Course title and number: 4210 Professional Ethics  
Term: Fall 2020 (weeks 1 – 9)  
Meeting times and location: Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., online via Zoom

Course Description and Prerequisites

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 online via Zoom during the designated meeting times. You may access additional course materials and resources on Blackboard.

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 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.
Instructor Information

Course Director: Patricia Simons, D.D.S., M.S.
Telephone number: 214-828-8108
Email: psimons@tamu.edu
Office Hours: Virtual meetings via Zoom, by appointment only
Office Location: Room 365

Participating Faculty: Brent Hutson, D.D.S., M.S.

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

Course Policies

Attendance/Participation/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.
- Attendance will be taken via the meeting attendee sign-in Zoom feature, as well as via the participant list on Zoom.
- 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 Classes:
- If a class is missed, the student must review lecture recording, review the PowerPoint and complete any related assignments.

Assessment and Evaluation:

There are 600 points assigned in this course as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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<td>Attendance &amp; Professionalism</td>
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Grading 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.*
Cases Studies:
- Must be turned in at **8:00 a.m.**
- There are (2) case studies that are worth **60 points** each.
- Papers must be typed, with complete sentences, and legible to the instructor.
- Papers cannot be remediated.

Quizzes:
- Ten minute quizzes will be given at **8:00 a.m.**
- Will cover previous lecture material, case studies or both.
- There are (2) quizzes that are worth **50 points** each.
- Will be fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, short answer or essay.
- Missed quizzes can be remediated.

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**. 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.

### 4120 Professional Ethics

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<th>Course Sessions – Fall 2020 via Zoom</th>
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<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
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No telephone use or text messaging will be allowed in class (exceptions are limited to emergency situations).

Other Pertinent Course Information

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit [http://disability.tamu.edu](http://disability.tamu.edu).

**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.

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**Academic Integrity**
All students are expected and required to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to diligently follow the rules of the Honor System ([http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu)). Academic dishonesty will result in the grade “F” as per BCD’s Disciplinary Due Process procedures.

**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.

*For additional information please visit: [http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu)*

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