

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CANTON, NEW YORK**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**HSMB 302: LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN HEALTH CARE**

**PREPARED BY: A. SIGNORELLI**

**Revised by: M. Fiacco**

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS  
HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT**

**SPRING 2015**

- A. **TITLE:** Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Care
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** HSMB 302
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE (OPTIONAL):** Yes
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE:** 3 lecture hours
- H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**  
 This writing intensive course prepares the students to examine legal and ethical issues in healthcare as they impact the health services manager and others involved in healthcare decision making. A variety of commonly experienced legal situations and ethical dilemmas will be discussed, including the basics of civil and criminal healthcare law, professional liability, antitrust, managed care, organizational restructuring, patient rights, scientific research, rationing, healthcare practices, and other issues. The course also will educate students in legal research methods applied to the health services management field.
- I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES:** HSMB 301 Public Health Issues, or junior level status or permission of instructor.
- J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):** At the conclusion of this course, the student will

Course Objective	Institutional SLO
1. Recognize potential legal issues during situations which commonly arise in health care organizations.	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
2. Address legal problems directly or effectively define legal issues to support utilization of legal counsel.	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking
3. Define a personal code of medical ethics to enhance the ethical decision making process.	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
4. Analyze the commonly occurring legal and ethical situations including identification of the problem, options for solving the problem and defending his/her choice of solution.	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
5. Research a paper on a topic related to a	1. Communication

legal/or ethical situation that might be encountered in a health services management experience.	4 Inter-Intrapersonal Skills
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**K. TEXTS:**

Pozgar, G.D., *Legal Aspects of Health Care Administration*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, Jones & Bartlett, 2011.

**L. REFERENCES:**

Illingworth, P., and Parmet, W. E., *Ethical Health Care*, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.

Harman, L. B., *Ethical Challenges in the Management of Health Information*, Aspen Publications, 2001.

Purtilo, R., *Ethical Dimensions in the Health Professions*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Elsevier Saunders, 2005.

Aiken, T. D., *Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Occupations*, Saunders, 2002.

**M. EQUIPMENT: None**

**N. GRADING METHOD: A-F**

**O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

Discussions, quizzes, and assignments will be used to measure attainment of course objectives. A final exam will be administered as the culminating experience. The student will be expected to include critical elements to demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and legal issues involved in health care management.

**P. DETAILED TOPICAL OUTLINE:**

1. Ethical problems in health care
  - a) Elements of ethics: rights and duties
  - b) Ethical obligations of health care providers
  - c) Physician-Patient relationship in a Managed Care setting
2. Political structure and law formation
  - a) Specific health concerns driving ethics
  - b) Reporting HIV status
  - c) Research of legal issues in health care
  - d) Research of ethical issues in health care
3. Process of Health Care Ethical Decision Making
  - a) Data collection
  - b) Identification of Ethical problems in health care
  - c) Recent actions in health care decision making
4. Health Care Information Management
  - a) Retrospective documentation to increase reimbursement
  - b) Privacy and confidentiality
  - c) DNR

- d) Living Wills
- 5. Ethics and Legal issues / Computerized Health Information
  - a) Patient record integrity
  - b) Notification of information practices
  - c) Data Quality
- 6. Debate in Health Care Legal and Ethical Issues
  - a) Euthanasia
  - b) Malpractice
  - c) Procreation
- 7. Ethical Issues of Chronic and End of Life Care
  - a) Gathering relevant information
  - b) Evaluating health care process and outcome
- 8. Compliance Fraud and Abuse
  - a) False Claims Act
  - b) Qui Tam “whistle blower” Statutes
  - c) Antikickback Statutes
  - d) Antireferral Statutes
  - e) Fraudulent Documentation Practices
- 9. Ethics and Medical Research
  - a) Legal direction of healthcare ethics in the U.S.
  - b) Process of ethical decision making
- 10. The President’s Council on Bioethics
  - a) Human cloning in medical practice
  - b) Evolving medical treatments
  - c) Pharmaceutical company role in Medical ethics
- 11. Future tasks in Medical Ethics
  - a) Medical ethics and morals
  - b) Political influence to future changes in U. S. approach

**Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: Not applicable**