Syllabus for EMSA 3346: Legal, Political, and Regulatory Environment of EMS

Table 1Course Information

Department of Criminal Justice School of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Program Coordinator: Dr. Aaron Bartula Aaron.Bartula@untdallas.edu 972-780-3629
Instructor: Gregory Winters, PhD MPA NRP Licensed Paramedic
Office Location: Virtual/Adjunct office (302A)
Contact Information: Gregory.Winters@UNTDallas.edu Email is the best way to contact me. Please allow 24 hours for response then email again.
Office Hours: Virtual / by appointment
Classroom Location: *Online*
Class Meeting Days & Times: Online
Course Catalog Description: This is an upper-level baccalaureate course for students interested in the field of legal, political, and regulatory environment of EMS. This course introduces the EMS professional to the legal aspects of Emergency Medical Services. Students explore issues in malpractice, consent, and refusal of treatment, OSHA, employment issues, and risk management. EMS students gain insights into the legal liabilities in Emergency Medical Services.
Prerequisites: None
Required Text: Legal, Political and Regulatory Environment in EMS, (2015) John Murphy; ISBN-13: 978-0-130503603-7,https://www.pearson.com/us/higher-education/program/Murphy-Legal-Political-Regulatory-Environment-in-EMS/PGM2246533.html
Access to Learning Resources: **UNT Dallas Library:** phone: (972) 780-1616 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/library email: library@untdallas.edu **UNT Dallas Bookstore:** phone: (972) 780-3652 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore   e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com
Supported Browsers: Chrome 67 & 68 Firefox 60 & 61 Flash 29, 30 (for audio/video) Respondus Lockdown Browser Safari 10, 11 **Supported Devices:** iPhone

Android
Chromebook
(Tablet users can use the Canvas app)

Screen Readers:
VoiceOver (Safari)
JAWS (Internet Explorer)
NVDA (Firefox)
Note: There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome
Getting Help with Canvas:

Canvas 24/7 Phone Support for Students: 1-833-668-8634

Canvas Help Resources:
 Web: Canvas Student Guide

For additional assistance, contact Student Assistance
(Distance Learning):
Founders Hall, Rm 124
phone: (972)338-5580
email: distancelearning@untdallas.edu

If you are working with Canvas 24/7 Support to resolve a technical issue, make sure to keep me updated on the troubleshooting progress.

If you have a course-related issue (course content, assignment troubles, quiz difficulties) please contact me.

Course Goals or Overview: The goals of this course are as follows -

Develop a clear understanding of the fire and emergency service administration

Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify potential legal and political issues in EMS.
2. Describe legal lessons learned from recent cases and identify best practices in EMS to avoid legal liability.
3. Analyze and apply legal rules and political issues to manage risk.
4. Formulate political and legal conclusions and recommendations based on the analysis.
5. Locate and apply recent legal and legislative online resources.

Online/Hybrid Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Canvas announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

Table 2 Course Schedule

Schedule	Topic	Activities	Due on the below date by 1159pm (2359) CST

Week 1	Basic Framework of the United States Legal System	Discussion 1	August 29
Week 2	History of EMS Law	Quiz 1	September 7
Week 3	Forming an EMS System	Quiz 2	September 14
Week 4	• Employment and Staffing • Exam 1	Discussion 2 Exam 1	September 19 Sept 21
Week 5	Compensation and Benefits	Discussion 3	October 3, 2023
Week 6	Safety Considerations	Quiz 3	October 5
Week 7	Records Retention Privacy and Confidentiality	Quiz 4	October 12
Week 8	• Personnel Management Issues	Discussion 4	October 17
Week 9	• Legal Pitfalls of Discipline, Terminations, Layoffs • Mid-Term Exam	Discussion 5 Mid-Term Exam	October 24 October 26
Week 10	The Many Faces of Negligence	Quiz 5	November 2
Week 11	Funding	Discussion 6	November 7
Week 12	National EMS Representation	Quiz 6	November 16
Week 13	Professional Organizations	Discussion 7	November 21
Week 14	Advocating for Change	Quiz 7	December 7
Week 15	Project presentation	Project presentation	December 13
Week 16	Finals Week	Final Exam	December 9-14

Course Evaluation Methods
This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. All assignments must be submitted and substantially completed in order to successfully complete the course.

