

Professional Ethics in Rehabilitation Sciences (Hybrid)

DRSC 4312 – 001

CRN: 18041

The University of Texas at El Paso

Fall 2021

Hybrid Course

Live Class Sessions: Fridays, 12:30pm - 1:50pm

College of Business Administration Building Room 331

Instructor: Dr. Gregory S. Schober

Assistant Professor

Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences Program

Office: HSSN Building Room 486

Phone: 915-747-8506

Email: gschober@utep.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 3:00pm – 5:00pm

In-person or virtual (instructions to attend online will be available in Blackboard)

Also available by appointment (please email to request an appointment)

Class Website: Blackboard for this course through your MY UTEP PORTAL

Teaching Assistant: Judith Chavira-Mendoza, MS, MA, DTR

Doctoral Student

jlchaviram@miners.utep.edu

Course Description

This course considers professional ethics in rehabilitation sciences. It is an introduction to the legal and ethical principles in the practice and research of rehabilitation sciences. Because of the overlap across health care professions in practice, we take a general approach to analyzing professional ethics for health care providers and explore relevant applications for rehabilitation professionals. Lecture, discussion, case studies, and analytical exercises will be used to introduce principles, identify issues, and address ethical challenges faced by health care professionals.

Course Objectives (Learning Objectives)

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Outline ethical constructs within the field of health care.
- 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

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

- Social responsibility
- Leadership
- Communication
- Critical thinking

Students will have opportunities to exercise and develop the skills listed above through UTEP Edge experiences, such as research and scholarly activities and community engagement.

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.

Required Readings (available at the UTEP Bookstore or elsewhere):

- 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
- Note: Some additional shorter required readings (e.g., articles that are available online) are listed below in the Schedule of Classes.

Course Requirements

- **Midterm 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 (in live class sessions and online discussion boards) up to the date of the midterm exam. Through this requirement (and in line with the UTEP Edge initiative), students will have opportunities to exercise critical thinking skills (250 points; 25% of grade).
- **Final Exam**: The final exam will consist of multiple choice questions, and it will cover material from the course readings, class lectures, and/or class discussions (in live class sessions and online discussion boards) after the midterm exam. Through this requirement (and in line with the UTEP Edge initiative), students will have opportunities to exercise critical thinking skills (250 points; 25% of grade).
- **Progress Summary**: Students will be required to submit a short written summary of their progress on the civic engagement research project. Through this requirement (and in line with the UTEP Edge initiative), students will have opportunities to exercise the following skills: communication and critical thinking (100 points; 10% of grade).
- **Civic Engagement Research Project**: Students are required to write a research paper that analyzes current local community resources for social assistance. Through this requirement (and in line with the UTEP Edge initiative), students will have opportunities to exercise the following skills: social responsibility, leadership, communication, and critical thinking (250 points; 25% of grade).
- **Participation**: Students will be able to earn participation points each week by actively participating in the live class sessions and by posting responses to the online discussion

boards created by the instructor. For live class participation and discussion board posts, points will be awarded based on the quantity and quality of participation. All participation opportunities will be available in the live class sessions and in Blackboard. Through this requirement (and in line with the UTEP Edge initiative), students will have opportunities to exercise the following skills: leadership, communication, and critical thinking (150 points; 15% of grade).

Grading Policies

Final grades will be calculated by adding up the earned points from the requirements that are listed above. The final grade will use the following grading scale:

A: 900.00 – 1000.00

B: 800.00 – 899.999

C: 700.00 – 799.999

D: 600.00 – 699.999

F: Below 600.00

Other grading policies are included below.

Course Instruction Format and Design

This course is a hybrid format, and it includes live class sessions, pre-recorded lectures, and online discussion boards. The hybrid format aspires to have some key hyflex principles. The live class sessions will take place on the day/time listed at the top of the syllabus. Live class sessions will be face-to-face (i.e., in-person), but—technology permitting—students will have the option of attending the live class sessions online. Note that the live class sessions only cover half of the scheduled class times for this course. Asynchronous pre-recorded lectures and online discussion board posts will fill the remaining times. The course instruction format is subject to change due to UTEP policies and/or changes in health circumstances.

