

IT 821 (2 CREDITS)
HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY SEMINAR
ONLINE VERSION – FALL 2009
TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

This online course will provide an overview of health information privacy law and policy with special emphasis on the privacy and related security provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and implementing rules, as well as the supplemental legislation in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Applicable federal and state laws as well as other regulatory mechanisms affecting health information privacy will be addressed. This is a paper course that will run for ten weeks beginning on October 1, 2009.

Objectives:

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Recognize various rights and interests in health information relating to individuals.
- Identify various approaches and solutions to balance the potentially competing interests.
- Apply privacy regulatory mechanisms in various health-related contexts.
- Design and implement appropriate privacy policies in various health-related contexts.

Guidelines:

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to log in on the course site at least three days each week and participate frequently in the asynchronous discussions. Participation implies meaningful, relevant, respectful and thoughtful interactions with your colleagues that promote and advance the goals of the class. Credit does not accrue from merely logging in and reading your colleagues' responses. The quality of your postings and how they enhance the discussion will significantly influence your grade in this course.

“Live” Synchronous Chat Sessions: Students are expected to attend and actively participate in the required synchronous chat sessions (Dates and times TBA).

Readings: Reading assignments will come from a variety of sources posted on the course site. Each class will usually contain a presentation or note from the Professor. We suggest you read/view this presentation or note before you tackle other assigned readings, then, click on the other readings in the order in which they are posted (top to bottom) for each class. Some reading assignments may contain citations to cases. You are expected to pull these cases yourself and read the entire opinion. If you need to establish or renew a Lexis or Westlaw account, please contact Tom Keefe in the JMLS Library (8keefe@jmls.edu).

Readings and task assignments for each class session will be posted on Thursdays, no later than 5:00 pm (beginning on Oct. 1, 2009). You will have until the following Thursday at 5:00pm to submit your completed assignments.

Assignments: Non-graded tasks will be assigned from most class sessions. While you will not receive an individual letter or numeric for these tasks, they will be assessed as part of your participation grade (see section on grading below). There will be three graded assignments. For each of these assignments, you will receive a letter or numeric grade and individual feedback from the Professor.

All assignments must be completed and submitted on or before the posted deadline in order to receive full credit. Late assignments will only be accepted with the permission of the Professor.

News Forum: In addition to any specific assignments for this course, at least four times during the semester, each student is expected to post a link to and briefly discuss a news story relevant to the substance of this course

Grades:

Class participation - 25% (includes forum/glossary/news postings, and other non-graded tasks)

Participation in synchronous chats – 10%

First assignment – 10%

Second assignment – 20%

Final Assignment – 25%

Schedule and Assignments (Subject to change):

Week # 1 (Oct. 1, 2009) – Introduction

Week #2 (Oct. 8, 2009) - Protecting Privacy

Week #3 (Oct. 15, 2009) - Overview of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Introduction to the HIPAA Privacy Regulations

Week #4 (Oct. 22, 2009) – HIPAA Compliance by Hospitals and Business Associates

Week #5 (Oct. 29, 2009) - HIPAA in Practice

Required Synchronounous Chat Session (Date/Time TBD)

Week #6 (Nov. 5, 2009) – Ethical Issues Involving Medical Research and Genetic Testing

Week #7 (Nov. 12, 2009) - Mental Health Laws, Parental/Guardianship Issues and Litigation Issues

Required Synchronuous Chat Session (Date/Time TBD)

Week #8 (Nov. 19, 2009) - HIPAA Preemption, State Privacy Laws and Regulation of Marketing Activities

Week #9 (Nov. 26, 2009) - International Privacy Laws and Global Issues

Week #10 (Dec. 3, 2009) - Current Controvercies/Wrap Up

Final Assignment: (TBA)

Contact Information:

Instructor: Adjunct Professor Elaine Zacharakis Loumbas (9zachar@jmls.edu)

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