

SYLLABUS

COURSE: DENF 1621 Ethics in Dentistry
SEMESTER: Fall
CREDIT HOURS: 0.5

REVISED: 2004
REPRINTED: 2009

COURSE DIRECTOR: Boyd Shepherd, D.D.S.

GOAL

This course is intended to help the dental student to understand the place of ethics in professional life, to recognize when an ethical problem exists in the performance of academic work, clinical treatment, or research, and to have the capability of analyzing and meeting it.

The monograph articles represent a diversity of views that relate to the series of ethical issues that have been raised in class discussions. They provide a more formal treatment of ethical issues than is possible to have in a discussion format.

This course seeks to underline that ethics is a working discipline to help dentists understand how to make critical decisions and how to take appropriate and logical actions in dealing with patients, colleagues and society.

OBJECTIVES

I. ETHICS IN AMERICAN LIFE

1. Analyze the major areas of American life (legal system, politics, government, health care, business, religion, education, entertainment), assessing whether you think ethical behavior has been increasing or decreasing during your lifetime (class discussion)
2. Outline four areas of American life that critically shape ethical values (discussion).

II. THE NATURE OF GOOD AND EVIL

1. Define the general concept of ethics (discussion).
2. Analyze the issue of moral tolerance versus moral discrimination (discussion).
3. Describe the difference between facts and values (discussion).
4. Contrast the basic concepts of good and evil across three major variables (discussion).
5. Contrast a relative moral value system with an absolute moral value system across five variables, and give an example of each system (discussion).

III. THEORIES OF ETHICS

1. List and define 10 general principles of ethics that help form the basis of the action theory of ethics (discussion).
2. Briefly define the following theories of ethics: consequentialist theory, value theory, virtue theory, and rational self-interest theory (discussion).
3. Determine which theory of ethics you consider most helpful in guiding your ethical interactions with other students, faculty, and future patients, and why you prefer this theory.

IV. SERVICE, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, TRUST BY THE PUBLIC, SELF-GOVERNANCE, INTERDEPENDENCE, AND CONFIDENTIALITY (TDA Principles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

1. List the three major characteristics of a profession and describe how you personally plan to relate to each one in your dental career (discussion).
2. Describe three elements included in “service to the public” as it relates to dental practitioners (discussion of TDA Principle 1).
3. Outline three levels of responsibility in providing dental care for patients who can’t pay (TDA Principle 1).
4. Explain the significance of “informed consent” as it relates to dentists’ treatment of patients (TDA Principle 1).
5. Describe three aspects of “professional competence” (TDA Principle 2).

6. Describe two things that the public ideally trusts dentists to do, which form the heart of the dentist-patient relationship (TDA Principle 3).
7. Differentiate between a profession and a business as related to ethical standards (TDA Principle 3).
8. Analyze the reasons why society has given the dental profession the privilege and responsibility of self-governance (TDA Principle 4).
9. Describe the dental profession's major responsibility in self-governance (TDA Principle 4).
10. Describe the ethical problems that arise from dentists' injudicious use of advertising (TDA Principle 4).
11. Analyze the importance of interdependence among practitioners in terms of its benefits to both practitioners and patients (TDA Principle 5).
12. Describe "fee splitting" and the ethical issues involved (TDA Principle 5).
13. Given the situation that you seriously question the quality of care observed on a patient just referred to you by another dentist, outline the steps you would go through to ethically deal with this issue (TDA Principle 5).
14. Appraise the patient record as it relates to (TDA Principle 6):
 - a. legal ownership;
 - b. right of accessibility
 - c. confidentiality
15. Analyze the importance of maintaining patient confidentiality in general and describe three situations when confidentiality may/must be broken (discussion of TDA Principle 6).

