

Midwestern State University

Course Syllabus: Ethics of Respiratory Care
Robert D. & Carol Gunn College of Health & Human Services
RESP 4153 x20
Spring 2026 March 22- May 11

Contact Information

Instructor: Mary Sue Owen MS RRT-NPS, RRT-ACCS, RPFT, AE-C
Office: Centennial Hall 420 F
Office hours: By appointment
E-mail: Mary.owen@msutexas.edu

Textbook & Instructional Materials

1. Stanford, C. C., & Connor, V. J. (2020). *Applied law and ethics for health professionals* (2nd ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 9781284155594
2. Skloot, R. (2011). *The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks*. Broadway Paperbacks. ISBN: 9781400052189

Course Description

This distance learning course considers ethical theories and principles applicable to the allied health professions with a primary focus on Respiratory Care. Using scholarly inquiry, including case studies, students will analyze ethical dilemmas that may occur in their professional roles as respiratory therapists. Students will address ethical and legal circumstances across the lifespan in diverse socioeconomic and cultural situations.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Describe various ethical principles and concepts; autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice.
- Recall and discuss the historical and current evolution of ethical thought including milestones, such as the Hippocratic Oath and the American Association for Respiratory Care's Code of Ethics.
- Devise ways in which ethical dilemmas can be resolved and methods of ethical decision-making expressed in the production of scholarly writing utilizing APA format.
- Critique some commonly occurring ethical issues and resources. Select resources, including human resources that can be used to make ethical decisions.
- Use a systematic method of deciding which the best solution for a particular situation is.
- Validate the important role of hospital ethics committees.

Grading

Course Grade - All assignments (including exams) have an open start date meaning you may work ahead during the semester as you wish. However, due dates have been placed and will be followed through.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment.

Assignments	Percentage
Exams (3 total Exams)	45%
Book Review	35%
Participation & Discussions	20%
Total Percentage	100%

Table 2: Grading Scale.

Grade	Percentage
A	90- 100
B	80- 89
C	75- 79
D	60- 74
F	Less than 60

****A minimum grade of 75 (C) is required in all respiratory courses. Failure to attain a minimum grade of C will prevent the student from progressing in the program.**

Exams

The student will read the chapter(s) and/or power point presentations associated with each exam. These exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer, definitions, listing, true false, and/or essay. Exams will have a time limit and may only be accessed once. This means that you cannot start the exam then return to it at a later time. Please be sure that when you begin an exam you set apart enough time to start and complete the exam in the allotted amount of time.

Book Review

The life and death of Henrietta Lacks is a cautionary tale that reflects the inherent contradiction between the stated purpose of medical research to provide benefit to human kind and the reality of blatant profiteering in the name of advancement of science. The tragedy of the Henrietta Lacks saga should remind us all, especially those in the medical profession, that we have a responsibility to protect those we serve.

- Several ethical issues arise in this book: identify at least two ethical issues that arise in the Henrietta Lacks case. What could have been done differently?
- **Within the report cite at least 3 current (last five years) peer-reviewed research articles that focus on the ethical issues you address.** These

sources should correlate with your subject content. Please do not hesitate to utilize additional sources as well.

- The report is to be APA format, word processed utilizing a font no greater than 12 with 1-inch margins and double-spaced with page numbers. The amount of student written material (excluding the Title Page and References) must total at least 3-5 pages. You will be graded on overall coverage of the subject and readability of the report. Points will be deducted for spelling and grammar.
- Reports should be submitted under the assignment drop box and are **due no later than May 10 at 11:59 pm CST**.

Participation & Discussion

Participation and discussion will be based on initial post and discussion with peers. It is important to remember that to be successful with the discussion board you **MUST** discuss. Do not simply put "I agree" as a response to a peer post. The earlier you post the more successful everyone will be. During the weeks that include discussions, an initial post must be submitted by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Two substantial responses must be made within the discussion board by Sunday at 11:59pm. Late posts do not allow for the possibility of good discussion and therefore are not accepted and will be graded as a 0.

In all discussion boards students are expected to:

- 1.) Raise thoughtful questions
- 2.) Incorporate content from readings
- 3.) Build on the ideas of others
- 4.) Synthesize across readings and discussions
- 5.) Expand the class' perspective
- 6.) Appropriately challenge assumptions and perspectives
- 7.) Use citations to support post in proper APA format
- 8.) Initial post should be at least 200 words (approximately 1/2 page); read and respond to two classmate's posts as appropriate using 3), 4), and 6) as guiding elements (avoid "I agree" or "good post" type comments)

Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be given in this course.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted, unless prior discussion has occurred with the professor.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2023-2024](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without

following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 23, 2026

Deadline to file for graduation: February 16, 2026

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29, 2026

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having

computer trouble If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful

possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

The following is the course schedule. We will work on a Monday to Sunday schedule.

Course Schedule

Week	Required Reading	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 3/23 – 3/29		1. Introductions • You do not have to respond to peers this week 2. Syllabus Confirmation • Located in the Tests area	
	AARC Code of Ethics	AARC Code of Ethics Discussion	
Week 2 3/30 – 4/5	Egan's Chapter 5 (on D2L) & Power point	Ethical Dilemma Discussion	
	Ch. 1 & Power point Ch. 2 & Power point	The Patient Discussion	
Week 3 4/6 – 4/ 12	Ch. 3 & Power point	Autonomy Discussion	
		Exam #1 Ch. 1-3	
Week 4 4/13 – 4/19	Ch. 4 & Power point	HIPPA Discussion	
	Ch. 5 & Power point	Ethics and the Workplace Discussion	
Week 5 4/20 – 4/26	Ch. 6 & Power point	Ethical Considerations of the EMR Discussion	
		Exam #2 Ch. 4-6	

Week 6 4/27 – 5/3	Ch. 7 & Power point	Ethical Cases in Healthcare Discussion	
	Ch. 8 & Power point	End of Life Discussion	
Week 7 5/4 – 5/10	Ch. 9 & Power point	1. Organ Donation Discussion 2. <u>Book Review Due by Sunday 5/10</u>	All work is due by 5/10
Week 8 5/11 – 5/14		Exam #3 Ch. 7-9	
		Post on discussion board what you found most interesting about this course and improvements you would suggest. This will be a part of your participation and discussion grade.	