

## **LL4277V/LL5277V/LLJ5277V/LL6277V Medical Law and Ethics**

### *Course Description*

1. This course addresses the legal and ethical issues that arise in modern healthcare and medical practice. Issues that are addressed include consent to medical treatment, healthcare professional liability, medical confidentiality and privacy, end-of-life issues, assisted reproduction and human organ transplantation in Singapore. At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- a. Understand basic principles of medical ethics and appreciate the context in which healthcare is delivered in Singapore;
- b. Understand important legal and ethical issues that arise in healthcare;
- c. Know and understand how to apply the legal and ethical principles in the prevailing medical case law, legislation and professional ethics guidelines;
- d. Appreciate the countervailing arguments and values that relate to these issues; and
- e. Form and refine your opinions on what the best responses to these issues are.

2. The emphasis in this course is on independent learning. The overview lectures and seminar discussions seek to give you a framework and perspectives with which to approach the study of each topic. The syllabus highlights important cases and secondary material, with further readings that allow students to independently explore the issues.

3. Seminar slots will generally be run as overview lectures with follow-on discussions focused on pre-assigned reading material (issued via seminar reading assignments which correspond to the course schedule). The expectation is that you would have read these materials beforehand, think about the issues, and discuss these in class. Groups of students will be assigned to submit a seminar paper before the respective seminar sessions. These are brief opinion pieces that outline the most important issues raised by the readings and your views on those issues. Seminar papers constitute an important component of your class participation grade.

4. An indicative outline of the seminar topics in the course is as follows (the specific focus in sub-topics may change from year to year):

### *Outline of Seminar Topics*

1. Introduction to Medical Ethics
2. Singapore Healthcare System – Organisation, delivery and finance
3. Professional liabilities: Medical Negligence and Disciplinary Proceedings
4. Consent to Medical Treatment
5. Decision-making capacity

6. Proxy decision making
7. Medical Confidentiality and Privacy
8. End of life: Defining Death
9. End of Life: Proxy decision-making and Medical Futility
10. End of Life: Advance Care Planning and Assisted Dying
11. Assisted reproduction
12. Human Organ Transplantation