SYLLABUS

LEGAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF ADDICTIONS COUNSELING
Spring 2019

Location of Sessions:  
UC Berkeley Extension, San Francisco Campus
160 Spear Street, San Francisco, 94105  
Classroom TBA

Days, dates, and times:  
Tuesday, January 29th 6:30 – 9:30pm  
Tuesday, February 5th 6:30 – 9:30pm  
Tuesday, February 12th 6:30 – 9:30pm  
Tuesday, February 19th 6:30 – 9:30pm  
Tuesday, February 26th 6:30 – 9:30pm

Instructor:  
James L. Sorensen, Ph.D.  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of California, San Francisco  
Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital  
1001 Potrero Avenue, Bldg. 20, Ste. 2100  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Telephone:  
(415) 206-3969 (office)

Email:  
James.Sorensen@ucsf.edu

Course Description:
This is a 1-unit survey course (15 classroom hours). It is designed for people who provide services to chemically dependent clients or patients, both in agencies or private practice. It is a Level II course in the Certificate in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies program at UC Berkeley Extension. Through case studies and lectures, various legal concepts and principles that apply to healthcare in general and chemical dependency treatment in particular are addressed. Specific topics include confidentiality, duty to treat, and responsibility to third parties. Federal regulations and State statutes are also covered.

Learning Objectives:
1. Gain a familiarity of the American judicial system (civil, criminal, administrative)
3. Gain a working knowledge of mandated reporting requirements in California.
4. Gain a working knowledge of ethical risk management.

Instructional Methods:
1. Lecture, class project
2. Small group discussions (articles, case vignettes)

Evaluation Standards:
1. Class attendance 30%
2. Class participation 15%
3. Class project 15%
4. Examination (Midterm) 15%
5. Examination (Final) 25%
A = 90 to 100%  
B = 80 to 89%  
C = 70 to 79%  
D = 60 to 69%  
F = 59.9% or less  
I = Incomplete (must be completed within one semester)  
W = Withdrawal (available until final class meeting)  
P/NP = pass (≥60%), not pass (≤50%)  
CEU = CEU credit

If there are disagreements regarding final course grades, please telephone or send an email to me to discuss options that might be available to you.

Tentative Course Schedule:

1st meeting  
Tuesday, January 29th  
Introductions  
A. Principles of Ethical Decision Making  
B. Setting the Context

2nd meeting  
Tuesday, February 5th  
Current events  
C. Standards of Care  
D. Documentation  
Class Project (part 1)

3rd meeting  
Tuesday, February 12th  
Examination (Midterm)  
E1. Confidentiality — federal regulations CFR-42  
E2. Confidentiality in practice — guest speaker  
Current Events  
Class Project (part 2)

4th meeting  
Tuesday, February 19th  
F. Treatment of Minors  
G. Child Abuse and Neglect  
Class Project (part 3)

5th meeting  
Tuesday, February 26th  
H. Dependent & Elder Abuse  
Examination (Final)  
Class Project (presentations)  
Course feedback