V. PATIENT SELECTION, AUXILIARIES, PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES, REIMBURSEMENT, SELF-IMPOSED DISCIPLINE, AND INTERFERENCE WITH DENTISTS' JUDGMENT (TDA Principles 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

1. Describe the freedoms and limitations dentists have regarding whom they will serve (TDA Principle 7).
2. Describe two examples of when dentists can ethically choose not to accept a patient (TDA Principle 7).
3. Analyze at what point a patient seeking routine dental care ethically and legally becomes the patient of a particular dentist (TDA Principle 7).
4. Describe a dentist's ethical responsibility in a situation where an emergency dental patient is unable to pay (TDA Principle 7).
5. Define patient abandonment in general and cite three examples (TDA Principle 7).
6. List three circumstances that would ethically justify discontinuing a relationship with a patient (TDA Principle 7).
7. Define the three types of dentists' supervision of allied health personnel within their employ and specify which is implied by tenet 8 (TDA Prin. 8).

8. Appraise the ethical responsibility of dentists in regard to research and public health programs (TDA Principle 9).
9. Describe dentists' responsibilities to insurance companies and insurance companies' responsibilities to patients in regard to reimbursement for services (TDA Principle 10).
10. Define co-payment and analyze the ethical and legal issues involved in dentists' forgiving the patient co-payment (TDA Principle 10).
11. Given the situation that you know a dental colleague who is abusing drugs, outline the steps you would go through to ethically deal with this issue (TDA Principle 11).
12. Describe two kinds of influences that could potentially interfere with a dentist's judgment and ability to render quality care (TDA Principle 12).

VI. THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF SPIRITUALITY, ETHICS, AND HEALTH CARE OUTCOMES

1. Define the term "spirituality" as presented in class (discussion).
2. Describe the relationship of spirituality to ethics (discussion).
3. Describe the relationship of spirituality to health care outcomes (discussion).
4. Describe the characteristics of caregivers who are spiritually sensitive to patients (discussion).

VII. THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH

1. Outline the four major sections of *Hippocrates' Oath* (discussion)
2. Define the meanings of the terms "ability," "judgment," and "indenture" as used in the phrase, "I will carry out, according to my ability and judgment, this oath and this indenture" (discussion).

VIII. THE APPLICATION OF THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH TO DENTISTRY

1. Analyze whether or not you believe the principles in the Hippocratic Oath apply to dentistry in the present era and why (discussion).
2. Assess the time when you believe oaths of ethics should be taken by medical and dental practitioners and state your reasons (discussion).

IX. ETHICAL ISSUES IN MEDICAL/DENTAL LITERATURE (Monograph)

1. Explain why you believe ethics can or can not be taught. (*Can Ethics Be Taught?*) Read on line: www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision.
2. Assess the effects of moral relativism on many of today's college students (*Are We Living in a Moral Stone Age?* Read article on line: Yahoo.com/Sommers Are we living moral stone age usa today). If you disagree with the author, summarize your own view of ethics, including any possible inadequacies of your view and how you deal with those inadequacies.
3. Describe three ethical standards that must be met when medical/dental investigators perform interventional research with participants (*Art 01, Ethics and Dental Research*).

4. Name and describe the four levels of penalties that may be imposed on member dentists for ethical violations (*Art 02, Texas Dental Association Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct*).
5. Describe three weaknesses of a typical ethic's curriculum and assess the author's suggestion of how to improve it. (*Art 03, Why Our Ethics Curricula Don't Work*).
6. Name and describe five ethical principles identified in the Hippocratic Oath (*Art 04, Oath*).
7. Assess the issue of the tension between ethics and production discussed by the author, Richard Simonsen, DDS (*Art 05, Whatever happened to Hippocrates?*).
8. Name two principles that typically are violated when dentists use unethical advertising, and describe three general examples of unethical advertising by dentists (*Art 06, Ethics and advertising*).

RESOURCES

I. Media Resources

A. Printed media

Monograph (on reserve in the Library)

Ethics in Dentistry

Articles compiled by Stanley Reiser, M.D., Ph.D., & James Mozer, D.D.S.
University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston, 2005

B. Supplemental Textbooks

Rule and Veatch

Ethical Questions in Dentistry

Quintessence: Carol Stream, Illinois, 1993
(Available in Dr. Mozer's office, Room 489)

Ozar and Sokol

Dental Ethics at Chairside: Professional Principles and Practical Applications

Mosby: St. Louis, 1994
(Available in Dr. Mozer's office, Room 489)

Weinstein, editor

Dental Ethics

Lea & Febiger: Philadelphia, 1993
(Available in UTDB Library)

II. Human Resources

Boyd Shepherd, D.D.S.

