

Course Title: Professional Issues: Ethics, Conduct, and Law

Course Number: PC7100

Instructor: Nicolle Ionascu, Psy.D.
Email: drionascu@yahoo.com
Phone: (925) 788-0851

Text:

Pope and Vasquez. *Ethics in Psychotherapy and Counseling, 3rd Edition*.
ISBN# 0-7879-9400-6

Course Description:

In this course we will examine common ethical issues that arise in the course of psychotherapy, assessment, and general therapeutic practice. By the end of the term students should be familiar with the 2002 APA Ethics Code, as well as how to place that code into a meaningful context within a therapeutic setting. Attention will also be paid to the cultural aspects of ethics, as well as special rules and situations regarding children and families.

The course format consists of weekly contact. Students are required to log on the course's website and post responses on the discussion board two times per week. Assignments, exams, and papers are to be submitted to the instructor via email.

Final Date to Drop the Class:

To receive a "W" grade a student must officially drop this class by the date listed below that corresponds to this course's term and length (indicated by bold type). Students may not withdraw from this course after the date this date. If a student chooses to discontinue course work after the final drop date, the student may receive an "F" grade for the course.

Fall Full Term (15 week courses): November 12, 2007

Fall First Session (7 ½ week courses): October 8, 2007

Fall Second Session (7 ½ week courses): November 29, 2007

Course Objectives:

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the ethical boundaries of psychological practice. Through the text, case vignettes, and weekly discussion, students should, by the end of the course, have:

- a. Developed an historical perspective concerning the progression of ethics in the

Argosy University/ San Francisco Bay Area
999-A Canal Blvd. Point Richmond, CA

- field of psychology.
- b. Developed an understanding of ethical guidelines for therapists in private practice, hospitals, and educational settings.
 - c. Examined research on ethical behavior of psychologists across a variety of modalities, including, but not limited to, sexual misconduct, multiple relationships, and issues regarding informed consent and fee collection.
 - d. Reviewed a diverse set of practical examples of potential ethical violations, and discussed the proper outcomes with colleagues and the instructor in an online format.
 - e. Developed a topic and created an in-depth analysis of an ethical issue or concern facing currently facing psychologists.

Program Outcomes: Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology

Program Outcome One: Professional Practice

Competency 1: Assessment and Skills

Formulate assessments of psychological functioning and apply therapeutic intervention strategies when working with individuals, couples, families, and groups, toward the development of optimal mental health.

Competency 2: Theory

Interpret and apply psychological and developmental theories to therapeutic intervention strategies.

Competency 3: Writing

Employ media and technology when presenting counseling information orally and in writing, so that the presentation is concise, organized, well supported, professional, and appropriate to the audience.

Program Outcome Two: Research

Competency 1: Analyze research, and translate research findings for improvement of counseling services using statistics and program evaluation methods.

Program Outcome Three: Interpersonal Effectiveness and Professional Development

Competency 1: Students will develop positive relationship skills that promote personal and professional development via effective communication, encouragement, empathy, respect for others, self-awareness, and other-awareness.

- a. Apply active listening communication skills in interpersonal scenarios to establish empathetic relationships.
- b. Analyze the importance of effective nonverbal communication skills in interpersonal relationships.
- c. Solicit and utilize feedback to build and maintain interpersonal relationships.

Program Outcome Four: Ethics

Competency 1: Using the American Counseling Association's Standards of Practice /or the American Psychological Association's Ethical Code, as well as, and local state law as it applies to the behavior of mental health professionals, identify ethical dilemmas and apply ethical decision-making strategies while engaging in professional activities.

Program Outcome Five: Diversity

Competency 1: Multicultural Skills

Provide assessment, counseling, and consultation services in work with clients by applying psychological and multicultural theories and research to diverse populations, and modifying interventions as needed to work effectively with diverse clients.

Competency 2: Multicultural Awareness

Examine personal values and biases, reflect on beliefs, and understand how they impact work with clients and interpersonal relationships with other students and faculty.

Competency 3: Multicultural Knowledge

Identify and assess the complexity and multidimensionality of cultural/diversity theories and issues in the field of counseling psychology while working with clients and interpersonal relationships with other students and faculty.

Methods of Instruction:

This course is conducted using an online format. Active participation (e.g. posting on the discussion board) is required at least three times per week. Weekly lectures and discussion questions will be posted, and assignments as indicated in the syllabus. All exams, assignments, and papers are due to the professor via email no later than midnight of their respective due date. No late work will be accepted without prior permission from the instructor.

