

Argosy University San Francisco Bay Area
Course Syllabus

Course Title: Professional Issues: Ethics, Conduct, and Law
1/8/07 to 4/21/07

Course Number: PC 7100

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Office Hours: By appointment only

Text: Pope and Vasquez, *Ethics in Psychotherapy and Counseling*, 2nd Edition. ISBN# 0787943061

Additional Readings: The following website may be used to access ethical principles and codes of conduct, and specialty guidelines of the American Psychological Association and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists:
<http://www.kspope.com/ethcodes/index.php>

The following website may be used to access a free, online version of California Mental Health Laws and Regulations:
<http://www.dmh.cahwnet.gov/Admin/regulations/regulations.asp>

Course Description: In this course we will examine common ethical issues that arise during the course of psychotherapy, assessment, and general therapeutic practice. By the end of the term students should be familiar with the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles and Codes of Conduct and apply ethical principles to a meaningful context within a therapeutic setting. The course will emphasize cultural aspects of ethics, specialty guidelines for underserved populations, and guidelines specific to working with children and families.

Course Format:

Class meetings will occur each Monday, from 2:00 to 5:00. Note: The class will not meet on the following holidays: 1/15/07 (Martin Luther King Day) and 2/19/07 (President's Day).

Course Objectives: The primary goal of the course is to introduce students to the ethical and legal boundaries and responsibilities of clinical practice. Through the text, case vignettes, and classroom discussion, students will:

- a) Gain an historical perspective concerning the progression of ethics in the behavioral and social sciences.
- b) Develop an understanding of ethical principles and codes of conduct of therapists in clinical and counseling settings.

- c) Familiarize themselves with research relevant to ethical behavior of therapists across various modalities, including but not limited to, sexual misconduct, multiple relationships, informed consent, fee collection, mandated reporting, and communication of information.
- d) Traverse common ethical dilemmas and sources of potential violations.
- e) Conduct an in-depth analysis of a contemporary ethical issue facing therapists.

Methods of Instruction: In addition to discussion of reading assignments, methods of instruction will include lecture and analysis of case vignettes (typically in a group format). The instructor will endeavor to integrate visual and audio learning modalities into the lecture to enhance learning acquisition. This course does not include an online component.

Content Area:

1. Helping Without Hurting: Enhancing Ethical Awareness (1/8/07)
2. Ethical and Legal Codes and Complaints: Historical, Actuarial, and Empirical Foundations (1/8/07)
3. Trust, Power and Caring (1/22/07)
4. Common Misperceptions That Interfere with Ethical Practice (1/22/07)
5. The Human Therapist (1/29/07)
6. Asking Questions: A Case Study in Questioning Claims from the Recovered Memory Controversy (1/29/07)
7. Beginnings and Endings: Absences and Accessibility (2/5/07)
8. Informed Consent and Informed Refusal / Issues Specific to Childhood and Adolescence (2/12/07)
9. Assessment, Testing, and Diagnosis (3/5/07)
10. Sexual Relationships with Clients (3/12/07)
11. Nonsexual Multiple Relationships (3/12/07)
12. Cultural, Contextual, and Individual Differences / Issues Specific to Aging (3/19/07)
13. Maintaining and Waiving Confidentiality (3/26/07)
14. Responding to Suicidal Risk (3/26/07)
15. The Supervisory Relationship (4/2/07)

Student Performance Evaluation Criteria and Procedures: Your performance will be evaluated in four ways: a written assignment, a verbal presentation, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

Written Assignment (60 points): Conduct a scholarly review and critical analysis of a contemporary ethical or legal issue impacting the field of counseling. Your paper should include at least five references other than your textbook. These should be books, articles or periodicals. You *may* include additional references, including websites, but at least two must be as described. Your paper will be graded on following the instructions, writing clarity, and level of applied thoughtfulness. Written assignments are due on 4/12/07.

Verbal Presentation (40 points): You are to present a brief (8-10 minutes) classroom presentation of the essential findings of your written assignment. You will be graded according to your presentational style and expertise within the content area. Verbal presentations will occur on 4/12/07.

Midterm [2/26/07] (100 points) and Final Examinations [4/16/06]: The purpose of midterm and final examinations is to assess students' comprehension of course subject matter. Examinations will consist of multiple choice questions, short-answer essay, and analysis of vignettes.

NOTE: The Final Examination is a comprehensive examination and will cover content throughout the entirety of the course, including verbal student presentations.

Grading: Student grades will be based upon the following:

Written Assignment = 60 points

Verbal Presentation = 40 points

Midterm Examination = 100 points

Final Examination = 100 points

Total = 300 points

Criteria for Class Presentation

Grade

A = 90+ Presentation is well organized and provides **excellent** coverage of the topic area.

B = 80 – 89 Presentation is well organized and provides **adequate** coverage of the topic area

C = 70 – 79 Coverage of material is marginal; presentation is slightly disorganized

F = <70 Presentation is **disorganized** and does not provide adequate coverage of the topic area, or presentation was **not completed** by student.

Criteria for Paper

Grade

A = 90+ Paper is in appropriate APA format, well thought out and provides **excellent** coverage of material

B = 80 – 89 Paper is well thought out, but is missing one component of APA format OR coverage of material is **adequate**

C = 70 – 79 Insufficient number of references provided AND **limited** coverage

F = <70 Paper is disorganized AND coverage is not adequate AND does not conform to APA format, or there is evidence of **plagiarism**, or paper not submitted

Grading

93-100 A

90-92 A-

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B-

77-79 C+

73-76 C

70-72 C-

69 below F

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

In an effort to foster a spirit of honesty and integrity during the learning process, Argosy University requires that the submission of all course assignments represent the original work produced by that student. All sources must be documented through normal scholarly references/citations and all work must be submitted using the *Publication*

Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th Edition (2001). Washington DC: American Psychological Association (APA) format. Please refer to Appendix A in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th Edition* for thesis and paper format. Students are encouraged to purchase this manual (required in some courses) and become familiar with its content as well as consult the Argosy University catalog for further information regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Additionally, Argosy University considers resubmission of a work produced for one course in a subsequent course or the submission of work done partially or entirely by another to be academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsibility to seek clarification from the instructor regarding how much help may be received in completing an assignment, exam or project and what sources may be used.

Scholarly writing: The faculty at Argosy University is dedicated to providing a learning environment that supports scholarly and ethical writing free from academic dishonesty and plagiarism. This includes the proper and appropriate referencing of all sources. You are responsible for maintaining an electronic copy of any work submitted, because you may be asked to submit your course assignments through "Turnitin," (www.turnitin.com), an online resource established to help educators develop writing/research skills and detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Turnitin compares submitted papers to billions of pages of content and provides a comparison report to your instructor. This comparison detects papers that share common information and duplicative language.

ADA Policy

It is AU/San Francisco Bay Area Campus policy not to discriminate against qualified students with a documented disability in its educational programs, activities or services. If you have a disability-related need for accommodations in this class, contact the Campus Director of Student Services at 510-215-0277.

Your instructor is responsible for delivering this curriculum in a format that will ensure the objectives are met and measured. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways depending upon the experience, orientation, technological acumen, emphasis and preferences of the instructor as well as the resources available. Your instructor is also required to ensure that the course Outline include details regarding assignments and method of instruction.