

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Bachelor of Sciences in Rehabilitation Sciences

## SYLLABUS

### COURSE INFORMATION

DRSC 4312: **Professional Ethics in Rehabilitation Sciences**

CRN: 23097

Term: **Spring 2025**

Delivery method: Hybrid

- Tuesdays. In-person 1:30 – 2:50 pm.
- Thursdays. Online 1:30 – 2:50 pm (links on Blackboard “Zoom Lectures”).

Location: Health Sciences 206

### Instructor Information

Dr. Georgina Sanchez-Garcia

Email: [gsanchezgarci@utep.edu](mailto:gsanchezgarci@utep.edu)

Please use my email address, not Blackboard messages

Office Hours: **Wednesdays** 12:00 – 2:00. CHS Room 482. Also available by appointment

### Teacher Assistant

Bryan Monroe, MPA

Email: [bmmonroe2@utep.edu](mailto:bmmonroe2@utep.edu)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

DRSC 4312 is a required 3-credit course for most majors in the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences Program. This course considers professional ethics in rehabilitation sciences. It introduces the legal and ethical principles in the practice and research of rehabilitation sciences. Because of the overlap across healthcare professions in practice, we take a general approach to analyzing professional ethics for healthcare providers and explore relevant applications for rehabilitation professionals. Lectures, discussions, case studies, and analytical exercises will be used to introduce principles, identify issues, and address ethical challenges healthcare professionals face.






### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, students should meet the following learning objectives:

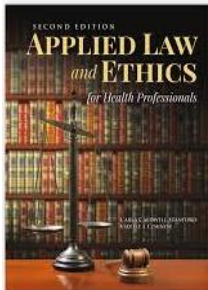
- Outline ethical constructs within the field of healthcare

- Identify several approaches to ethical problem-solving
- Evaluate major community and global health ethical issues
- Analyze the role of community resources in rehabilitation services and community health ethics
- Create original research on available community resources for disadvantaged populations

Thus, by the end of the semester, students should make improvements in the following skill areas related to the UTEP Edge initiative:

Student learning objective	Outcome
Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts	 Communication skills
Draw on existing knowledge bases to “transform” knowledge	 Critical thinking
Demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose	 Teamwork skills
Increase awareness of community challenges and, through the acquired knowledge, contribute to solving an identified problem	 Social responsibility
Find solutions to difficult or complex issues	 Problem solving skills

## Required Readings



Stanford, C. C. & Connor, V. J. (2019). *Applied Law and Ethics for Health Professionals (Second Edition)*. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 978 128 415 5594

## ASSESSMENT OF COURSE OBJECTIVES

A learning outcomes evaluation (self-assessment) will be handed out for you to complete around the same time that the course evaluation forms are completed

## Grade Distribution

Final grades will be calculated by adding the points obtained from the following requirements:

1000-900= **A**   899-800= **B**   799-700= **C**   699-600= **D**   599 and Below= **F**

Activity	Points	Total Max Points
Attendance & Participation (14 in-person classes)	5	70
Discussion Post (7)	10	70
Quiz (2)	50	100
Exams (2)	200	400
Photo essay: Ethical & community health care (1)	250	250
Personal ethic statement (1)	110	110
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1000</b>

## SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS

**Important:** Check Blackboard for further guidelines on assignments

### Attendance (5 points per class)



Class participation is essential in this course. Attendance grading begins at a maximum of 75 points. A 5-point deduction will be applied weekly for lack of participation during class or unexcused absences. Missing five classes will result in a grade of "F" as it hinders your ability to showcase your understanding of the course.



### Discussion Board Post (10 points each)



Discussion posts will be based on writing self-reflections regarding learning material. For each discussion post, you must write a post and provide meaningful feedback to another fellow student to receive full credit.

### Quiz (50 points each)



There will be four online quizzes with designated dates and times that require using Respondus Lockdown. Students must have a computer with Respondus Lockdown, a reliable internet connection, and time management skills.

### Exams (200 points each)



Midterm: It will consist of multiple-choice questions and cover material from the course readings, class lectures, and/or class discussions up to the midterm exam date.

Final Exam: It will consist of multiple-choice questions and cover material from the course readings, class lectures, and/or class discussions after the midterm exam.

## Photo essay (250 points)



A photo essay is a collection, organization, and articulation of explicit images to generate a narrative about a specific topic. Four-member teams will address an ethical health dilemma in the community. The team will develop a story that connects the images contained. These images should contribute to a complex web of meanings that stimulates reflection and shows the topic in a new and revealing light.

To achieve this, teams will:

1. Create a sketch outlining the different phases of the photo essay.
2. Capture several photos and choose approximately 16 final photos (per team) that reflect the ethical phenomenon.
3. Use software of your choice (e.g., Google Slides, PowerPoint, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Spark, Canvas) to submit the photo essay. It should include:
  - A brief introduction (250-400 words) communicating the chosen topic and angle to the reader.
  - Images should be arranged according to the phases of the essay, each with appropriate captions, headlines, cutlines, and resolution.

I will provide a detailed explanation for each step during class.

