

Professional and Ethical Issues; Spring 2012

Psychology 6260/7260-001

Thursdays 9:30-12:00pm

Professor: Sallyann Treadaway, Ph.D.

Office Hours: By appointment

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Required Reading:

Nagy, Thomas F. **Essential Ethics for Psychologists**. 2011.
American Psychological Association Press. Washington D.C.

*American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of
Psychologists and Code of Conduct*: download from APA's website

Ethical Code for State of Ohio: download from OPA's website

Assigned articles as listed. If article is not available online, a copy
will be left for students to photo copy.

Additional readings may be assigned each week as needed.

Course Description and Objectives:

This graduate level course will explore some of the ethical and professional issues that are faced by clinical psychologists, psychologists in other areas, and other helping professions (play therapists, counselors, social workers). Our exploration of ethical issues will be guided by the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct as well as the standards set by the states and countries class participants plan to practice in.

We will do a brief overview of the philosophy and history of ethics but will not spend a lot of time there. Rather, we will take an

applied view towards ethics. The course objectives are to provide a body of information on ethics; to develop a process of thinking that will help you recognize ethical issues in your work, avoid ethical problems and lead you to satisfactory resolutions of those dilemmas you cannot avoid. An underlying goal is that you will acquire an ethical sense that allows you to develop a sensitivity to doing your best in your professional practice rather than just learning to follow the ethical rules.

You will see that although the APA ethical guidelines may offer us some guidance, often many questions are unanswered. The guidelines are written in a very general fashion so that they cover a wide variety of topics. However, given this, the guidelines may sometimes appear to be too vague to apply to specific ethical situations. As a result, we sometimes have to struggle with issues of responsible practice and try to decide how the accepted ethical principles apply in specific cases we encounter.

This course will be organized according to the areas where major ethical issues confront us. These include the areas of research, teaching, therapy, and supervision. Course objectives will be addressed through readings, discussions, videos, and case material outlining ethical standards, ethical models, ethical pitfalls, and specific ethical situations.

Course Requirements:

Your grade will be based on the following:

Participation: 20%

Ethics Journal: 40%

Paper/presentation: 20%

Ethics Code Presentation: 20%

Participation: The format for class will be half lecture and half discussion. The class will be more interesting if everyone fully prepares (completes the readings and assignments) and participates in each class period. If you are going to be absent, please let me know ahead of time if possible. You will be expected to obtain class

notes either from myself or from a classmate. Multiple/unexcused absences will affect this part of your grade.

Ethics Journal: The majority of your work for this class will be a journal that you will keep. The purpose of the journal is to get you to think about ethical issues as we learn about them and develop answers to ethical situations. Each week you will be asked to: complete a specific assignment (a scenario or question assigned based on the reading) and make two entries of ethical situations you come across during the week which you describe and discuss. The journal writings will be handed in to me on a weekly basis, but will only be shared in class by your choice.

Paper/presentation: Each student will chose one of the 10 Ethical Standards and write a short paper (of no more than 5 pages) and present this to the class in a short (30 minutes) presentation including a scenario for discussion. The paper should summarize the standard, describe an ethical dilemma that applies to the standard, discuss the dilemma in light of an ethical decision making model and standards set by APA and the state of Ohio. The paper/presentation will be due according to when it applies to the syllabus.

Ethics code presentation: Below is a list of Ethical Codes that apply to specialized areas of practice. Each student will chose one in an area of interest to them, get the code on line, make copies for the class, write a journal entry to be used for discussion, and make a brief (15 minute) presentation for the class. The presentation should focus on things in the code of conduct that are specific to the area and are not specifically addressed in the general APA code. These presentations will be given during the weeks of 4/12 and 4/19.

