Course Information

Course Number: DDHS 4210  
Course Title: Professional Ethics  
Section: Fall 2021 (weeks 1 – 9)  
Time: Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
Location: Room 134

Instructor Details

Instructor: Patricia Simons, D.D.S., M.S.  
Office: Room 365, Main Building  
Phone: 214-828-8108  
E-Mail: psimons@tamu.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment only

Participating Faculty: Brent Hutson, D.D.S., M.S. and Leah Spittle, RDH

Course Description

The purpose for studying dental ethics is based on two premises:

1. The obligations of the health professional vary from the obligations of most vocations since patients are involved.
2. Health professional programs have a responsibility to future practitioners to provide a setting that allows them to examine, define, and analyze ethical problems pertinent to their future practice.

The goal of the content within this course is to promote ethical and professional conduct in dentistry. There will be discussion of ethical principles and theory, commonly encountered ethical problems or dilemmas in dental practice, case analysis and decision-making. The materials for the course will draw from the general ethics, bioethics and dental-specific ethics literature.

This course will be delivered in-person during the designated meeting times. You may access additional course materials and resources on Canvas.

Course Prerequisites

None
Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between the terms: ethical, legal and moral.
2. Recognize the difference between the commercial and normative picture of professional obligation.
3. Determine the model of the profession that he or she would recommend.
4. Identify and list the central values of dentistry.
5. Analyze ethical issues using Ozar’s five-step model to help in decision-making when faced with an ethical problem.
6. Explain how ethical theory relates to dental/hygiene practice.
7. Discuss the complex ethical issues of informed consent and dentistry including issues of patient autonomy, truth telling and paternalism.
8. Describe support services such as the peer-assistance programs and local peer-review committees.
9. Discuss ethical issues of practice and ethical dilemmas related to managed care.
10. Explain the State Board of Dental Examiners consequences of unethical acts within the profession of dentistry.

Related Competencies

**Dental**
1.0 Ethics: The new dentist must be able to discern and deal with the ethical and legal issues of dental practice with professional responsibility.
1.1 Apply ethical principles, professional rules and regulatory law with personal and professional integrity.
1.2 Provide humane and compassionate patient care for a diverse multicultural patient population.

**Hygiene**
1.0 Ethics: The dental hygienist must be able to discern and manage the ethical issues of dental hygiene practice in a rapidly changing environment.
1.1 Apply ethical reasoning to dental hygiene and practice with professional integrity.
1.2 Comply with state and federal laws governing the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene.

Textbook and/or Resource Materials

PowerPoint presentations, related case studies and articles.
All necessary resource materials and grades will be posted on Blackboard.
Supplemental Book: Ozar, DT and Sokol DJ. *Dental Ethics at Chairside*
Grading Policy

There are 600 points assigned in this course as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Professionalism</td>
<td>30</td>
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**Scale:**

A = 90-100% (540 to 600 points)
B = 80-89%  (480 to 539 points)
C = 75-79%   (450 to 479 points)
D = 70-74%   (420 to 449)
F = <75%   (0 to 419 points)

*Grades will not be rounded up in this course.*

**Graded Attendance and Professionalism**

- Attendance and course participation is mandatory for all sessions and will factor into the grade for the course.
- You must notify the course director if you will be absent, whether excused or unexcused.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.
- Unprofessional conduct of any kind, including excessive absences or not completing assignments or remediation by posted deadlines will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. Infractions may result in additional penalties beyond the additional assignments and the lowering of the final course grade.

https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/

**Remediation of Missed Class**

- If a class is missed, the student must review lecture recording, review the PowerPoint and complete any related assignments.

**Case Studies**

- Must be turned in at **8:00 a.m.**
- There are (2) case studies throughout that are worth **60 points** each.
- Papers must be typed, with complete sentences, and legible to the instructor.
- Papers cannot be remediated.
- **Late papers:** Deduction of 20 points each day it is late.
Quizzes
- Ten minute quizzes will be given at **8:00 a.m.**
- Covers previous lecture material, case studies or both.
- There are (2) quizzes that are worth **50 points** each.
- May be fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, short answer or essay.
- Missed quizzes can be remediated.