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STUDY PLAN AND REQUIREMENTS

The monograph is available in the UTDB Library on reserve. Due to copyright laws only 20 copies are available. Therefore, we request that you read each week's assignment in the library when possible. A limited number of copies are available for checkout.

The estimated time required to complete the course is 30 hours. In addition to the final exam, a written assignment is due on **December 2, 2009**.

Title of Paper: "The Role of Ethics in Dental School"

I. Procedure

- A. Write a short paper describing how you personally view your ethical responsibilities as a student in dental school.
- B. Begin by describing the major sources and influences that have shaped your ethical values up to this point in time.
- C. Address issues that concern your ethical values and behavior in both the academic and clinical aspects of your education.
- D. Think deeply and attempt to apply moral/ethical principles discussed in class to the practical aspects of your dental education.
- E. The paper should be 450-600 words in length, typed, and double-spaced.

II. Criteria for Evaluation of Paper

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|--|--------|
| ▪ Covers at least one ethical issue relevant to academic studies | 10 pts |
| ▪ Covers at least one ethical issue relevant to patient care | 10 pts |
| ▪ Demonstrates understanding of major ethical issues, and integrates moral/ethical principles with practical application | 60 pts |
| ▪ Written with correct grammar and syntax | 10 pts |
| ▪ Is not less than 450 words or over 600 words | 10 pts |

TOTAL 100 pts

**DENF 1621 ETHICS IN DENTISTRY
2009 Fall Semester Schedule**

Wednesdays, 11:00-11:50 am, Room 340 (unless otherwise noted)

Day	Date	Time	Discussion Topic/Reading	Presenter
Wed	Sep 30	11:00 am	Discussion: Ethics in American Life Reading: <i>Can Ethics Be Taught?</i> (www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision)	Shepherd
Wed	Oct 7	11:00 am	Discussion: The Nature of Good and Evil Reading: <i>Are We Living in a Moral Stone Age?</i> (Read on line: Yahoo.com/Sommers are we living moral stone age usa today)	Shepherd
Wed	Oct 14		<i>No class</i>	
Wed	Oct 21	11:00 am	Discussion: Theories of Ethics Reading <i>Ethics and Dental Research (Mono Art 01)</i>	Shepherd
Wed	Oct 28	11:00 am	Discussion: TDA Code of Ethics: Principles 1-6 Reading: <i>TDA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct (Art 02)</i>	Shepherd
Wed	Nov 4		<i>No class</i>	
Wed	Nov 11	11:00 am	Discussion: The Inter-Relationship of Spirituality, Ethics, and Health Care Outcomes Reading: <i>Why Our Ethics Curricula Don't Work (Art 03)</i>	Shepherd
Wed	Nov 18	11:00 am	Discussion: The Hippocratic Oath Reading: <i>Hippocrates' Oath (Art 04)</i>	Shepherd
Wed	Nov 25	9:00 am	Discussion: Application of Hippocratic Oath to Dentistry Reading: <i>Whatever happened to Hippocrates?(Art 05)</i>	Shepherd
Wed	Dec 2	11:00 am	Discussion: TDA Code of Ethics: Principles 7-12 Reading: <i>Ethics and Advertising (Art 06)</i> Paper Due: The Role of Ethics in Dental School Course Evaluation	Shepherd
Tue	Dec 8	10-10:50 am	Final Exam: Take one-hour, multiple-choice exam Room 207	Shepherd

EVALUATION METHODS

The final examination in this course will test your understanding of the material in the class discussions and monograph articles.

- It will be in the format of 50 multiple-choice questions.
- You will have 50 minutes to complete the exam.
- You must bring a #2 pencil, but I will supply the Scantron card.

Your final course grade will be calculated in the following manner:

30% - Grade on written assignment
70% - Grade on final exam

The policies in the current *Student Guide to Academic Studies* will govern grading procedures, course failures, and remake exams.

If it is necessary to remake an exam, it will be scheduled one time only, following appropriate remediation.