This course uses Blackboard, so all course materials—syllabus, research paper guidelines, instructions on how to connect online to each class session and virtual office hours, exams, submission areas, discussion boards, and pre-recorded lectures—will be posted in Blackboard.

For those who want to attend live class sessions online or virtual office hours (technology permitting), instructions on how to connect to the live class sessions online and virtual office hours sessions will be posted in 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 computer/laptop, microphone (if possible), and webcam (if possible). You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat Reader. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a 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 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

Because this is a hybrid class, we won't see each other as much as we would in a full face-to-face (in-person) course. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **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, and instructions on how to connect to virtual office hours will be available in Blackboard.
- **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 or your email for important messages.

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 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 on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

University Policies

This instructor abides by university policies in the UTEP undergraduate catalog: <http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/academic-regulations/curriculum-and-classroom-policies/>. It is the student's responsibility to understand their rights and university policies. In addition to university policies, I add the following policies below.

Attendance Policy

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all live class sessions, and they may attend these sessions face-to-face (in person) or online (technology permitting). Students also are strongly encouraged 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.
- According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor can drop the student from the class with a grade of W before the course drop deadline and with a grade of F after the course drop deadline."
- 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 are not valid excuses.

Final Exam Policy

The Final Exam will be an E-exam, and it will be made available online through Blackboard during the Final Exam testing period (listed below in the Schedule of Classes). Each student will take the exam independently at their preferred time and place during the testing period, and the exam will be open-book and open-note (i.e., students will be allowed to use their books, notes, class slides, etc., but they will NOT be allowed to communicate with others about the test during the testing period). Lockdown Browser will NOT be required to access the exam, and you will NOT be forced to complete the exam once you start. More instructions will be given through class communications.

Midterm Exam Policy

The Midterm Exam will be an E-exam, and it will be made available online through Blackboard during the Midterm Exam testing period (listed below in the Schedule of Classes). Each student will take the exam independently at their preferred time and place during the testing period, and the exam will be open-book and open-note (i.e., students will be allowed to use their books, notes, class slides, etc., but they will NOT be allowed to communicate with others about the test during the testing period). Lockdown Browser will NOT be required to access the exam, and you will NOT be forced to complete the exam once you start. More instructions will be given through class communications.

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 a make-up is allowable outside the university excused absences. If you miss an exam due to an emergency or illness, you must notify 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.

Progress Summary

In this short written summary, you will have the opportunity to answer questions regarding your progress on the civic engagement research project. Further details and instructions will be provided through course communications (about 500-750 words, worth 100 points; 10% of overall grade). Late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for each class day they are late. **An electronic copy of your paper (in Microsoft Word or PDF) must be submitted via Blackboard by the due date for the progress summary (listed below in the Schedule of Classes).**

Civic Engagement Research Project

Imagine that you know someone in El Paso who is food insecure (i.e., they know or fear that they don't have enough food to eat) or housing insecure (i.e., they don't have stable access to safe and affordable housing). In this community-based research project, you will conduct research online to determine what local resources are available to help food insecure and housing insecure community members.

Students are required to write a research paper (minimum 8 pages - maximum 10 pages) that analyzes current local community resources for food assistance and housing assistance in El Paso, Texas. In the paper, students must respond to the following questions: Which entities (community organizations, government agencies, private companies, or schools/universities) provide food assistance or housing assistance for people in El Paso? Name at least three entities that provide food assistance (e.g., free or reduced-cost food) and at least three entities that provide housing assistance (e.g., emergency shelters, rent payment assistance, utility bill assistance, reduced rent, etc.), and describe the assistance that each entity provides. In your description of each example of assistance, describe what assistance is being offered, how and when one can access it, and what eligibility requirements there are (if any) to receive the

assistance (if some information is not available online, then in your paper you may report this missing information as unavailable). How would you characterize the current level of support for food insecure and housing insecure individuals in the El Paso community? How do you think food insecurity and housing insecurity affect the provision of rehabilitation services in El Paso? What are the ethical implications of your findings for health care in our local community? In your research, you should refer to the websites of local entities that provide food assistance or housing assistance in El Paso (minimum of 6 website sources). Students will discuss the results of their research project with other class members during a live class session. **To receive credit, students must submit their paper through Blackboard as a Microsoft Word or PDF document by the due date (listed below in the Schedule of Classes).** Further details and instructions will be provided in course communications.

