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### **Overview**

This course surveys the law governing health care and counselling professionals and the provision of health services in Ontario. The legal principles discussed are relevant to all regulated health practitioners ( physicians, nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists ), social workers, educational counsellors, and anyone else who works in a hospital, health clinic, or long-term care or retirement home. The topics covered include consent, capacity and substitute consent to treatment; end-of-life decision making; mental illness and the criminal justice system; the standard of care expected of health care and counselling professionals; and documentation, confidentiality, mandatory reporting, and the duty to warn.

On a broader level, the course addresses the legal relationship between users and providers of health care services. Consequently, the course will be of interest to individuals who want to understand their rights regarding treatment, counselling and care. For example, can physicians put a “do not resuscitate” order on a patient’s chart without the patient’s consent, who owns a patient’s medical record, and do patients have a legal right to obtain a copy? What information must practitioners provide to patients to obtain an informed consent? The course also addresses many

## Course Objectives

The course is designed to provide students with a working understanding of the legal issues that typically arise in providing treatment, counselling and care. Students will be able to put legal issues in context, whether it is a power of attorney for personal care, patient requests to access their treatment records, identifying who has authority to exercise substitute consent on behalf of an incapable person, or determining how to obtain an informed consent.

## Course Materials and Readings

A printed copy of the Coursebook (R. Solomon, ) is available from Western's Book Store. The Coursebook will **not** be available in a digital format. You are strongly advised to obtain a copy of the current Coursebook as soon as you register in the course. There are no outside readings. The accompanying PowerPoints will be available on OWL in the first week of term and will be available until after the final exam. Students are advised to **print off** a copy of the PowerPoints. The reading schedule for each week is available online on the OWL course page and is set out later in this document.

Although the Coursebook is relatively short, it summarizes a broad range of legislation, common law principles, and leading cases that students will be expected to understand and apply. Students are strongly encouraged to carefully read the assigned materials and view the accompanying PowerPoints prior to the weekly classes. The Coursebook and PowerPoints are updated every year to include important new cases and legislative amendments. Relying on a previous edition of the Coursebook will put a student at a major disadvantage because it will not include all the information on which students will be examined.

## Course Instructor

Professor Solomon is responsible for designing the course, preparing the materials, presenting the classes, creating the quizzes and setting the midterm and final examinations. Any questions related to the course content should be directed to Professor Solomon or the two teaching assistants (TAs).

Professor Solomon will usually be available in the North Campus Building to meet with students and answer questions before and after the Tuesday 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm class. Students can email or call Professor Solomon (519-661-3603) if they have a question that the TAs have not been able to answer. Students who email Professor Solomon need to include a **telephone number** at which they can be reached. Professor Solomon will **not** provide detailed email responses to questions. Please speak slowly and clearly when leaving a phone number and include the area code. Students can also book a phone or in-person meeting with Professor Solomon at a mutually agreeable time.

## Course Co-ordinator

Professor Sherrin, the Course Co-ordinator, is responsible for the administration of the course and any related technical issues. Professor Sherrin is available by email ([csherrin@uwo.ca](mailto:csherrin@uwo.ca)) to answer any questions about **accommodation, enrolment, OWL, the administration of the quizzes and the midterm and final examination, and other technical matters**. If these questions are directed to Professor Solomon, they will refer to the 48 Bridges brochure and not to the OWL and 48 Bridges (il) (e) #4



**(c) The Quizzes**

The quizzes are intended to encourage



### **Academic Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences**

Students seeking academic accommodation must contact the Academic Counselling Office at his or her home faculty. In order to receive accommodation for any missed quiz, midterm or final examination, **medical documentation** will generally be required. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. A student medical certificate can be downloaded from the following website:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

Medical documentation must be submitted by the student to his or her Academic Counselling Office, and that office that will make the determination whether accommodation is warranted. The Academic Counselling Office of the student will, in turn, notify the Course Coordinator. Documentation is also generally required for non-medical a4- oa44 (i)-6SI004 Tw [t.(s)1 b)-3.d(g)-4 (en)-t Tc 0.0dbs 503-724