## Personal ethics statement (110 points)



To fully comprehend the breadth and depth of the concept of ethics, it is essential to consider its meaning in one's principles. To do so, you will write a personal ethics statement. It is a reflection of your beliefs and values and how they influence your daily decisions.

Your statement should also be based on what you have learned in the course, targeting a graduate committee or an employer. It must be one to two pages long, double-spaced, and in APA-7 format. The complete rubric will be available on Blackboard in the corresponding week.

## ASSESSMENT OF COURSE OBJECTIVES

A learning outcomes evaluation (self-assessment) will be handed out for you to complete around the same time that the course evaluation forms are completed

## Schedule of Classes (Subject to Change)

\*Note: Lectures will take place during live class sessions and pre-recorded sessions

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Assignments / Activities	Assignments & Exams Due
Week 1	1/21	Class Introduction	Course Syllabus Review	
	1/23	Rehab therapists & ethics (recording)	Group project rubric Group forming	Discussion Post # 1 by Sunday, January 26, before 11:30 pm
Week 2	1/28	Basic Concepts in Ethics	Read Stanford & Connor, Ch. 1	Discussion Post # 2 by Sunday, 2/ 2 before 11:30 pm
	1/30	Ethical Decision Process	Read: Martin Luther King, Jr. (1963): "Letter from Birmingham Jail"	
Week 3	2/4	Patient's Bill of Rights	Read Stanford & Connor, Chapter 2	Discussion Post # 3 by Sunday, 2/ 9 before 11:30 pm
	2/6	People under conditions of vulnerability	Stanford & Connor, Chapter 3	
Week 4	2/11	Confidentiality		

			Stanford & Connor, Chapter 4	<b>QUIZ 1</b> online BB
	2/13	Quiz 1	Study chapters: 1 - 4	
Week 5	2/18	Ethics in Research & Practice: Holocaust, Tuskegee		Discussion Post # 4 By 2/16 before 11:59 pm
	2/20	The Belmont Report.		
Week 6	2/25	Working Environment	Stanford & Connor, Chapter 5 (pp. 71 - 78)	
	2/27	MID TERM REVIEW (Zoom meeting)	Study for Midterm	
Week 7	3/4	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b> (In person)		<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b> (In person)
	3/6	Accountability	Stanford & Connor, Chapter 6	
<b>SPRING BREAK March 10-14</b>				
Week 8	3/18	Legislation and Professional Regulations	Stanford & Connor, Chapter 7	

	3/20	Standard of care: Case study	Listen to the podcast <a href="https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/a-very-sticky-case-crossover-w-ems-20-20/id1541759865?i=1000636854299">https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/a-very-sticky-case-crossover-w-ems-20-20/id1541759865?i=1000636854299</a>	Discussion Post # 5 by Sunday, 3/ 16 before 11:30 pm
Week 9	3/25	End of Life Decisions	Stanford & Connor, Chapter 8	
	3/27		Team work	
Week 10	4/1	Evidence-based Practice	Read <a href="https://betterscience.com/pseudoscience-vs-science/">https://betterscience.com/pseudoscience-vs-science/</a>	Discussion Post # 6 by 3/30 at 11:59 pm
	4/3	Photo Essay		<b>Group Project:</b> <b>Due by 4/3</b> <b>before 11:30 pm</b>
Week 11	4/8	Controversial Issues in Healthcare	Stanford & Connor, Chapter 9	
	4/10	QUIZ 2	Study chapters: 6 - 9 and Controversial Issues	<b>QUIZ 2</b> (Online through BB)
Week 12	4/15		Team presentations	
	4/17		<a href="https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/breaking-down-">https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/breaking-down-</a>	Discussion Post # 7

		Global Issues in Health Care: What are we doing here	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC47321824/">barriers-in-global-health/id1726017048?i=1000647321824</a>	By 4/20 before 11:59 pm
Week 13	4/22		Team presentations	
	4/24		Team presentations	
Week 14	4/29	Last Lecture: Scope of practice	Stanford & Connor, Chapter 5	
	5/1	Personal Ethic Statement		<b>Personal Ethic Statement due 5/1</b> Submit on BB before 11:59 pm
Week 15	5/6	Exam review (Zoom meeting)	Study for Final Exam	
	5/8	Q & A session	Study for Final Exam	
Week 16	TBA	Final Exam		<b>FINAL EXAM</b>

\*The information above is subject to change.

### Course Instruction Format and Design

This course is in a hybrid format, which includes live class sessions, pre-recorded lectures, Zoom lectures, and online discussion boards. The live sessions will occur on the day and time indicated at the top of the syllabus and will be conducted in person. Please note that the course format is subject to change based on UTEP policies and/or changes in health circumstances.



This course uses Blackboard, so all course materials—syllabus—will be posted on Blackboard.

