

Psych 412/512  
Ethics and Professional Issues  
Fall 2009

Meeting Times: W 8-9:50 am  
REND 223  
Email Cellanth@isu.edu

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Required Text:

Koocher, G. P. & Keith-Spiegel, P. (2008). *Ethics in psychology and the mental health professions: Standards and cases*. N.Y.: Oxford Press.

Also:

APA (2002). Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. *American Psychologist*, 57, 1060-1073.

APA (2003). Guidelines on multicultural education, training, research, practice, and organizational change for psychologists. *American Psychologist*, 58 (5), 377-402.

Additional APA Practice Guidelines on Moodle.

Supplemental:

Barad, J. (2001). *The Ethics of Star Trek*. N.Y.: Perennial. (peruse Ch1 & 2)  
Reference File of Ethics Periodical Articles in Psychology Department

Goals & Objectives:

The importance of moral judgment and ethical principles is illustrated daily in the news, touching on every profession. The main objective of this course is to provide a broad survey of ethical issues that arise in psychology (i.e. teaching, research and practice). It is important to relate these issues to your experiences and personal moral philosophy.

Topics include the history and structure of the APA ethics code and how it is enforced, ethical dilemmas in psychotherapy (such as confidentiality, duty to protect, boundary issues), multicultural competence as an ethical issue, legal issues in forensic work and malpractice, ethics in academic contexts, and collegial relationships including distress/ impairment among professionals. Through literature exposure and interacting around course content including discussion of cases, sensitivity to ethical issues hopefully will increase. In approaching ethical situations, students should understand the need to go beyond first, gut feelings about right and wrong, to a more purposeful process of reflective decision-making.

Requirements:

This is a Moodle supplemental course. If this is your first foray into this forum for learning, do not panic. The Moodle component will be relatively simple and a good way to learn about this system. However, you are required to participate by exploring posted internet resources and writing to class discussion forums. Further instructions will be provided in class.

In that this is a senior and beginning graduate level course, regular attendance and active participation are expected. Please read the assigned readings prior to class. I have also created a knowledge survey and these questions will serve as a course study guide. There will be three regularly scheduled exams on the course material. Students are required to notify me of their absence prior to the exam if they wish to take a makeup.

As part of the course requirements, students will be asked to engage in reflective writing assignments (e.g., ethics autobiography). In addition, each student will briefly summarize (1-2 typed pages) three periodical articles of their choice pertaining to an ethical/professional issue. A reading list of articles on reserve in the department will be provided but you are not limited to just these articles. You should look at various library periodicals related to professional psychology and counseling including *Ethics and Behavior*, and *Professional Psychology: Research & Practice*.

Psy 512 students will also present briefly (15 minutes) in class on an approved topic. Graduate students are all required to complete the HSC module on research ethics.

#### Evaluation:

Course grades will reflect your exam performance (60%), article critiques (20%), and Moodle (20%) participation. Graduate students will also be evaluated on the quality of their presentation.

#### ADA Statement:

ISU is committed to all students achieving their potential. If you have a disability or think you have a disability (e.g., physical, learning, hearing, vision, psychiatric) which may need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the ADA Resource Center located in Gravely Hall (first floor), 282-3599 as early as possible.

#### Tentative Schedule:

W 8/26	Introduction to the course Synopsis of Moral Theories Ethics & being ethical	K-KS Ch 1; Handelsman, et al. 2005  acculturation model article
W 9/2	Ethical decision-making models Professional codes and enforcement Peer monitoring	K-KS Ch 2 & 3 Appendix A 2002 Ethics Code
W 9/9	Competence Impairment and Burnout	K-KS Ch 4 Smith & Moss (2009)
W 9/16	Research ethics	K-KS Ch 19; Begin CITI curriculum Sterba (2006) Misconduct in analysis and reporting of data
W 9/23	Exam one Ethics in psychotherapy	K-KS Ch 5

W 9/30 Ethics in psychotherapy (con-t) Multicultural issues	K-KS Ch 5 APA Multicultural Guidelines Hansen et al (2006). Professional psych
W 10/07 Techniques & Evidence-Based Practice	K-KS Ch 6 APA Policy Statement; Spring (2007)
W 10/14 Privacy and confidentiality HIPPA	K-KS Ch 8; Fisher (2008) American Psych
W 10/21 The health care business	K-KS Ch 7; New Yorker article Cohen et al (2006); Knapp & VandeCreek (2008)
W 10/28 Multiple role and boundaries	K-KS Ch 10, 11, & 12 Heaton & Black (2009)
W 11/4 Second exam Public face of psychologists	K-KS Ch 14 & 15 Pipes et al (2005) Personal-professional distinction
W 11/11 Psychological Assessment and Testing	K-KS Ch 9
W 11/18 Psychology & Law	K-KS Ch 17 Heltzel (2007); Greenberg & Shuman (2007)
W 11/25 Thanksgiving Break	
W 12/2 Professional relationships and Supervision	K-KS Ch 13 Barnett et al (2007) Professional psych Worthington et al (2002)
W12/09 Ethics in teaching and academic settings	K-KS Ch 16
Monday 12/14 (8-9:30am) Third and final exam	