# 513-656 Law and Ethics for Physiotherapists

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| **Code:** | 513-656 |
| **Title of the subject:** | Law and Ethics for Physiotherapists |
| **Credit points** | 12.5 |
| **Coordinator** | Dr Clare Delany |
| **Semester of offer** | 2008 Sem 2 |
| **Prerequisites and/or Corequisites** | |
| **Mode of delivery** | Seminars and self directed learning |
| **Contact hours** | 17 hours consisting of three 3-hour seminars at the beginning of semester and one mid-semester full day seminar |
| **Non-contact hours** | 70 Hours |
| **Description** | This subject aims to raise awareness of humanistic and ethical aspects of physiotherapy practice and research by reviewing foundations of philosophical, social and legal knowledge associated with health care practice. Through three (3 hour) seminars, students will be provided with :<br>• An introduction to the legal framework of health care practice and research including common law, statute law and legal and professional codes and guidelines (including codes of conduct and the NHMRC statement on ethical conduct in Human Research)<br>• An overview of the ethical framework underpinning healthcare practice and research through an examination of ethical theory, professional ethics, confidentiality, informed consent and relationships with patients and research participants.<br>• An introduction to ethical reasoning models and frameworks for engaging with ethics in clinical practice and research<br>• An opportunity to bring personal ethics knowledge and experience for discussion and consideration<br>• Strategies for writing about and engaging with ethics in different clinical, cultural and institutional settings and research frameworks. |
| **Assessment** | 4,000 word essay consisting of 2 components (85%) due end of semester:<br>• Completing an ethics application (45%) and<br>• Reviewing the ethical theory underpinning an area of clinical practice or research (40%)<br>Class presentation critiquing a research ethics application due mid-semester (15 %)<br>Students are required to attend all seminars (hurdle requirement) |
| **Recommended texts** | The following texts are recommended:<br>• Forrest K, Griffiths D (2005) Essentials of law for health professionals. (2nd ed) Sydney: Elsevier Mosby<br>• Purtilo R (2005) Ethical dimensions in the health professions. (4th ed) Philadelphia: Elsevier Saunders<br>• Edwards, I & Delany C (2007): (In Press) Ethical reasoning. In: Clinical Reasoning in the Health Professions (3rd Ed.) Eds. Higgs, J., Jones, MA., Loftus, S., and Christensen, N. Elsevier, Boston<br>• Guillemin M, Gilliam L (2006) Telling Moments. Everyday Ethics in Health Care. Melbourne: IP Communications<br>• What Makes Clinical Research Ethical? Ezekiel J. Emanuel, David Wendler, Christine Grady, JAMA. 2000;283:2701-2711<br>• National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, 2007 http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/_files/e72.pdf |
| **Subject objectives** | On completion of this subjects, students will have gained:<br>• Knowledge of the legal framework pertinent to health care practice and research;<br>• Advanced knowledge of ethical and philosophical foundations of physiotherapy practice and research<br>• In depth understanding of moral agency and leadership in a range of clinical practice settings and research settings<br>• Advanced understanding of the nature of professional ethics and different legal and ethical perspectives related to healthcare practice and research |
| **Generic skills** | On completion of this subject, students will have had the opportunity to develop the following generic skills:<br>• Advanced analytical and interactional skills<br>• The ability to extend both writing and presentation skills in non-clinical aspects of healthcare practice<br>• A capacity for self-directed learning and the motivation for life-long learning<br>• Basic understanding of issues pertaining to research governance |
| **Special computer** | N/A |

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| **requirements** | |
| **Special computer skills required** *(if applicable)* | N/A |
| **Resources provided to distance students** | N/A |