Content Area:

This course follows the text at the pace of roughly one chapter per week:

Week 1: September 4 - 7

Chapter 1

Week 2: September 10 - 14

Chapter 2

Question Set 1 posted, due by 09/21

Week 3: September 17 - 21

Chapter 3

Week 4: September 24 - 28

Chapter 4

Week 5: October 1 - 5

Chapter 5 and 6

Week 6: October 8 - 12

Chapter 7

Midterm posted, due 10/19

Week 7: October 15 - 19

Chapter 8

Week 8: October 22 -26

Chapters 9

Week 9: October 29 – November 2

Chapter 10

Second Question Set posted, due by 11/09

Week 10: November 5 - 9

Chapter 11

Week 11: November 12 - 16

Chapter 12

Week 12: November 19 - 23

Chapter 13

Week 13: November 26 - 30

Chapter 14

Week 14: December 3 - 7

Chapter 15

Week 15: December 10 - 14

No New Reading, final exam posted, due by 12/16

Final Project due by 12/14

Student Performance Evaluation Criteria and Procedures:

1. Participation, as defined by posting on the discussion board twice weekly 100 pts
2. Questions Sets 25 points each

3. Midterm Exam	50 pts
4. Final Exam	50 pts
5. Final Project	100 pts

Criteria for Class Participation

Grade	
A = 90+	Student actively participated in discussions in >80% of class sessions; nearly all comments were thought provoking and incorporated material from the assigned readings
B = 80 – 89	Student actively participated in discussions in >80% of class sessions; most of the comments were thought provoking and incorporated material from the assigned readings
C = 70 – 79	Student participated in discussions in >70% of class sessions; comments/questions demonstrate a surface level understanding of course topics
F = <70	Student participated in <70% of class sessions; comments/questions did not demonstrate an understanding of course topics, or student did not participate in class discussions.

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 Criteria:

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 and below	F

Library

All resources in Argosy University's online collection are available through the Internet. The campus librarian will provide students with links, user IDs, and passwords.

Library Resources: Argosy University's core online collection features nearly 21,000 full-text journals and 23,000 electronic books and other content covering all academic subject areas including Business & Economics, Career & General Education, Computers, Engineering & Applied Science, Humanities, Science, Medicine & Allied Health, and Social & Behavior Sciences. Many titles are directly accessible through the Online Public Access Catalog at <http://library.argosy.edu>. Detailed descriptions of online resources are located at <http://library.argosy.edu/misc/onlinedblist.html>.

In addition to online resources, Argosy University's onsite collections contain a wealth of subject-specific research materials searchable in the Online Public Access Catalog. Catalog searching is easily limited to individual campus collections. Alternatively, students can search combined collections of all Argosy University Libraries. Students are encouraged to seek research and reference assistance from campus librarians.

Information Literacy: Argosy University's Information Literacy Tutorial was developed to teach students fundamental and transferable research skills. The tutorial consists of five modules where students learn to select sources appropriate for academic-level research, search periodical indexes and search engines, and evaluate and cite information. In the tutorial, students study concepts and practice them through interactions. At the conclusion of each module, they can test their comprehension and receive immediate feedback. Each module takes less than 20 minutes to complete. Please view the tutorial at <http://library.argosy.edu/infolit/>

Academic Policies

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

Argosy University/ San Francisco Bay Area
999-A Canal Blvd. Point Richmond, CA

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.

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 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.

Americans with Disabilities Act Policy

It is the policy of Argosy University to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a student with disabilities needs accommodations, the student must notify the Director of Student Services. Procedures for documenting student disability and the development of reasonable accommodations will be provided to the student upon request.

Students will be notified by the Director of Student Services when each request for accommodation is approved or denied in writing via a designated form. To receive accommodation in class, it is the student’s responsibility to present the form (at his or her discretion) to the instructor. In an effort to protect student privacy, the Department of Student Services will not discuss the accommodation needs of any student with instructors. Faculty may not make accommodations for individuals who have not been approved in this manner.

The Argosy University Statement Regarding Diversity

Argosy University prepares students to serve populations with diverse social, ethnic, economic, and educational experiences. Both the academic and training curricula are designed to provide an environment in which students can develop the skills and attitudes essential to working with people from a wide range of backgrounds.