COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title:	Legal Issues in Human Services		**Date submitted:**	Spring 2014 (AAC: 14-24)
Department:	Social Science			
Curriculum:	Human Services			

Course Descriptors: Make certain that the course descriptors are consistent with college and Board of Trustees policies, and the current course numbering system.	**Course Code:** (eg. ACC 101)	**HSE*236**	**Prerequisites:**
	Course Type:	**L/D**	C- or better in Introduction to Human Services (HSE*101) AND Composition (ENG*101), or permission of the Program Coordinator.
	A: Clinical B: Lab D: Distance Learning I: Individual/Independent L: Lecture N: M: Seminar Internship P: Practicum U: Studio X: Combined Lecture/Lab Y: Combined Lecture/ Clinical/Lab Z: Combined Lecture/Studio		
	Elective Type:	**G**	
	AH: Art History E: English FA: Fine Arts Arts FL: Foreign Language G: General HI: History HU: Humanities LAS: Liberal Arts & Sciences M: Math S: Science SS: Social Science		
	Credit Hours:	3	**Corequisites:**
	Developmental: (yes/no)	No	
	Lecture:	3	None
	Clinical:	0	
	Contact Hours: Lab:	0	
	Studio	0	
	Other:	0	
	TOTAL:	3	**Other Requirements:**
	Class Maximum:	35	None
	Semesters Offered:	F	

Catalog Course Description:	Human service professionals encounter legal issues that pertain to the profession and/or the needs of clients on a daily basis. This course introduces students to the legal system and the laws that affect the human service professional and their clients. Students will explore legal issues commonly encountered by clients such as domestic violence, immigration status, income supports and others. In addition, legal issues affecting the human service professional such as confidentiality mandated reporting and how to work with client involved in legal processes will be examined.
Topical Outline: List course content in outline format.	1. Introduction to the legal system, the role of lawyers, client centered advocacy, and Law and ethics in human services 2. Privacy, personal autonomy, confidential communications and limits 3. Incompetency and guardianship 4. Marriage, divorce, children, civil unions and the law 5. Domestic violence: criminal law intervention 6. Domestic Violence: civil law intervention 7. Child abuse, termination of parental rights& foster care 8. Law and the mentally ill 9. Legal Issues for individuals with disabilities including AIDS/HIV Immigration law 10. Publicly funded programs to enhance the lives of clients (housing, healthcare)

	11. Legal issues specific to the elderly
Outcomes: Describe measurable skills or knowledge that students should be able to demonstrate as evidence that they have mastered the course content.	**Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:** **COURSE:** 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the state and federal court systems and the difference between civil and criminal law 2. Describe ways in which their own chosen profession is affected by the legal system 3. Analyze primary sources of law (state statutes and court decisions) as well as secondary sources such as the text book 4. Describe Connecticut's mandated reporting laws of suspected abuse or neglect of children, the elderly and vulnerable adults as well as the response to such reports 5. Analyze how the lives of clients are affected by legal interventions 6. Report the positive outcomes of legal investigations as well as the unintended negative consequences of those interventions 7. Describe basic responses to family violence provided by Connecticut state civil and criminal law 8. Explain laws that affect specific populations such as the elderly, children, those living with AIDS/HIV as well as physical and mental disabilities
	PROGRAM: *(Numbering reflects Program Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)* **Human Services Associate in Science Degree Program** 1. Understand and apply terminology used in today's human services field, and interpret and communicate information when appropriate. 2. Analyze the interaction of social policies on client systems, workers, and agencies. 3. Read and explain relevant literature in the field of human services. 6. Develops critical thinking skills within the context of professional human services practice to solve problems, to apply reasoning strategies, and to acquire and utilize information 8. Develop an understanding and awareness of cultural diversity.
	GENERAL EDUCATION: *(Numbering reflects General Education Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)* **10. Social Phenomena -** Students will develop an increased understanding of the influences that shape a person's, or group's attitudes, beliefs, emotions, symbols, and actions, and how these systems of influence are created, maintained, and altered by individual, familial, group, situational or cultural means. 　　**Demonstrates**: Accurately and sufficiently explains factors that influence and shape a person's or group's attitudes, beliefs, decisions, and actions. 　　**Does Not Demonstrate:** Inaccurately or insufficiently explains factors that influence and shape a person's or group's attitudes, beliefs, decisions, and actions.
Evaluation: List how the above outcomes will be assessed.	**Assessment will be based on the following criteria:** 1. Examinations 2. Papers 3. Quizzes 4. Oral presentations – instructor's discretion 5. Group Projects – instructor's discretion
Instructional Resources: List library (e.g. books, journals, on-line resources), technological (e.g. Smartboard, software), and other resources (e.g. equipment, supplies, facilities) required and desired to teach this	Required: None Desired: None

course.	
Textbook(s)	See current academic year for text selection