

Course Syllabus

- Title:** Professional and Ethical Issues
PSY 6260 (Section 001) (via WebEx)
- Term:** Fall 2020
Wednesdays: 10:30am-1:10pm (online synchronous meetings via video calls)
- Location:** <https://utoledo.webex.com/meet/jon.elhai>
- Credit Hours:** 3
- Instructor:** Jon Elhai, Ph.D.
(419) 530-2829 (office)
Jon.elhai@utoledo.edu (e-mail)
www.jon-elhai.com
- Office Hours:** Available by email, and by video call upon request
- Required Reading:** Pope, K., & Vasquez, M. (2016). *Ethics in psychotherapy and counseling: A practical guide* (5th ed.). Wiley: Hoboken, New Jersey. ISBN-13: 978-1119195443

Course Description (from the Graduate Course Catalog):

Exploration of ethical and professional issues faced by clinical psychologists. Detailed analysis of the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.

Learning Objectives:

1. Develop the ability to make ethical decisions using various resources such as the APA's Ethics Code, Guidelines, and Decision-Making Models.
2. Gain competence in reading and translating the APA Ethics Code into its component parts (e.g., Principles, Sections, and Standards).
3. Identify professional values, principles, and issues affecting psychologists and psychologists-in-training.
4. Practice consulting and collaborating with colleagues on relevant, applied ethical dilemmas and scenarios.
5. Expand familiarity with laws and other legal requirements for the provision of psychological services.

Course Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance: It is the responsibility of each student to attend all classes, and turn in all assignments on time. **Please do not arrive late to class!** Students are expected to contribute to class discussion – including asking questions of other students presenting their work. **Each student should prepare 1-2 points of discussion/comments/questions for each class session to discuss.** Attendance and participation are worth 25% of the final grade.

- a. Classroom Environment. It is expected that the classroom environment will be peaceful and respectful.
- b. Online lectures will be audio recorded using WebEx (please remind me if I forget!). I should be able to make each lecture available in our course Google Drive folder within a couple of days after the class: <https://bit.ly/2OztXXx>

2. Exam: There will be an **ONLINE, proctored Blackboard** final exam on **December 2 (during the regular class time)**. **We will meet on WebEx, and the instructor will proctor the exam.** Students will be given an EPPP Ethics Exam in the style of questions within the ethics section of the test. The exam will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions (you'll have one hour for the exam). Studying and reviewing the APA Ethics Code will be necessary to perform best on this exam. Students are encouraged to review and consider how sections and standards are relevant to applied situations, as this will aid in the preparation for the exam. The exam is worth 25% of the final course grade. **No makeup exams will be given.** If an exam must be missed due to extremely extenuating circumstances, let the instructor know as soon as possible.

3. Mock Trial: The class will be divided into multiple groups to deliberate a “controversial” ethical-related issue within clinical psychology (25% of final course grade). Students are tasked with researching and supporting an assigned position on the topic, and ultimately presenting their position/perspective via a mock trial/debate in class. Additionally, students will be expected to utilize ethical decision-making processes on prospective policy. The topic will be further introduced within the corresponding Class Schedule section – presented on **October 14**.

4. Ethics Paper: Write a 10-page research paper (not including the cover page, abstract, and references) on an area of ethics in psychology (worth 25% of your final course grade). Include at least 10 references of your own finding (that is, in addition to those provided to you for class readings). References may come from mental health, psychology and psychiatry journals or books (start by searching PsycInfo). No more than 1 (non-PsycInfo) internet reference may be used. Do not waste space by generally discussing the APA ethics code. Use quotes extremely sparingly. **Topics must be approved by the instructor beforehand.** Papers must be typed with a 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, and are due by **November 25**. Papers may be submitted early for corrective feedback. **Late papers will result in one letter grade loss per day** (unless you turned in the first draft early for corrective feedback). APA format is required for references. Papers will be graded based on the following criteria: 1/3 for relevance, 1/3 for organization, 1/3 for accuracy.

4. Grading:

Grading scale

A	93-100	A-	90-92	B+	87-89
B	83-86	B-	80-82	C+	77-79
C	73-76	C-	70-72	D+	67-69
D	63-66	D-	60-62	F	< 60

Grades will be based on the Final Exam (25%), Mock Trial (25%), Ethics Paper (25%), and Class Attendance (25%).

