CHSC 6302 – Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Sciences  
Fall 2023 (CRN 15782)  
The University of Texas at El Paso, College of Health Sciences and Nursing

Instructor: H. Sabrina Kao, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Credit Hours: 3 credits  
Class time: Wednesdays 2pm – 4:50pm  
Classroom: HSN 219  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1pm-2pm & after the class, individual appointment (TBA)  
Email: hkao@utep.edu  
Office: #335 HSSN  
Office Tel: 747-7279 (leave a message & call back no. even I am not in)

Course Description: A study of legal and ethical principles and theory with emphasis on how they apply to the provision of health services and pursuit of health research in culturally diverse settings. The course examines standard and emerging (e.g., Ethics of Care) theories and principles of ethics and the laws related to health services and offer in-depth look at how these theories and principles apply in ethically diverse practice settings and research.

Course Objectives. At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Define and give examples of morality and moral values, duties, rights, character traits and professional responsibilities.
- Differentiate between laws, regulations, policies, and ethical responsibilities and understand these may conflict.
- Evaluate ethics of care, another professional code of ethics in a profession of interest, and describe the ethical duties illustrated.
- Implement several approaches to ethical problem solving.
- Discuss approaches to cases where principles of confidentiality, information disclosure and informed consent must be applied.
- Describe and discuss ethical issues related to research, modern technologies and treatments (e.g., organ transplant, end of life care, suicide).
- Explore global health ethical issues such as human security and environmental justice and related approaches.

Course Format: lecture, in-classroom participation, presentation, discussion assignment, debate.

Required Materials: 

Other materials will be posted on Blackboard.
Course Assignments and Grading

Grade Distribution:
100-90 = A      89-80 = B      79-70 = C      69-60 = D      59 and Below = F

Method of Evaluation: Students will be assessed by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short discussion assignment</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Five short individual discussion assignments. Each assignment 9 points x 5 times = 45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Legally and ethically challenges on assigned case – formal analysis of multiple ethical decision-making approaches. Everyone has 10 minutes to present.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debate group project</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Everyone will be granted various scores.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class participation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Constructive and thoughtful reactions in class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>100 possible points</td>
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Class Activities:

Short Discussion Assignment: To promote understanding of the course’s material, students will be required to submit a biweekly discussion assignment by logically arguing your standpoint, analyzing data and generating conclusions, or even giving own examples for the concepts or mechanisms discussed. The word limit is 650 words in text (references excluded); the portion beyond 650 words will not be graded.

Individual Presentation: Students will be given three different scenarios; each student will draw one to do a short presentation of 10 minutes (plus answer questions) at the scheduled time.

Debate Group Project: To deepen understanding of concepts and models of ethical decision-making and develop a systematic approach for translating academic knowledge into real-life problems, students will conduct an analysis of an assigned health-related challenging case, presenting an ethical and legal dilemma, ask and being asked by opponents. The analysis will include a formal description of the case, an explanation of complexity, multidimensionality, and implementation of multiple ethical decision-making approaches by debating. Each team member will be given various scores.

All points collected on above assignments cannot be made up unless excused absence that has prior contact and arranged with the instructor, so students are expected to actively communicate with the instructor.
**Attendance/Assignment Due Dates:**

- Regular attendance is expected, but if you are ill or cannot attend class (e.g., car issue on the road), notify the instructor before class time by email, phone message, or in person. You are responsible for keeping track of all assignments, and getting any work missed from a classmate.

- You are responsible for completing assigned readings before class and projects by the due dates as stated in the syllabus and calendar. Assignments are required to be submitted in hard copy prior to or by the designated due date (at 2pm). Late assignments will not be accepted and will result in zero points. Unless due to documented illness or emergency, a physician’s excuse or documentation of an emergency is required for a late assignment to be accepted without penalty.

- Please notify the instructor at the first class if you know you will not be able to attend class due to religious holidays so that we can arrange for work missed to be made up. You will not be penalized for absences or late assignments due to the observance of religious holidays.

**Course Policies and Other Information:**

**Blackboard:** Class information will be posted on Blackboard including calendar, syllabus, each class instructions, and assignments instructions. Go to the UTEP Blackboard site, log on with your ID, and choose CHSC 6302 from your list of accessible courses.

**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.

**Scholastic Integrity:**
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 ones’ own. Collusion involves collaborating with another
person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. 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.

**Course Resources:** Where you can go for assistance.

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

* **Technology Resources**
  - **Help Desk:** Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in-person if on campus.

* **Academic Resources**
  - **UTEP Library:** Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks and reference services and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
  - **University Writing Center (UWC):** Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
  - **Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS):** Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
  - **History Tutoring Center (HTC):** Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
  - **RefWorks:** A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

* **Individual Resources**
  - **Military Student Success Center:** Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
  - **Center for Accommodations and Support Services:** Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
  - **Counseling and Psychological Services:** Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.