Group Presentations (spring semester)
- Begin at **8:00 a.m.** on designated days.
- Each group will present for ten to fifteen minutes.
- All members of the group must be in attendance on the day of the presentation.
- The group presentations will be evaluated and are worth **100 points**.

Exam
- The exam will be given at the **8:00 a.m.** lecture time on the designated date and will be worth **200 points**.

Final Paper
- The final paper will be due at **8:00 a.m.** on the designated date and will be worth **150 points**. Late papers result in a grade of a zero. Instructions for this short paper will be provided to allow ample time to complete.

Remediation of Missed Exams
- Exams can only be made up if the student has an excused absence, otherwise a grade of 0 will be assigned.
- Missed exams must be remediated within two weeks of the absence or a zero grade will be assigned.
- All remediation must be completed satisfactorily and successfully prior to the semester end final exam date in order to receive a grade for the semester/course.

Remediation of Course
- If the course is failed and course remediation is necessary, permission must be given by the Student Promotions Committee and the repeated course will minimally include all course material, assignments, evaluations and projects.
- Remediation may include a written exam and reading assignments related to the identified deficiencies with corresponding written assignments. Remediation may also include writing a formal case report/paper as per the standards and time frame stated by the course director.
Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Sessions – Fall 2021</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>08/18</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Introduction to Professional Ethics and Ethical Issues in Dental/ Hygiene Practice</td>
<td>Simons</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>08/25</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Four Models of Dental Professional-Patient Relationship</td>
<td>Simons</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09/01</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct</td>
<td>Simons</td>
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<td>ADHA Codes of Ethics</td>
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<td>Quiz #1 at 8:00 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>09/08</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Central Values of Dentistry, Core Values of Dental Hygiene, and Ozar’s Decision Making Model</td>
<td>Simons</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09/15</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Ethical Theory and Dental/Hygiene Practice</td>
<td>Simons</td>
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<td>Case Study #1 Due by 8:00 am</td>
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<td>Quiz #2 at 8:00 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>09/22</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Detailed Informed Consent</td>
<td>Hutson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09/29</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Ethical Considerations for the Treatment of Geriatric Patients</td>
<td>Hutson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/06</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene Students Only</td>
<td>Spittle</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>One-on-One with Professor Leah Spittle, RDH</td>
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<td>Case Study #2 Due by 8:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Exam at 8:00 am and Final Paper Due at 8:00 am</td>
<td>Simons</td>
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University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

“Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one’s work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case” (Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Diversity Statement

Texas A&M University is committed to enriching the learning and working environment for all visitors, students, faculty, and staff by promoting a culture that embraces inclusion, diversity, equity, and accountability. Diverse perspectives, talents, and identities are vital to accomplishing our mission and living our core values.
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact the Office for Academic Affairs in the Administration Building Room 514 or at (214)-828-8978 or bramsey@tamu.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Education Rights Privacy Act requires that we advise students that by registering for this course, their Texas A&M Health Science Center assigned e-mail address will be revealed to classmates and the instructor. By continuing your enrollment in the course you acknowledge your understanding of this policy.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see University Rule 08.01.01.M1):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University’s goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University’s Title IX webpage.
Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student’s academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care by utilizing the resources and services available from Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Campus-Specific Policies

Statement on Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of educational records by limiting access to these records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their educational records and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate and misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Currently enrolled students wishing to withhold any or all directory information items may do so by going to howdy.tamu.edu and clicking on the "Directory Hold Information" link in the Student Records channel on the MyRecord tab. The complete FERPA Notice to Students and the student records policy is available on the Office of the Registrar webpage. Items that can never be identified as public information are a student’s social security number, citizenship, gender, grades, GPR or class schedule. All efforts will be made in this class to protect your privacy and to ensure confidential treatment of information associated with or generated by your participation in the class. Directory items include name, UIN, local address, permanent address, email address, local telephone number, permanent telephone number, dates of attendance, program of study (college, major, campus), classification, previous institutions attended, degrees honors and awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, medical residence location and medical residence specialization.