SYLLABUS
LAW AND ETHICS IN HEALTH CARE
32.616/041/042 – Spring 2012

NOTE: Please print out a copy of this syllabus for future reference

INSTRUCTOR
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course presents an overview of legal and ethical issues facing managers and
providers in health care. It provides students with a foundation of health law and
ethics and reviews a wide variety of health care legal and ethical situations and
dilemmas. The goals are to provide students with practical knowledge of health
law and ethics and their application to the real world of health care. By the end
of the course, students will have been exposed to many management ideas,
thories and applications of health care law and ethics. Students will have a
working knowledge of pertinent law and ethical procedures and how to apply
them in the health care arena.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Law and Ethics in Health Care (32.616) provides an overview of the laws
governing health care institutions and the ethical dilemmas facing managers and
providers in these institutions. The roles of management staff, physicians, nurses
and other clinical and support staff are examined in addressing legal and ethic
issues within these organizations.

My style of teaching attempts to encourage a good deal of dialogue and learning
from each other. It will be very important to view and analyze legal and ethical
issues from multiple perspectives. Therefore, in addition to the textbook,
assigned readings and cases, and the instructor’s experience (that’s me), we will
build on students’ prior learning and experience in these areas (that’s you).

Also, I believe that students will come to see during the semester that most legal
and ethical issues in health care have multiple causes with multiple effects, and
that there is usually no ‘one best way’ to resolve them. However, there are
better and worse ways to handle these situations and we will explore these
together.
GENERAL INFORMATION

Law and Ethics in Health Care is taught as a "blended" in-person and online course giving you the opportunity to experience the "Best of Both Educational Worlds" with face-to-face meetings and online sessions.

The class will meet in-person for six (6) Saturday mornings during the semester, and nine (9) online class meetings on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 PM when the class does not meet in-person.

In order for a "Blended" course to be successful, engagement, participation and communication by students is essential. Discussion and participation are the foundations of this course. The more you're involved and participate in all aspects of the course, the more you are likely to profit from it.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Pozgar, George D. "Legal and Ethical Issues for Health Professionals" 2nd Edition
Jones and Bartlett, (2010).


In addition, there will be supplemental readings listed on the class schedule.

In-Person Classes

The Six In-Person Classes will run much like a class in a traditional master's course. The classes will meet from 9:00 to 12:00 on six Saturday mornings at the Yankee Alliance offices in Andover, Massachusetts. See the class schedule for the dates.

Each session will be structured in the following way:

Attendance at each In-person class will be worth 10 points (60 total) towards your grade and will be based upon your participation and contributions as assessed by me.

Weekly Wimba Classes

The Weekly Wimba Classes are the most unique part of this blended course. There will be 9 Wimba sessions held from 7:30 to 9:00 PM on Thursday evenings during the weeks when we don't meet in person. See the class schedule for the dates.
We will hold the Wimba classes online using your computer and the UMass Wimba software. With Wimba, we will be able to have "real classroom discussions" by conversing with each other over the internet. Using Wimba for voice communication should make each online class an easier and a better learning experience than the traditional online typing experience.

Note: To use Wimba, you will need good quality microphone and headphones for your computer.

Attendance and participation in the Weekly Wimba Classes will be worth 10 points for a total of 90 points towards your grade.

A Note on Attendance

Students are expected to attend each In-Person or Online Class unless other arrangements have been made with me in advance. I would like you to send me an e-mail if you will be missing class.

Note: Because of the importance of attendance, more than two absences from the Wimba on-line class, and one absence from the In-Person Class, may result in a lowering of your grade for the course.

What happens if you have to miss a class?

To help you keep up with the class and for your review, the Wimba classes will be archived on the class web site.

If you can’t participate in a given class, then I expect, at a minimum, that you’ll listen to the archive and review the PowerPoints.

Assignments

You will have assignments for each class as follows.

i. Core Reading Assignment – For each class there will be reading assignments from the textbooks by Pozgar, Gawande as well as other assigned readings.

ii. Weekly Posting to Discussion Board – For each online week, I will assign one or more cases to analyze from a legal and/or ethical perspective and several study questions based upon that week’s assignments. You will need to type and post your responses and analyses to the class Discussion Board. These postings will be available for review and
comment by the entire class. I strongly encourage you to comment and cross-talk in response to the posting.

The postings will be due on Monday evenings by 12:00PM. On the following Thursday evening, we will review and discuss the classes’ responses to the assigned cases.

In the interest of providing ongoing feedback, I will be assessing each of your online assignments, using the following scale.

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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No Posting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory - (S-)</td>
<td>Substantially incomplete with unduly short mechanical answers not reflecting independent thought or analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory (S)</td>
<td>Somewhat incomplete or not fully responsive to the case issues or the study questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory + (S+)</td>
<td>Fully complete, comprehensive and thoughtful answers to all questions.</td>
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“Extra credit” will be available to anyone reflecting additional research or reporting relevant personal experiences or anecdotes in responding to the discussion board assignments.

iii. **Book Review or Literature Review (Choose one):**

A. Book Review: Each student will read and write a book review and make a PowerPoint presentation of the book to the class which will be posted on the Discussion Board under the title of Book Reports for that Session. You are free to select a book for review that deals with an aspect of healthcare Law and/or Ethics, but you must submit a short description of it to me for approval. The book can either be factual or fictional. I will have some books available but you may want to borrow one from a library or purchase one that I don’t have. The review should be no more than 10 PowerPoint pages. I would like it sent to each
student in the class at least two days, sooner if possible, before the next on-line or in-person class.

B. Literature Review: If you find that your topic is not adequately covered by a book, you may choose to do a review of your topic based on at least five articles from peer reviewed journals or official government publications. Peer reviewed journals are those that have a panel of professional editors from healthcare that review the article before it is published to determine if it is up to professional standards.

This assignment is worth 60 points.

iv. Term Paper: This is the major writing assignment for the course. You will self-select a contemporary topic or issue on a topic of either Law or Ethics and prepare and write a paper of 8 – 10 pages. You may use your book review or journal articles as the basis for your term paper.

This assignment is worth 50 points.

Topics written about by previous students included:

- Effects of HIPAA on Patient Care and Management
- Is Assisted Suicide ethical?
- Compliance Planning and Quality Health Care
- Cost Control and the ethical treatment of patients and employees.
- Sexual harassment in the health care workplace
- Unionization and its effects on patients and workers.
- Sedation at the End of Life

These are just a few examples of possible topics. More will be discussed throughout the semester.

A topical outline of your tem paper should be submitted to me by email by March 5 for me to get an idea of where you are going for the semester.

*Guest Lecturers*
Depending on availability, guest lecturers may meet with the class and discuss pertinent topics related to health law and ethics.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

The following summarizes how points are gained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Person Class Participation</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Wimba Class Participation</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posted Discussion of Cases and Study Question responses</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book or Literature Review</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>300</td>
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You grade will be calculated on the percentage of the points you acquire throughout the semester. Ninety or more percent of the points will receive an A, eighty percent a B, and so on.

Policy on Late Work. Under normal circumstances, late work will not be accepted without the prior agreement, except in the case of an emergency.

Plagiarism (whether from published sources, unpublished sources or the Internet) is not allowed in preparation of written assignments. A first offense will mean a letter reduction in your grade for the entire course; a second offense will result in your failing the course. It is incumbent on you (the student) to learn and understand what is meant by plagiarism and act accordingly. I encourage you to read http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism. No extenuating circumstances will be allowed, and no second chances will be given.