Online Discussion Board Posts

Many weeks, students will be able to earn participation points by posting a response to the online discussion board created by the instructor. For discussion board posts, points will be awarded based on the quantity and quality of posts. All discussion board participation opportunities will be available on Blackboard. **To receive credit each week, students must submit their post through Blackboard by the due date (the due date for each week is listed below in the Schedule of Classes).**

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 policy and 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.
- At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of lack of effort. A grade of “W” will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline. A grade of “F” received due to disciplinary action imposed by the University overrides a grade of “W” received through a student-initiated or faculty drop. Students will be notified of their drop through their UTEP e-mail account. Students may also be administratively withdrawn from a course during the semester for other reasons, with the concurrence of the instructor and department chair, or dean. Approved requests will be forwarded to the Registration and Records Office for processing. Students are responsible for checking their class schedules in Goldmine and

for checking their official UTEP preferred e-mail accounts to determine if they have been dropped from a class.

Email Protocol

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. 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

As stated in the UTEP undergraduate catalog, “Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes, and is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the 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, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the *Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP)*, and available in the Office of Student Life and on the homepage of the Office of Student Life at www.utep.edu/dos, can result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.”

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services \(CASS\)](#). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#). The student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any CASS accommodation letters and instructions before arrangements need to be made for exams or other needs.

Students with accommodations approved by CASS must 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.

Class Recordings

Technology permitting, the use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

COVID-19 Precaution Statement

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Resources for Students

- Emergency Aid for UTEP Students
 - The Dean of Students Office has several emergency aid programs for students. Please visit their website (<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students-office/emergencyaid/>) to see a list of all the programs.
 - If you would like more information or have any further questions, you can contact the Dean of Students Office at DOS@utep.edu or (915) 747-5648
- Other Resources for UTEP Students
 - <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/resources/index.html>
- Emergency Grants and Assistance for UTEP Students
 - Visit <https://www.utep.edu/utepcares/apply/> or call 877-747-8983
- UTEP Writing Center
 - Library Building, Room 227
 - (915) 747-5112
 - <http://uwc.utep.edu/>
- UTEP Career Center
 - 103 W Union Building

- 915-747-5640
- <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/careers/>
- UTEP Counseling and Psychological Services
 - Union West, Room 202
 - 915-747-5302
 - After Hours Crisis Line: 915-747-5302
 - <http://sa.utep.edu/counsel/>
- University Police Department
 - 915-747-5611
 - <https://www.utep.edu/police/>
- UTEP Student Health Center
 - 915-747-5624
 - <https://www.utep.edu/chs/shc/>
- Center Against Sexual and Family Violence
 - 580 Giles Road
 - 915-593-7300
 - 24/7 Crisis Hope Line: 1-800-727-0511
- Campus Advocacy, Resources, and Education (CARE)
 - Advocacy and counseling for students who are victims of a crime or secondary victims. These services may be extended to the students' support system, if applicable. A victim of crime is a person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial, and/or emotional harm because of the commission of a crime.
 - 1101 N. Campbell Building, Room 103
 - 915-747-7452
 - care@utep.edu
 - www.utep.edu/care
- UTEP Food Pantry
 - Memorial Gym, Room 105
 - 915-747-8053
 - foodpantry@utep.edu
- Kelly Center for Hunger Relief
 - 915 N Florence St, El Paso, TX 79902
 - 915-261-7499
 - <https://www.facebook.com/915kmfp/>
- UTEP Student Support Services for Challenges with Finances (FHAR)
 - Academic Advising Center
 - 915-747-5290
- If you would like to access other resources, please contact me and I will do my best to help you search for additional resources.

