

**PSY548 Mental Health Law
(3 credit hours)
Syllabus**

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the psych-legal issues in mental health law. The course will study the needs and rights of individuals with mental illness and intellectual disabilities (formerly called mental retardation), the delivery of mental health services, the regulation of mental health professions, and the concerns of society for persons with mental disability. Other topics to be considered include competence, commitment, the right to treatment, the Americans with Disability Act, restraint and treatment issues, advanced psychiatric directives and natural supports in the community.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

By the end of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Explore the history of mental health law and its impact on patient care, services, and rights.
 2. Identify and evaluate the landmark court cases in mental health law.
 3. Identify and evaluate federal and state statutes relevant to mental health law.
 4. Identify and evaluate treatment and due process rights relevant to civil commitment.
 5. Analyze current mental health law and persuasively identify areas that could be improved by additional mental health legislation.
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Course Topics

History of mental illness, societal concerns, and mental health law
Mental illness diagnosis, treatment, and delivery of services
Legal research in mental health law
Regulation of mental health professionals
Confidentiality and duty to warn/protect
Patient rights: right to treatment, right to refuse treatment, informed consent
Advanced psychiatric directives
Americans with Disabilities Act
Competency and commitment
Insanity and pleas
Forensic evaluations
Expert witness testimony
Commitment
Offenders with mental illness in the criminal justice system
Specialty court dockets
Crisis Intervention Teams in the criminal justice system

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

These are the materials you will need to purchase for the course:

Myers, J. E. (2019). *Mental health law in a nutshell* (2nd ed.). St. Paul, MN: West Academic. ISBN: 9781684674787

Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements. Where applicable, Tiffin University has obtained permission to use copyrighted material.

Additionally, you will need a library barcode to conduct research through the University library and access any library resources provided in the course. If you do not already have a barcode, please request one by clicking on the following link:

- Link (online form): [Barcode Request Form](#)

Minimum Student Technology Requirements

In order to have a quality learning experience in your online courses, the University requires that your primary computer (the computer used to access course materials and on which you will be required to install course-specific software) meets or exceeds certain specifications. Click on the following link to view the specifications:

- Link (website): [PC Recommendations](#)

Time Management

Time management is an important part of academic success. Please refer to the approximate (average) times noted below for readings and assignments to help plan your time accordingly.

Course Content

Please refer to individual activities for assessment guidelines.

WEEK 1			
Course Topics	History of mental illness, societal concerns, and mental health law Mental illness diagnosis, treatment, and delivery of services		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Textbook: Chapter 1 pp. 1-37 Lecture 1, 2 Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		1.00 hrs. 2.00 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Introductory Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): n/a	Monday	0.50 hrs.

Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3, 5	Wednesday	6.00 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1.50 hrs.
Assignment: Essay	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3, 5	Sunday	10.50 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			21.50 hrs.
WEEK 2			
Course Topics	Legal research in mental health law Regulation of mental health professionals Confidentiality and duty to warn/protect		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Textbook: Chapter 2 pp. 39-68, Chapter 6 pp. 190-211 Lecture 1, 2 Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		1.00 hrs. 3.50 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 3	Wednesday	4.50 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1.00 hrs.
Assignment: Essay	CLO(s): 3	Sunday	10.00 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			20.00 hrs.
WEEK 3			
Course Topics	Patient rights: right to treatment, right to refuse treatment, informed consent Advanced psychiatric directives Americans with Disabilities Act		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Textbook: Chapter 5 pp. 149, 160-165, 173-177; Chapter 6 pp. 181-190; Chapter 7 pp. 213-223 Lecture 1, 2 Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		1.00 hrs. 2.00 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 2, 3	Wednesday	4.50 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1.00 hrs.
Assignment: Essay	CLO(s): 2, 3	Sunday	10.00 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			18.50 hrs.
WEEK 4			
Course Topics	Competency and commitment Insanity and pleas		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Textbook: Chapter 4 pp. 91-147; Chapter 5 pp. 149-160 Lecture 1, 2 Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		1.50 hrs. 2.00 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 2, 3	Wednesday	4.00 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1.00 hrs.
Assignment: Essay	CLO(s): 2, 3	Sunday	9.00 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			17.50 hrs.

WEEK 5			
Course Topics	Forensic evaluations Expert witness testimony Commitment		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Textbook: Chapter 3 pp. 69-89; Chapter 5 pp. 149-160 Lecture 1, 2 Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		0.50 hrs. 2.00 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 2, 3, 4	Wednesday	6.50 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1.00 hrs.
Assignment: Essay	CLO(s): 2, 3, 4	Sunday	11.00 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			21.00 hrs.

WEEK 6			
Course Topics	Offenders with mental illness in the criminal justice system Specialty court dockets Crisis Intervention Teams in the criminal justice system		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Textbook: Review Chapter 4 pp. 124-147 Lecture 1, 2 Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		0.50 hrs. 2.00 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 2, 3, 5	Wednesday	5.50 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1.00 hrs.
Assignment: Essay	CLO(s): 2, 3, 5	Sunday	10.50 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			19.50 hrs.

WEEK 7			
Course Topics	The future of mental health law		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Textbook: Chapter 6 pp. 225-232 Lecture 1, 2 Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		0.50 hrs. 2.00 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 3, 5	Wednesday	5.00 hrs.
Assignment: Essay	CLO(s): 5	Thursday	9.00 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1.00 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			17.50 hrs.

Approximate Time on Task for Entire Course	135.50 hrs.
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Grading Structure

Activity	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
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Introductory Discussion	n/a							0
Discussion	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	175
Assignment	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	525
Total	100	700						

Activity Categories	Percentage of Total Points
Discussions	25%
Assignments	75%
Total	100%

Grading Scale	
Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
F	<70%

Please see the Academic Bulletin for grade appeal information.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects student information. Other than directory information, such as name, address, phone number, etc., students must give consent for individuals to gain access to a student's educational record, including grades, transcripts, and behavior reports (unless the student is under the age of 18). Students also have the right to review their educational records. For a more detailed explanation, please see the Student Handbook.

Office for Student Accessibility Services

Please refer to your Moodle Home page for Office for Student Accessibility Services contact information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Veterans

Please refer to your Moodle Home page for services for veterans, service members, and their families.

Moodle and Non-Moodle Technical Support

Blackboard Student Services will provide 24x7 Moodle helpdesk support for all Tiffin University students and faculty. Locate contact information for Blackboard Student Services (Moodle-related issues) and for Tiffin University ITS helpdesk (non-Moodle related issues) on your Moodle Home page.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the University.