1. American Academy of Forensic Psychology: Specialty Guidelines
2. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Code of Ethics
3. American Association of Christian Counselors: Code of Ethics
4. American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists: Code of Ethics
5. American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Psychologists & Social Workers: Standards for Psychologists & Social Workers in SCI Rehabilitation

6. American Group Psychotherapy Association: Guidelines for Ethics
7. American Psychoanalytic Association: Principles & Standards of Ethics for Psychoanalysts
8. American Psychological Association: Revised Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluation in Family Law Proceedings
9. American Psychological Association: Guidelines for the Evaluation of Dementia and Age-Related Cognitive Decline
10. American Psychological Association: Guidelines for Psychological Evaluations in Child Protection Matters
11. American Psychological Association: Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Clients
12. American Psychological Association: Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice, and Organizational Change for Psychologists
13. Association for Applied Psychophysiology & Biofeedback: Ethical Principals of Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback
14. Association for Play Therapy: Code of Ethics
15. Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers: Professional Code of Ethics
16. Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association: Code of Ethics for Equine Assisted Psychotherapy
17. Feminist Therapy Institute: Code of Ethics
18. International Society for Mental Health Online: Suggested Principles for the Online Provision of Mental Health Services
19. National Council for Hypnotherapy: Code of Ethics & Conduct

Schedule

1/12/12	Introduction to Ethics	No readings
1/19/12	Ethics & Decision Making	text: ch 1,3,8 APA code: intro, preamble, general principles, ethical standard 1
1/26/12	Competence	text: ch 4 APA code: ethical standards 2,5,10

Behnke, Stephen. (2008). Ethics Rounds: Reflections on Media Ethics for Psychologists. Monitor on Psychology. Volume 39, No. 4.

2/2/12 Multiple Relationships/Boundaries
Text ch 7
APA code: ethical
standard 3

2/9/12 Multiple Relationships/Boundaries
Gottlieb, Michael. (2008). Avoiding Exploitative Dual Relationships:
A Decision Making Model. <http://kspope.com/dual/gottlieb.php>

Pope, Kenneth. (2008) Dual Relationships & other Boundary
Dilemmas. <http://kspope.com/ethics/boundary.php>

Pope, K. & Keith-Speigel, P. (2008). Dual Relationships, Multiple
Relationships, & Boundary Decisions.
<http://kspope.com/ethics/boundary.php>

2/16/12 Confidentiality & consent text: ch. 5 & 6
APA code: ethical
standards 4 & 6

2/23/12 Therapy text: ch. 10
APA code: ethical
standard 10

Carmichael, Karla. Legal and Ethical Issues in Play Therapy.
International Journal of Play Therapy, 15 (2), pp. 83-89. (copy)

3/1/12 Assessment text: ch. 9
APA code: ethical
standard 9

3/8/12 NO CLASS-SPRING BREAK

3/15/12 Teaching text: ch.12 Knapp,
Samuel J. & VandeCreek, Leon D. (2006). *Practical Ethics for
Psychologists.* Washington, DC: American Psychological
Association. (copy)

APA code: ethical
standard 7

Tabachnick, Barbara & Keith-Speigel, P. (2008). Ethics of Teaching: Beliefs and Behaviors of Psychologists as Educators.

<http://www.kspope.com/ethics/research6.php>

3/22/12

Research

text: ch. 11

APA code: 8

Pope, Kenneth. (2008). Invited Guest Editorial: The ethics of Research Involving Memories of Trauma. General Hospital Psychiatry, vol. 21, #3. (copy)

3/29/12

Supervision, consultation,
& mentoring

APA code: ethical
standard 7

Ch. 15: Knapp, Samuel J. & VandeCreek, Leon D. (2006). *Practical Ethics for Psychologists.* Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

4/5/12

Business of Psychology/Forensics

4/12/12

Student Presentations

4/19/12

Student Presentations

4/26/12

Putting it all together/scenarios of ethical dilemmas

Behnke, Stephen. (2005). Ethics Rounds: Reflecting on How we Teach Ethics. <http://www.apa.org/monitor/oct05/ethics.html>

Cook, Lynn & Dean, M. (1999). "Lost in a Shopping Mall"-A Breach of Professional Ethics. *Ethics & Behavior*, vol. 9, #1, pp. 39-50. (copy)