No other grades will be given except as noted above. If a student is doing poorly in the course (by not attending or by failing to submit assignments), it is the student’s responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course before the appropriate deadline. If it is too late to drop or withdraw from the course, a mark of “Incomplete” will not be assigned; rather the student will be assigned the actual grade earned.

5. Academic Honesty: Department of Psychology Statement on Academic Honesty - Academic honesty is expected from students enrolled in courses and programs offered by the Department of Psychology; violations of this expectation will not be tolerated.

Violations of the expectation of academic honesty include, but are not limited to:

- * Obtaining or attempting to obtain a copy of an examination prior to its administration.
- * The unauthorized use of study material or textbooks during an examination.
- * Obtaining unauthorized assistance from and giving unauthorized assistance to another individual during an examination or completion of an assignment.
- * Plagiarism in written assignments. Plagiarism includes: (a) using, copying or paraphrasing another author’s materials without appropriate acknowledgment through quotation and citation; (b) unauthorized collaboration in the preparation of reports, term papers, or theses.

In accordance with the Policy Statement in the University Catalog, instructors have the responsibility and right to bring cases of alleged dishonesty to department, college, and university administrative units. Students involved in academic dishonesty may expect to receive a grade of F on specific assignments, as well as in the course where the assignment was made. Full policy details: <https://bit.ly/2IetYAf>

Student Behavior - Students are expected to follow University policy with regards to proper conduct in the classroom, as detailed in the University of Toledo Student Handbook (See <http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/dos/>). Disciplinary action for violation of these policies will be decided on a case by case basis and will be in accord with University policy.

6. Class Communication: The Instructor will communicate to students by email about class announcements, changes to the course schedule (including class cancellations), and grades. **It is the student's responsibility to check their UT email account daily for such announcements.**

7. Additional Ground Rules: 1) Grade disputes must be submitted in writing in order to be considered. 2) Grievances about the course and/or Instructor should be brought up with that individual first in order to resolve the matter, prior to discussing the matter with the department/university's administration.

8. Office of Accessibility. Students registered with the Office of Accessibility for a disability must discuss possible accommodations with the Instructor during the first week of class in order to allow such accommodations to occur.

9. Title IX. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here ...

Complaints can be reported online:

UT's Title IX coordinator: <https://www.utoledo.edu/offices/oid/title-ix/index.html>

Other resources:

UT's Student Counseling Center: <https://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/counseling/>

UT Campus Police: <https://www.utoledo.edu/depts/police/index.html>

UT Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program: www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/SAEPP

YWCA Battered Women's Shelter: www.ywcanwo.org/

Schedule of Classes and Readings (The assigned chapter should be read **before** each class)

Date	Week/Lecture	Required Reading	Class Session	Activity Due
8/19	1	P&V Ch. 1-3; APA Ethics Code Introduction, Preamble, and General Principles	Introduction	
8/26	2	P&V Ch. 15-16; APA's Ethics Code Section 1: Resolving Ethical Issues	Managing complaints; Resolving ethical issues	
9/2	3	P&V Ch. 12; APA's Ethics Code Section 2: Competence	Competence	
9/9	4	P&V Ch. 19, and 22; APA's Ethics Code Section 3: Human Relations	Informed consent; Managing multiple relationships; Human relations	
9/16	5	P&V Ch. 24; APA's Ethics Code Section 4: Privacy and Confidentiality	Confidentiality and privacy; Record keeping and fees	
9/23	6	P&V Ch. 27; APA's Ethics Code Section 7: Education and Training	Supervision; Education and training	
9/30	7	P&V Ch. 17	Ethical decision-making models; Dedicated time for working on decision-making models	
10/7	8	APA's Ethics Code Section 8: Research and Publication	Research and publication	
10/14	9		Mock trial/debate	Mock trial/debate
10/21	10	P&V Ch. 11 and 20; APA's Ethics Code Sections 5, 9, and 10	Advertising, assessment, and therapy; Technology in psychology; HIPAA and HITECH	
10/28	11	P&V Appendices A and B	Torture and the Hoffman Report; Reviewing changes in the APA's Ethics Code	
11/4	12		Mobility and licensure	
11/11	13		NO CLASS – VETERANS DAY	
11/18	14	P&V Ch. 23	Multiculturalism in ethics	
11/25	15		NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK	Submit final draft of Ethics Manuscript
12/2	16		Ethics Exam	

Note: This syllabus may be appended by the instructor if necessary. Students are responsible for any changes made.