UMKC School of Law ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION Spring 2012

COURSE NAME: Law, Medicine & Bioethics

COURSE NUMBER: 8761M

PROFESSOR: Carbone

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Torts

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE BOOKS:
REQUIRED:

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:
The course will involve a choice of a paper, short written exercises during the term, or a take home exam.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
This class will focus on bioethics and selected legal and ethical issues in medicine. Law is pervasive in medical care and medical ethics. Bioethics has a rich history in jurisprudence and ethical theory. This class will focus on decision-making at the beginning and end of life, reproductive rights, and decisions in clinical situations.

COURSE CONTENT:
The patient-provider relationship (fiduciary, treatment, confidentiality, and disclosure obligations); physician obligations of informed consent and patient care issues; potential hospital and physician liability for medical malpractice.
Reproductive rights and assisted reproductive technologies.
End of life decision-making (withdrawal and refusal of life sustaining treatment by individuals and their surrogates) and physician-assisted suicide.
(The class will not deal with health care finance, public health or biotechnology, other than assisted reproductive technologies).

COURSE OUTCOMES: At the end of the course, students should be able to identify when an issue exists with respect to the existence of informed consent, potential doctor or hospital tort liability, and inclusion of relevant stakeholders in medical decision-making, and to take appropriate steps to position their clients to address the issue through the development of appropriate policies in a variety of practice settings.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:
This course will helpful for anyone interested in law and medicine, medical malpractice and tort liability. (It satisfies the upper level tort requirement). It will also address end-of-life decision-making and advanced directives that may be of personal use.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MD/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION:
Some limited relevance to tort issues.