Schedule of Classes (Subject to Change)

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

Weekly Schedule

	Live Class Session (students may attend in person or online, technology permitting)	Topic	Assigned Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 Aug 23 – Aug 29	Fri, Aug 27 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Class Introduction	Course Syllabus	Submit Week 1 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Aug 29 at 11:59pm
Week 2 Aug 30 – Sept 5	Fri, Sept 3 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Scope of Practice and Accountability Overview of the Civic Engagement Research Project	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 5 (pp. 79-85) Code of Ethical Standards of the Professional Association of Health Care Office Management (PAHCOM)	Submit Week 2 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Sept 5 at 11:59pm
Week 3 Sept 6 – Sept 12	Fri, Sept 10 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Legislation and Professional Regulations	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 7	Submit Week 3 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Sept 12 at 11:59pm
Week 4 Sept 13 – Sept 19	Fri, Sept 17 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Basic Concepts in Ethics; Ethical Decision Process	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 1	Submit Week 4 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Sept 19 at 11:59pm
Week 5	Fri, Sept 24 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Ethics in Research and Practice: Holocaust,	King, Jr. (1963): "Letter from Birmingham Jail"	Submit the Progress Summary in

Sept 20 – Sept 26		Tuskegee, Belmont: Where are we now?	*Note: you may need to be on the UTEP virtual network to access this text	Blackboard by Sept 26 at 11:59pm
Week 6 Sept 27 – Oct 3	Fri, Oct 1 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Patient’s Bill of Rights Review Session	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 2 and Ch. 3	Submit Week 6 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Oct 3 at 11:59pm
Week 7 Oct 4 – Oct 10	No live class session	Midterm Exam Online Testing Period from Oct 5 – Oct 8	No assigned reading	Complete the Midterm Exam in Blackboard by Oct 8 at 11:59pm
Week 8 Oct 11 – Oct 17	Fri, Oct 15 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Scope of Confidentiality	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 4 and Ch. 6	Submit Week 8 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Oct 17 at 11:59pm
Week 9 Oct 18 – Oct 24	Fri, Oct 22 12:30pm – 1:50pm	End of Life Decisions and Other Controversial Aspects	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 8 and Ch. 9	Submit Week 9 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Oct 24 at 11:59pm
Week 10 Oct 25 – Oct 31	Fri, Oct 29 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Evidence-based Practice and News you can use	Finn et al. (2005): “Science and Pseudoscience in Communication Disorders: Criteria and Applications” *Note: you may need to be on the UTEP virtual network to access this text	Submit Week 10 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Oct 31 at 11:59pm
Week 11 Nov 1 – Nov 7	Fri, Nov 5 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Professional Competence and Environment	Stanford & Connor, Ch. 5 (pp. 71-79)	Submit Week 11 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Nov 7 at 11:59pm

Week 12 Nov 8 – Nov 14	Fri, Nov 12 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Global Issues in Health Care: What are we doing here?	Yassi et al. (2013): “The Ethics of Ethics Reviews in Global Health Research: Case Studies Applying a New Paradigm” *Note: you may need to be on the UTEP virtual network to access this text	Submit Week 12 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Nov 14 at 11:59pm
Week 13 Nov 15 – Nov 21	Fri, Nov 19 12:30pm – 1:50pm	Reflection Session	No assigned reading	Submit Week 13 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Nov 21 at 11:59pm
Week 14 Nov 22 – Nov 28	No live class session	Community Resources, Ethics, and Health	No assigned reading	Submit the Civic Engagement Research Paper in Blackboard by Nov 28 at 11:59pm
Week 15 Nov 29 – Dec 5	Optional live class session (date/time to be determined)	Review Session	No assigned reading	Submit Week 15 Online Discussion Board Post in Blackboard by Dec 5 at 11:59pm
Week 16 Dec 6 – Dec 12	No live class session	Final Exam Online Testing Period from Dec 7 – Dec 10	No assigned reading	Complete the Final Exam in Blackboard by Dec 10 at 11:59pm

*The information above is subject to change.