2021.75S3009</p>	<p>B.7.4</p>
<p>Week 7 02/26/20 24</p>	<p>Professional Engagement with Organizations</p> <p>Chapter 10. Ethical Governance</p> <p>Chapter 18. Organizational Ethics</p>	<p>-i-RAT 4 -t-RAT 4 -Application Activity: Case Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Board: Enhancing the Professional Role through Leadership Engagement 	<p>B.7.2</p>
<p>Week 8 03/04/20 24</p>	<p>Reimbursement, Documentation & Communication</p> <p>Chapter 17. Ethical Considerations for Productivity, Billing, and Reimbursement</p> <p>Chapter 31. Ethical Communication</p> <p>Chapter 12. Avoiding Plagiarism in Today's World</p>	<p>-i-RAT 5 -t-RAT 5 -Application Activity: Case Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical Issues for Reimbursement and Productivity Case Study 	<p>B.4.29</p>

Week 9 02/11/2024	SPRING BREAK !!!		
Week 10 02/18/2024	Exam Module # 2		
MODULE 3: Service Delivery			
Week 11 02/25/2024	Service Delivery: Telehealth Chapter 19. Ethical Considerations for Emerging Technology-Based Interventions Chapter 20. Ethical Considerations in Telehealth	-i-RAT 6 -t-RAT 6 -Application Activity: Case Study American Occupational Therapy Association. (2023). AOTA ethics advisory opinion: Ethical Considerations in Telehealth. https://www.aota.org/media/corporate/files/secure/practice/ethics/advisory/telehealth-advisory.pdf American Occupational Therapy association. (n.d.a). Advocacy issues: Expanding telehealth. https://www.aota.org/advocacy/issues/telehealth-advocacy American Occupational Therapy Association. (2018). Telehealth in occupational therapy. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 72(Suppl. 2), 7212410059. https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2018.72S219	B.5.2 B.5.6 B.7.5
Week 12 04/01/2024	Service Delivery: Private Practice Chapter 21. Ethical Considerations in Private Practice Chapter 23. Client Abandonment Chapter 26. Informed Consent	-i-RAT 7 -t-RAT 7 -Quiz: Liability Issues and Varied Roles in Occupational Therapy Contracts -Application Activity: Case Study	B.5.2 B.7.5
Week 13 04/08/2024	EXAM Module #3		
MODULE 4: Professional Competence, Education, Supervision, and Training			
Week 14 04/15/2024	Professional Competence: Licensure & Education Chapter 27. State Licensure and Ethics	i-RAT 8 -t-RAT 8 -Application Activity: Case Study American Occupational Therapy Association. (n.d.). Licensure. https://www.aota.org/career/state-licensure	B.5.5

	Chapter 28. Ethics and Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Education		
Week 15 04/22/20 24	Supervision and Training Chapter 29. Supervision and Collaboration Between OTs and OTAs	i-RAT 9 -t-RAT 9 -Application Activity: Case Study Guidelines for Supervision, Roles, and Responsibilities During the Delivery of Occupational Therapy Services. <i>Am J Occup Ther</i> November/December 2020, Vol. 74(Supplement_3), 7413410020p1–7413410020p6. doi: https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S3004	B.5.8 B.7.5
Week 16 04/29/20 24	Professional Civility & Communications Chapter 32. Ethics and social media Chapter 35. The Ethics of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, Access, and Belonging	i-RAT 10 -t-RAT 10 -Application Activity: Case Study	B.4.29
Finals Week 05/06/20 24	EXAM Module #4		

University of Texas at El Paso
College of Health Sciences: Occupational Therapy Program
OT6204 Legal and Ethical Considerations in OT
SYLLABUS Spring 2024

Student responsibilities:

1. Regular class attendance and participation. Understand **Punctuality and Attendance** policies.
2. All information presented in all learning activities.
3. Prior approval from the instructor for any excused absence.
4. Completion of all reading materials before attending class.
5. All assignments are due as indicated on the course outline. Late assignments will have 10 points deducted from the grade per day they are late. If assignments are due at the beginning of class and turned in after class has begun, **5 points will be deducted.**
6. If a student cannot take a scheduled exam or quiz, s/he is responsible for notifying the instructor **before** the examination. Another student informing the instructor of an absence is not acceptable. The student is responsible for informing the instructor about missing work or examinations and ask about setting a time to complete missed work or examination. The instructor reserves the right to approve additional examination date/attempt.
7. Professional preparation of entry-level clinicians requires students to master the skill of active participation with team members; therefore, students are expected to participate in classroom and lab activities and discussions. Lack of consistent participation will result in a non-negotiable deduction of 2% off the final class grade.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____