

**WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Contemporary Healthcare Issues
Spring 2022**

This is a web course and will be conducted entirely on Blackboard

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Office Hours: by appointment only

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Blackboard

This course will use the Blackboard online course management system which can be accessed at <http://ecourses.wku.edu> or by clicking on Blackboard on the www.wku.edu homepage.

Required Text

Judson & Harrison. (2016). **Law & Ethics for the Health Professions 7th edition.**

ISBN# 978-0-07-351383-6

Prerequisites:

ENGL 100C, sophomore standing

Blackboard Student User Training

Course Description:

An introductory course addressing contemporary issues confronting the healthcare delivery system, patients, and medical professionals in American society.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the terms “law” and “ethics” as each relates to the medical profession.
2. Explain why knowledge of law and ethics is important to health care practitioners.
3. Distinguish among law, ethics, bioethics, etiquette and protocol.
4. Identify the major purposes of the medical practice acts and the main functions of the medical boards at the state level of administration.
5. Name and describe important legislative acts which have influenced healthcare.
6. Explain the purpose and principles associated with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance standards and how covered entities must comply with HIPAA provisions.
7. Define professional liability and medical malpractice and identify measures to prevent litigation.
8. Identify measures to promote confidentiality as major changes in technology occur.
9. Describe how the laws affect the workplace as related to employment, safety of staff and patients, universal precautions, and workers’ compensation laws.

10. Name and describe several bioethical issues which are currently arising and explain why they need to be addressed in a code of ethics. This class is designed to give the healthcare professional the foundation needed to perform their job within the legal and ethical boundaries that govern the healthcare profession. Relevant legal and ethical healthcare situations will be dissected and discussed by the student.

WKU Policy on Plagiarism:

To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offence. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism.

WKU Policy on Cheating:

No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking examinations or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment, or other project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination. Any act of cheating will result in a grade of 0 points for the assignment.

SDS Policy:

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services (OFSDS), located in the Student Success Center in DUC A200. The OFSDS can be reached at (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Testing for registered SDS students ONLY has been moved to The Student Success Center this office. Testing for other students will remain with DELO in Garrett.

Please do not request special accommodations from the instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office of Student Disability Services.

Attendance: (See University Policy)

Even though this is an online class that doesn't require face to face meetings, students are still expected to "attend" class. This is done via the class site at ecourses.wku.edu. All quizzes, blackboard postings, and other assignments will count as attendance.

Class Policies:

1. The instructor reserves the right to alter the course schedule, assignments, reports, grading scale and evaluation methods upon class performance or other circumstances.
2. All class correspondence will be done via your official WKU email and blackboard. It is your responsibility to check these regularly (this means more than weekly.)
3. You will need access to a computer with an internet connection, preferably broadband or DSL. WKU has many computer labs on campus with great hours of operation.
4. **Technology problems are not an excuse for a late assignment.** If you experience computer or email problems and cannot submit your assignment, it is your responsibility to contact me **via telephone** if you are not able to email me. This needs to be done **before** the assignment is due. This being said, do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments or take online exams. If you do have problems with a WKU site or

technology product, please call the helpdesk at 270-745-7000 or log onto their website www.wku.edu/helpdesk.

5. Since this class offers you the flexibility of working at your leisure, please be sure to allow for extra time by planning ahead. Expect to spend just as much time for an online class as you would for face to face classes. If you are unfamiliar with the technology used, plan ahead extra time for learning the technology.
6. Backup all your files and the course work that you submit. Since we are dealing with the imperfections of cyberspace, unexpected errors can occur.
7. I am available to answer your questions via email or telephone. If you need to call me, please do so between the hours of 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Also, I am not available all the time. If you reach my voicemail, leave your full name, call back number, and question. I will return your call as soon as I can.
8. I do respond to all emails. However, please include HCA 247 in the email subject line for an expedited response.
9. Submit all your assignments using 12 point, Times New Roman font. Double spacing is required on typed papers.
10. All assignments will be submitted via blackboard. Submissions are due by *Central Standard Time (CST)* on the day they are due. **Late work will not be accepted!**

Course Requirements: See the assignments folder on blackboard for details.

1. **Healthcare 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 5-8 pages. See the details of the project on blackboard assignments folder.
2. **Discussion Board Assignments-** About two weeks before your group discussion is due; I will post a new forum with a question, statement or website activity. To receive your full 20 points, you are responsible for replying to my question, statement, or activity and also commenting on at least two class member's replies. Your discussions need to be well thought out and contain useful information. All responses are due by Friday at 8PM (See schedule below). **Please spread the commenting around and don't reply with simple responses such as "I agree!"- they will not be accepted. Also, comments that are rude, offensive, inappropriate will not be tolerated.**
3. **4 Exams-** The exams in this course will be based on material from the text as well as assignments and other activities. Please read all assigned chapters and make sure you can answer chapter objectives listed at the front of each chapter. All exams will be time and taken on blackboard with multiple choice, short answer, and essay format. **Make-up exams will be given only with documented medical excuses or emergencies discussed prior to the exam.**

Course Requirements:**Evaluation:**

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Exam 1 | 100 points |
| Exam 2 | 100 points |
| Exam 3 | 100 points |
| Final Exam | 100 points |
| Discussion Boards | 150 points |
| Paper | 100 points |
| Total Points | 650 points |

Your Points

Tentative Course Outline

Listed below is a tentative class schedule. If necessary, the schedule will be modified.

| Week Posted | Chapters | Assignments Due | Exams |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 1/18 | Read 1 | 1. Getting to know you discussion board #1 due Friday by 8PM 2. Blackboard student users training due Friday by 8PM (see blackboard for instructions) | |
| 1/24 | Read 2 | Discussion board #2 | |
| 1/31 | Read 3 & 4 | | |
| 2/7 | Exam | | Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)- Due by Friday |
| 2/14 | Read 5 & 6 | Discussion Board #3 | |
| 2/21 | Read 7 | Health Literacy Reflection Paper (Sources due by 8PM Friday) | |
| 2/28 | Read 8 | Discussion board #4 | |
| 3/7 | Exam 2 | | Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8)- due by Friday |
| 3/14 | Spring Break | | |
| 3/21 | Read 9 & 10 | | |
| 3/28 | Read 11 | | |
| 4/4 | Exam 3 | Discussion board #5 | Exam 3 (Chapters 9-11)- Due by Friday |
| 4/11 | Read 12 | Final Health Literacy Reflection Paper due by 8PM on Friday | |
| 4/18 | Read 13 | | |
| 4/25 | | Discussion board #6 | |
| 5/2 | Final Exam | | |