

Professional Ethics in Rehabilitation Sciences

DRSC 4312 – 001

CRN: 27057

The University of Texas at El Paso

Spring 2020

Tuesday: 2:00pm - 4:50pm

Health Sciences and Nursing Building 206

Instructor: Dr. Gregory S. Schober

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Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences Program

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Office Hours: Tues: 9:30am – 11:30am

 Thurs: 9:30am – 11:30am

 (and by appointment)

Class Website: Blackboard through your MY UTEP PORTAL

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.
- Identify major global health ethical issues
- Recognize the role of community resources in rehabilitation services and community health.

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 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 (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 after the midterm exam. Through this requirement (and in line with the UTEP Edge initiative), students will have opportunities to exercise critical thinking skills (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 (10% of grade).
- Civic Engagement Research Project: Student teams are required to complete a community research dossier that describes local community resources for medical treatment services and rehabilitation services. 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 (25% of grade).
- Class Attendance and Participation: Students will be able to earn participation points each class session by attending and participating in class discussions. Points will be awarded based on the quantity and quality of participation. 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 (15% of grade).

Grading Policies

Final grades will be calculated using the following formula: multiply the percentage of points earned for each course requirement category by the weight of each course requirement category

to determine each weighted course requirement category score, and then add up the weighted course requirement category scores to determine the final grade score. The final grade will use the following grading scale:

A: 90.00 – 100.00

B: 80.00 – 89.999

C: 70.00 – 79.999

D: 60.00 – 69.999

F: Below 60.00

Other grading policies are included below.

University Policies

This instructor abides by university policies, such as excused absences and attendance, as stated 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

UTEP expects that students will not miss classes without valid excuses. Students will be asked to sign an attendance sheet for each class meeting. It is expected that you do not miss classes, which will result in a penalty to your grade. More specifically, after two unexcused absences, I will begin to deduct points from your attendance and participation grade for each subsequent unexcused absence. Note that the class participation portion of each student's grade is left solely to the discretion of the instructor.

Here are specific situations of absence and whether or not excuses will be accepted as valid or not:

- Valid university excuses include religious holy days, officially recognized university activities (with Dean of Students letter), and military leave. Students must follow the required documentation procedure for each valid university excuse.
- The instructor reserves the right to accept, or not, excuses related to medical issues. Naturally, it is not usually feasible to document in advance any time lost due to illness. The exception is planned surgeries and appointments (not normal check-ups). Any class time missed will not be excused without medical or other valid documentation. Documentation from Mexico is permissible. 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.
- Absences due to conflicts with work, child care, etc. that make it impossible for you to regularly attend this class are not permitted. If you know you will have scheduling conflicts with this class, then you should make other arrangements or postpone this class until a future semester.
- 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.”

- Missed exams due to family hardship or family medical problems may not be accepted by the instructor as valid excuses. For example, helping family members move, picking up at the airport, driving family members to medical appointments when you know they conflict with class, and other such activities, will not be permitted as valid excuses. Emergencies such as deaths in the family must be documented, unfortunately.
- Missing any course assessments and work due to vacations and pre-booked travel arrangements are not valid excuses.

Final Exam Policy

The date and time of the final exam are listed below in the Schedule of Classes. The final exam is considered over when the instructor is no longer in the room (all other students present have completed the exam), so do not be late. The exam must be taken on this day unless you have a valid university accepted excuse. This exam will be an in-class E-exam and will use Lockdown Browser. At least one week before the exam date, students are required to download the Lockdown Browser on their personal laptop or reserve a laptop with Equipment Checkout in the Library, Room 300. Students are required to bring the laptop computer to class on the date of the exam. More instructions will be given in class regarding the exam.

Midterm Exam Policy

The date of the midterm exam is listed below in the Schedule of Classes. The midterm exam is considered over when the instructor is no longer in the room (all other students present have completed the exam), so do not be late. This exam will be an in-class E-exam and will use Lockdown Browser. At least one week before the exam date, students are required to download the Lockdown Browser on their personal laptop or reserve a laptop with Equipment Checkout in the Library, Room 300. Students are required to bring the laptop computer to class on the date of the exam. More instructions will be given in class regarding the exam.

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, your small team will have the opportunity to answer questions regarding your progress on the civic engagement research project. Further details and instructions will be provided in class (about 500-750 words, worth 10% of overall grade). Late papers will be penalized two full letter grades for each class day they are late. **Printed copy of your paper—one paper for each team—is due at the start of class on the due date for the progress summary (listed below in the Schedule of Classes).**

Civic Engagement Research Project

Students are required to work in small teams (3-4 individuals) to create a community research dossier that describes current local community resources for health care services in El Paso, Texas. The dossier includes a short paper (3-5 pages) and a community resources guide (page length will vary). In the dossier, students must respond to the following questions: If a person in El Paso is in need of medical treatment services but cannot afford to pay for the services, what options does the person have? Name up to three sites where the person can go to receive free or reduced-cost medical treatment services, and describe the assistance that is provided (including benefits and costs to the person). If a person in El Paso is in need of rehabilitation services but cannot afford to pay for the services, what options does the person have? Name up to three sites where the person can go to receive free or reduced-cost rehabilitation services, and describe the assistance that is provided (including benefits and costs to the person). Each team will be assigned a site type (community organizations, government agencies, or companies), and the team must focus their dossier on the available resources from only that particular site type. Based on your findings, do you agree with the relative emphasis that the local community places on medical treatment services versus rehabilitation services, and why? What are the ethical implications of your findings? In the dossier, you should cite the official websites of community organizations, government agencies, or companies that focus on health care services in the local area. Students will discuss the results of their research project with other class members during a class session. **Students must submit their printed dossier—one dossier for each team—by the start of class on the due date for the Civic Engagement Research Dossier (listed below in the Schedule of Classes).** Further details and instructions will be provided in class.

