

## Course Information

Course Number: DDHS 4210  
Course Title: Professional Ethics  
Section: Spring 2025 (weeks 1 – 9)  
Time: Tuesdays 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
Selected Friday morning sessions - See schedule  
Location: Room 134  
Credit Hours: 1 SCH

## Instructor Details

Course Director: Lara Coseo, D.D.S.  
Office: Room 717, AEB  
Phone: 214-828-8915  
E-Mail: [thurman@tamu.edu](mailto:thurman@tamu.edu)  
Office Hours: Email for appointment

## Additional Participating Faculty

Amanda McNiel, RDH, MS

## 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 with some hours requiring asynchronous work. It also includes one 2-hour virtual training. You may access additional course materials and resources on Canvas.

## Course Prerequisites

None.

## Special Course Designation

Undergraduate Degree, Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

## 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, determining the model of the profession that he or she would recommend.
3. Identify and prioritize the central values of dentistry.
4. Analyze ethical issues using Ozar's five-step model to help in decision-making when faced with an ethical problem.
5. Explain how ethical theory relates to dental hygiene practice.
6. Discuss the complex ethical issues of informed consent and dentistry including issues of patient autonomy, truth telling and paternalism.
7. Learn and apply teamwork in an interprofessional context.
8. Discuss ethical issues of practice and ethical dilemmas related to managed care.
9. Explain the State Board of Dental Examiners consequences of unethical acts within the profession of dentistry.

## Related Competencies

### Hygiene

#### I. PROFESSIONALISM

- **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.

#### III. PATIENT CARE

- **7.0 Planning:** The dental hygienist must be able to discuss the condition of the oral cavity, actual and potential problems identified, etiological and contributing factors and recommended and alternative treatments available.

7.4 Communicate the plan for dental hygiene services to the dentist or other interdisciplinary health team members to determine its congruence with the overall plan for oral health care.

## Textbook and/or Resource Materials

PowerPoint presentations, related case studies and articles.

All necessary resource materials and grades will be posted on Canvas.

Supplemental Book: Ozar, DT and Sokol DJ. Dental Ethics at Chairsides

## Grading Policy

There are 600 points assigned in this course as follows:

Group Presentation	120
Quizzes	100
Exam	100
Jurisprudence Worksheet	25
TeamSTEPPS Training	75
Final Project	150
Participation & Professionalism	30

LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL GRADE RANGE	GRADE POINTS	DESCRIPTOR
A	90-100	4.0	Excellent
B	80-89	3.0	Good
C	75-79	2.0	Fair
D	70-74	1.0	Poor, may require remediation
F	Below 70	0.0	Failure
S		0.0	Satisfactory
U		0.0	Unsatisfactory
I			Incomplete (work or assignments)

## Graded Attendance

- Attendance and course participation is mandatory for all sessions and will factor into the grade for the course.
- Each unexcused absence results in a 2 point deduction from your final percentage grade.
- You must notify the course director if you will be absent, whether excused or unexcused.
- Participation and professionalism is worth **30 points** of your final grade.
- 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/>

### Late Work Policy

- The final project will be due at **8:00 a.m.** on the designated date and will be worth **150 points**. Papers turned in late will lose 10 points per day for each day that it is past due! Instructions for this short project will be provided to allow ample time to complete.

### Remediation of Missed Class

- If a class is missed, the student must review lecture recording, review the provided slides, and complete the lecture objectives to demonstrate understanding of content missed. Also, the student must complete any related assignments.

### Quizzes

- Ten-minute quizzes will be given at **8:00 a.m.**
- Covers previous lecture material.
- 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 if student has an excused absence.

### Jurisprudence Assignment

- Facilitated by Professor McNiel after her lecture on jurisprudence
- Students must continue answering the questions until all are answered correctly (“scratch-off mode”)
- Points are awarded based on successful completion of the exercise

### TeamSTEPPS® Training

- Two hours of asynchronous pre-work in Canvas, rolled out in four 30-minute weekly segments during the four weeks prior to the synchronous training
- Two hour synchronous virtual training in interprofessional student groups via Zoom
- Points are awarded based on successful completion of the exercise

### Group Presentations

- Begin at **8:00am** on designated days.
- Each group will present for fifteen minutes.
- All members of the group must be in attendance on the day of the presentation.
- The group presentations will be evaluated by the course director and are worth **120 points**.

### Exam

- There is a single didactic exam for this course, covering all material presented during its 9-week span.
- The exam will be given at the **8:00 a.m.** lecture time on the designated date and will be worth **100 points**.

### Final Project

- The final project will be due at **8:00 a.m.** on the designated date and will be worth **150 points**. Late submissions result in penalties as stated above. Instructions for this project will be provided to allow ample time to complete.
- All submissions will undergo a plagiarism check.