Note: Course announcements will be communicated in class, via Blackboard, and/or by email. Students are required to regularly check Blackboard and their email

## Technology Requirements

Course content is delivered in person and via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP email account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a laptop computer with a working microphone and webcam. If you need a laptop this semester, you may apply to check one out via UTEP

## Technology Support Equipment Checkout

([https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/TSCenter/tsc\\_eqcheckout.html](https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/TSCenter/tsc_eqcheckout.html)). You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat Reader. Check your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

**IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with the technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

## Course Communication: How we will stay in contact with each other:

- **Office Hours:** Students will have the option to attend office hours face-to-face (in person) or online (technology permitting). The times for my office hours are listed at the beginning of this syllabus.
- **Email:** UTEP email is the best way to contact me. When emailing me, please put the course title in the subject line. In the body of your email, clearly state your question. At the end of your email, be sure to put your first and last name.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements and your email for important information.

## Netiquette

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It is possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider the audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public Internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professors only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

### **Attendance Policy and Course Drop Policy**

Attendance will be taken. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all live class sessions (in person). Students also are expected to listen to any pre-recorded lectures each week. Also, please note the following:

- The instructor reserves the right to accept, or not, excuses related to medical issues. Students with severe medical problems that result in missing a majority of the semester may want to consider a complete withdrawal from the university for medical purposes.
- Excuses for missed exams and other course assessments may not be accepted by the instructor as valid excuses. For example, missing any exams or other course assessments due to vacations and pre-booked travel arrangements is not a valid excuse.
- I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

### **Illness Precautions**

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me and the teaching assistant know via email as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations (documentation may be required). Our email addresses are available at the top of the syllabus. Please see below for specific policies on missed exams.

### **Final Exam Policy**

The Final Exam will be in-person and available through Blackboard during the Final Exam testing period (listed in the Schedule of Classes). Students are required to bring a laptop computer to class on the date

of the exam. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and cover material from the course readings, class lectures, and/or class discussions after the midterm exam. The exam must be taken on the indicated day unless you have a valid university-accepted excuse. If it is allowable to take the final exam on a different day/time, then the exam may be of a different format than the original exam.

### **Midterm Exam Policy**

The Midterm Exam will be in-person, and it will be made available through Blackboard during the Midterm Exam class session (listed in the Schedule of Classes). Students are required to bring a laptop computer (with a working microphone and webcam) to class on the date of the exam. The midterm exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, and it will cover material from the course readings, class lectures, and/or class discussions up to the date of the midterm exam. The midterm exam is considered over when the instructor is no longer in the room (all other students present have completed the exam). Please do not be late.

No make-up midterm exam will occur without a student having provided to the instructor valid documentation explaining or excusing the absence. The instructor has the discretion to decide if make-up is allowable outside the university's excused absences. If you miss an exam due to an emergency or illness, you must email me (and confirm with me that I have received your notification attempt) as soon as possible to arrange a make-up exam. A make-up exam may be of a different format than the original exam.

### **Other Course Communication**

In addition to standard in-class announcements during live class sessions, other course announcements will be communicated via Blackboard and/or email. Students are required to regularly check Blackboard and their UTEP-recognized preferred email address (i.e., the email address that they indicated to UTEP as their preferred email address).

### **Other Course Policies and Expectations**

- Debate and discussion are important in the critical evaluation of health ethics. It is expected that students will treat the instructor and other students with respect, including refraining from disparaging remarks, personal insults, derogatory comments, and other unprofessional behavior, in person or electronically. Any problem related to disruptive or threatening behavior may result in immediate and follow-up responses by the instructor and/or relevant UTEP offices, including (but not limited to) the student being asked to leave the class and the student being dropped from the course.

### **Email Protocol**

When emailing me, please put the course title in the subject line. In the body of your email, clearly state your question, concern, or comment. At the end of your email, be sure to put your first and last name. Please do not email me about information you can obtain from the syllabus. I generally do not answer substantive material from lectures or readings via email, as it is not an effective

means of communicating. If there is class material you are confused about, please come see me during my office hours.

### **Academic Integrity and Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

- Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports.
- Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own.
- Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

The use of artificial intelligence tools (such as Chat GPT) is NOT permitted in this course to complete any course activity. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

### **Plagiarism Detecting Software**

Some of your coursework and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism-detecting software.

### **Accommodations Policy**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, following state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Students with accommodations approved by CASS are encouraged to set up a meeting with the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester (or within the first two weeks after receiving the accommodations if the accommodations are approved after the start of the semester). It is the student's responsibility to contact me and arrange a meeting date/time that is mutually convenient.

### **Resources for Students**

Many UTEP students are experiencing very difficult situations. Please remember that UTEP offers many assistance resources for students! Please see the information below for available services and support. This assistance is available and created for you!

#### UTEP Student Success Resource Hub

- This hub is a single website that lists all available services and support for UTEP students. You can visit the website through the QR code or the URL below.  
[https://www.utep.edu/advising/student\\_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html](https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html)



If you can't find the resources that you need or would like additional assistance, you can contact the UTEP Student Success Help Desk at [studentsuccess@utep.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@utep.edu) or (915) 747-8887. They are ready to help you.

If you have any challenges with the UTEP Student Success Help Desk (or with finding assistance more generally), please contact me and I am happy to help!