Course Communication

In addition to standard in-class announcements, some important course announcements may be communicated by email or Blackboard. Students are required to regularly check their UTEP-recognized preferred email address (i.e., the email address that they indicated to UTEP as their preferred email address) and Blackboard.

Other Course Policies and Expectations

- Debate and discussion are important in the critical evaluation of health, policy, and 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 excessive absences or 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.

- Outside work and other non-class related activities are not permitted in our classroom.
- Cell phone/smart phone/PDA usage is not permitted during exams or at other times when it might pose a class disruption. Laptops, tablets, or other electronic devices used for note-taking are permissible, but students using such must not engage in any activities that disrupt other students.

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.”

Disability Statement

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS’ staff are the only individuals who can validate, and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities. 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.

Other Resources for Students

- 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 Student Food Bank (Student Engagement and Leadership Center)
 - Union West, Room 106
 - 915-747-5670

- 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

Tues	1/21	Introduction to the Course
Tues	1/28	<p>Scope of Practice and Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford & Connor, Ch. 5 (pp. 79-85) Code of Ethical Standards of the Professional Association of Health Care Office Management (PAHCOM), https://www.pahcom.com/membership/ethical_standards.html <p>Overview of the Civic Engagement Research Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description and Discussion of the Guidelines for the Progress Summary and Research Dossier
Tues	2/4	<p>Legislation and Professional Regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford & Connor, Ch. 7
Tues	2/11	<p>Basic Concepts in Ethics; Ethical Decision Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford & Connor, Ch. 1
Tues	2/18	<p>Ethics in Research and Practice: Holocaust, Tuskegee, Belmont: Where are we now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> King, Jr. (1963): "Letter from Birmingham Jail" https://lawreview.law.ucdavis.edu/issues/26/4/articles/DavisVol26No4_King.pdf <p>*Note: you may need to be on the UTEP network to access this text</p>
Tues	2/25	<p>Patient's Bill of Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford & Connor, Ch. 2 and Ch. 3
Tues	3/3	<p>Community Resources, Ethics, and Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No assigned reading Some reflection on Civic Engagement Research Project Review Session Practice-run for E-exam (prior to class, download the Lockdown Browser on your personal laptop or reserve a laptop with Equipment Checkout in the Library, Room 300. Bring the laptop computer to class) Progress Summary Due (submit printed copy—one for each team—to the instructor by the start of class)
Tues	3/10	<p>Midterm Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class, E-exam (laptop computer required): Prior to class, download the Lockdown Browser on your personal laptop or reserve a laptop with Equipment Checkout in the Library, Room 300. Bring the laptop computer to take the exam in class.
Tues	3/17	No Class (Spring Break)
Tues	3/24	<p>Scope of Confidentiality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford & Connor, Ch. 4 and Ch. 6
Tues	3/31	<p>End of Life Decisions and Other Controversial Aspects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford & Connor, Ch. 8 and Ch. 9

Tues	4/7	Evidence-based Practice and News you can use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finn et al. (2005): “Science and Pseudoscience in Communication Disorders: Criteria and Applications” https://pubs.asha.org/doi/full/10.1044/1058-0360%282005/018%29 *Note: you may need to be on the UTEP network to access this text
Tues	4/14	Professional Competence and Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanford & Connor, Ch. 5 (pp. 71-79)
Tues	4/21	Global Issues in Health Care: What are we doing here? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yassi et al. (2013): “The Ethics of Ethics Reviews in Global Health Research: Case Studies Applying a New Paradigm” https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10805-013-9182-y *Note: you may need to be on the UTEP network to access this text
Tues	4/28	Civic Engagement Research Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Engagement Research Dossier Due (submit printed copy—one for each team—to the instructor by the start of class) • Reflection Session
Tues	5/5	Health Care, Ethics, and Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Session • Last Lecture
TBD*	TBD	Final Exam: TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class, E-exam (laptop computer required): Prior to class, download the Lockdown Browser on your personal laptop or reserve a laptop with Equipment Checkout in the Library, Room 300. Bring the laptop computer to take the exam in class.

*Note: The Final Exam date/time is TBD (to be determined), because the class meets at a non-standard meeting time. The UTEP Scheduling Office and College of Health Sciences will assign a final exam day/time after Census Day, and I will notify you when I receive this information.

**Note: This syllabus was adapted from previous versions that were created by Dr. Bess Sirmon-Taylor and Dr. Anita Bialunska.