### Make-Up of Missed Exams

- Make-up exams are only available to students with an excused absence, otherwise a grade of 0 will be assigned.
- Missed exams must be made up within five days of the student's return to campus.
- All make-up exams 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

Course Sessions – Spring 2025					
Date	Week	Day	Time	Session Title	Instructor
01/7	1	Tues	8-9	Introduction to Professional Ethics and Ethical Issues in Dental Hygiene Practice Core Values of Dental Hygiene	Coseo
01/10	1	Fri	8-9	Jurisprudence	McNiel
01/14	2	Tues	8-9	Four Models of Dental Professional-Patient Relationship Central Values of Dentistry and Ozar's Decision- Making Model	Coseo
01/17	2	Fri	8-9	Jurisprudence Assignment	McNiel

01/21	3	Tues	8-9	ADHA Code of Ethics Fundamental Principles and Standards of Professional Responsibility <b>Quiz #1 at 8:00 am</b>	Coseo
01/28	4	Tues	8-9	Detailed Informed Consent	Coseo
02/04	5	Tues	8-9	Ethical Theory and Dental Hygiene Practice Legal Considerations <b>Quiz #2 at 8:00 am</b>	Coseo
02/11	6	Tues	8-9	Group Presentations 1-3	Student-led
02/18	7	Tues	8-9	Group Presentations 4-6	Student-led
02/25	8	Tues	8-9	<b>Exam at 8:00 am</b>	
03/03	9	Tues	8-9	<b>Final Project Due at 8:00 am</b>  <b>*TeamSTEPPS® Synchronous Virtual Training</b>	Various College Facilitators via Zoom

*\* Date subject to scheduling with team from Public Health and Nutrition.*

## Optional Course Information Items

### Technology Support

Students are responsible for maintaining their devices and ensuring that they are in proper working order throughout the semester. This includes maintaining access to the college wireless network, access to all accounts (both TAMU and TAMU Health) and keeping passwords up to date. Students are expected to keep their devices up to date in regard to patches and OS updates.

### Division of IT

If the student experiences issues with an electronic device, wifi access, axiUm, Zoom, or user accounts, their first point of contact should be the Division of IT Central Help Desk or the local Division of IT at COD. The Central Helpdesk provides 24-hour support.

Division of IT Central Help Desk Website: <a href="https://it.tamu.edu/help/">https://it.tamu.edu/help/</a> Phone: 1-979-845-8300 Email: <a href="mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu">helpdesk@tamu.edu</a>	SOD Local Division of IT Office Room: 519 Phone: 214-828-8248
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### COD Instructional Design Team

For electronic exam support or problems concerning other academic technology, such as the LMS (Canvas), ExamSoft, or Exemplify, students should contact the Instructional Design team.

Room: 516 - Academic Affairs

Carmina Castro

[ccastro@tamu.edu](mailto:ccastro@tamu.edu)

(214) 828-8316

Jeff Lowry

[lowryj1@tamu.edu](mailto:lowryj1@tamu.edu)

(214) 828-8243

Canvas support 24-hours

(877) 354-4821

### Lecture Recordings and Mediasite Support

Lecture recordings are posted to the Mediasite course catalog typically no more than 24 hours after they have been received. Unless otherwise specified, all course recordings are available via the Mediasite channel link within the Canvas course.

For missing recordings, contact your instructor and the Instructional Design Team.

For problems with recording playback, Mediasite access, or performance, contact IT's Health Technology Care Team (979.436.0250).

## University Policies

### Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.

DDS students, please refer to your student handbook, DH students please refer to student rule 7 for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

### Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the Office of Student Affairs.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

### 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](#)).

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You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at [aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu). You can also contact Graduate Studies at 214-828-8182, Student Affairs at 214-828-8210, or your Program Director, for guidance.

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

#### Texas A&M College of Dentistry

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability which may include, but not limited to: attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions, visit Disability Resources for more information. <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

The primary contact for any new disability accommodation requests and for any accommodation questions/concerns:

Tracey Forman, Associate Director of Disability Resources  
979.845.1637 | [traceyf@disability.tamu.edu](mailto:traceyf@disability.tamu.edu) |

Staff and administration in Student Affairs, Student Development and Academic Affairs are available as needed to discuss any concerns and navigate the accommodations process with our students locally.

### 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.



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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](#). College of Dentistry students can contact Graduate Studies at 214-828-8182, Student Affairs at 214-828-8210, Security at 214-828-8335, their Program Director, or their Department Head to report an incident.

**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 available resources and services on your campus.

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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](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org). You can also contact Graduate Studies at 214-828-8182 or Student Affairs at 214-828-8210 for a referral to a local counselor. These counseling sessions are private and confidential, as are any referral requests. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

**Campus-Specific Policies****Statement on the 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](https://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.

### College and Department Policies

College and departmental units may establish their own policies and minimum syllabus requirements. As long as these policies and requirements do not contradict the university level requirements, colleges and departments can add them in this section. Please remove this section if not needed.