Discussion Board Postings: (140 points = 7 discussions x 20 points each)
Each student will be required to post to (7) different discussion board postings during the semester. The discussion board topics will correspond with information from each selected chapter in the textbook.   Each student will be required to post an initial discussion and then reply to (2) other student's posts. **Postings will be graded according to the below rubric in each posting.** The discussion board postings will count up to (20) points each (for a total of 0 – 140 total points) toward a student's final grade

Discussion Post Grading Rubric

Points Earned	Expected Points – Assignment meets all requirements	Maximum Points – Assignment exceeds all requirements
Content The information provided is accurate. The breadth and depth of information is appropriate. The student presents supporting material and evidence from class sources. The student cites resources using APA format but does not overuse quotations.	**0-5**	**5**
Effectiveness Points of information are communicated successfully. Analysis, integration, synthesis of the information, and critical exploration of topic provides context and connections (beyond just the presentation of accurate facts, thought has been applied in these ways)	**0-5**	**5**
Dialog The student provides a substantive response to at least *two* other postings	**0-10**	**10**
Subtotal (points earned before any applicable deductions)	**0-20**	**20**
Points Deductible points **Mechanics** grammar, spelling, punctuation **Up to -4**		
Format length (sufficiently addressed the topic),		

appearance, proper APA format for citations. **Up to -4**		
Total (points earned minus any applicable deductions) **0 - 20**		

Chapter quizzes (140 points = 7 quizzes x 20 points each) – Seven quizzes will be given and they will consist of a combination of standard question formats, such as multiple choice, true false, fill in the blank, free response, etc.

EMS legal consideration project and presentation (100 points)

Students will create an audio and video presentation on the legal and ethical challenges of patients that refuse care and or transportation. This can include video of the student but is not required. A "voice over" presentation of PowerPoint slides is acceptable. Your presentation should be given to an audience of new employees / co-workers. Since this project is open from day 1 of the course, NO LATE WORK will be accepted.

Please use a "fictional" EMS organization to avoid specifically identifying any real organization. You have wide latitude in the details, resources, and composition of the fictional organization. However, you should assume the organization is of median size and funding with the expected and reasonable resources that might be common in the industry. Include research-based data with at least five (5) sources. Students will utilize the most current APA edition format guide to provide references.

Reference the grading rubric below. Presentations must be submitted through Canvas as an MP4 file or minus 5 points will be deducted from the final project grade unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Address the presentation as if presenting new employees / co-workers.

> 1) Did the presentation address critical aspects and legal considerations of patients who refuse care and or transport?
>
> - 0-25 points
>
> 2) Did the presentation discuss the aspects of EMS negligence, how to mitigate EMS negligence, and how it can impact the legal considerations of patients who refuse care and or transport?
>
> - 0-25 points
>
> 3) Was the presentation organized, free of grammatical errors, have clear audio/video, stayed on topic, and professionally presented?
>
> - 0-25 points
>
> Note: keep the video presentations under 15 minutes. Minus 5 points from the total project grade will be deducted if the video is over 15 minutes. *Presentations must be uploaded as MP4 files to canvas or it will be minus 5 points from the final project grade*.

4) The presentation discussed actions and or best practices to manage the legal considerations of patients who refuse care and or transport in addition to any protections for EMS employees?

- 0-25 points

Exams (300 points = 3 exams x 100 points each) – Three exams will be given and they will consist of a combination of multiple choice and free response. These will be taken through Canvas. Student will only have one attempt on each exam unless authorized by the instructor. Students will have 60 minutes to complete the exam from the time it is started. Students will not be given another attempt or more time for technology issues. Ensure you are able to complete the exam in one sitting, without interruption, and with adequate technology.

Submitting late or missed course work will be at the discretion of the instructor if not specified in the university excused absence policy.

GRADING MATRIX

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.
Exams: - *written tests designed to measure a deeper knowledge of textbook and course material.*
Quizzes: - *written quizzes designed to measure as survey knowledge of textbook and course material.*
Discussions: - *written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce textbook and course material.*
Presentation: - *assignments designed to measure ability to apply presented textbook and course material.*

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Discussions	7 at 20 points each	140
Quizzes	7 at 20 points each	140
Exam 1	1 unit exam	100
Mid-Term Exams	1 mid-term exam	100
Presentation & project	1 presentation and project	100
Final Exam	1 final exam	100
TOTAL:		**680**

Grade Determination
A = 609-680 points
B = 541-608 points
C = 473-540 points
D = 405-472 points
F = 0-404 points

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students:

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see Disability Services Office. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untdallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement:
University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement is also provided.

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Course Evaluation Policy:
Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: According to the instructor's discretion while working in concert with the division/program's guidelines.

Exam Policy: Online exams and the ability to retake is solely at the instructor's discretion. NOTE: Online exams may be proctored on campus per instructor's discretion.

Academic Integrity:
Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to UNT Dallas' Student Code of Academic Integrity for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Classroom Policies

Online Attendance and Participation:
The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Canvas classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Canvas, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to UNT Dallas' Registrar for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course.

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be effected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Online "Netiquette":
In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper "netiquette" (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to UNT Dallas Student Code of Conduct. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:
Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Assistance: In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements listed on the first page of the syllabus.

If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor.

If the problem is still not resolved, call Student Assistance (Distance Learning) at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements
- Canvas Instructure Supported & Unsupported Operating Systems

Artificial Intelligence Use:
Assignment Policy: (According to the instructor's discretion while working in concert with the division/ program's guidelines).