SYLLABUS

I. TEXT (Required)


II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the ethical standards and contemporary issues affecting professional conduct in the field of psychology. The topics covered all revolve around ethical conduct in practice and research, as well as the decision-making foundations for resolving ethical issues. In addition to ethical standards, legal issues affecting professional practice will be covered in detail.

This course is designed to cover the ethics across the wide field of professional psychology including research, practice, and teaching. My goal is to raise issues common to all class members as consumers, producers and appliers of research, and to provide the resources required to address the issues in an ethically informed manner. It’s important to note that no course can cover all circumstances that you are likely to encounter. As such, this course seeks to frame ethical issues, separate them from other domains such as legality and morality, and provide information about how to think about an ethical dilemma, how to seek out guidance, and how to protect yourself. I also aspire to provide enough background information that this guidance is not arbitrary.

Broadly speaking, these are topics that all psychologists should be familiar with. The particulars of federal legislation or the filling out of IRB (Institutional Review Board) forms will be left to research mentors. Given the nature of our program, we will go into depth about applied psychology and clinical practice. We will cover important areas pertaining to the delivery of services and the ethical treatment of clients and colleagues. Despite this focus, there is much that will be omitted, and students are encouraged to continue seeking out ethics training.
III. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Below are the specific Learning Outcomes for the course. Students will be able to:

1. The student will demonstrate in depth knowledge of the current professional ethical standards pertaining to psychological practice.
2. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the current licensing standards applicable to the profession.
3. The student will demonstrate in depth knowledge of Research Ethics including supporting background and current procedures for research approval. The student will be required to pass a required HSIRB web-based training module on research ethics as part of the course or provide satisfactory evidence of prior but currently active certification.
4. The student will demonstrate an awareness of some of the ethical dilemmas arising out of professional practice, research, and related conduct and will propose satisfactory solutions to these dilemmas.
5. The student will demonstrate knowledge of selected current legal issues affecting the practice of psychology.

IV. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Grades will be determined by performance an 8-10 page term paper on a topic of your choosing relevant to ethics, thought papers submitted each class period, and points received on an assigned presentation project. Students will select presentation topics based on an out of class experience they sought out to enhance cultural competence.

In the spirit of developing cultural competence, which begins with openness to what we do not know about those who differ from us, pick one activity of your own choosing that will challenge you to grow and then present about what you learned. These topics will be consistent with APA ethical guidelines on enhancing cultural competency. Presentations will utilize power point formats and be made available to the professor (By 11:59pm on Thursday 8/1) and classmates on the day of the presentation.

Each student will prepare a 2 page thought paper over what they read for a given class be turned in on the day the assignment is scheduled for discussion in class. These assignments are to be submitted by 3:30pm on the day the assignment is due. These thought papers will summarize the reading topic and in the final paragraph present a thoughtful reaction to the current topic. Each thought paper will be worth 7.5 points and the lowest scoring paper for the semester will be dropped. Thought papers are to be typed double space and must be 2 full pages for full credit. During each class session approximately 4 thought papers chosen at random will be read in class by students. Opportunities for class discussion/questions/clarification will follow. Thought papers are not due on the first day of the class or the dates in which student presentations are made.
Term papers must be approved by July 25th by the instructor and be submitted via blackboard by the start of the final exam time on August 9th. All papers will be put through plagiarism checking software and must be written in APA style.

The student is required to organize a portfolio as part of this class to include the following items: APA Ethics Code, HSIRB CFR (Code of Federal Regulations), Belmont Report, Declaration at Helsinki, and Results of HSIRB (CITI) Training Module. These portfolios will be submitted for grading on or before the final presentation date (August 8th).

Attendance is expected and more than 1 unexcused absence will significantly affect the student's grade in a negative direction.

The assignments will contribute the following percentage to your final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points total</th>
<th>Percentage of grade total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thought papers</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. COURSE POLICIES

Class attendance is required and you will lose 15 points for each unexcused absence beyond the first. Excused absences require advanced notice to the professor and appropriate documentation pertinent to the absence. Emergency absences also require pertinent documentation. You may fail the course if you do not attend on a regular basis. Class discussion and participation will be an important part of your learning experience. You should come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. Consistent with the importance of participation, students cell phone use during the semester will not be tolerated. Students who are on the phone will be told to put it away. Continued use after a prompt will result in the student being given an unexcused absence.

It will be your responsibility to contact a class member to obtain lecture/discussion notes from the classes you miss. You are expected to be thoughtful and respectful of all others in the class. Due to extensive research on divided attention, if you are on your computer, it is expected that you are using it to facilitate learning (such as taking notes).

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual
orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Late work in this class will not be accepted.

All submitted works should be in APA format.

VI. DETERMINATION OF GRADES

Course grades will be based primarily on the total number of points earned by the end of the semester. To receive an "A" for the course, you will need 90% of the possible points. A "B" requires 80%, a "C" requires 70%, and a "D" requires 60% of the total points.

At the discretion of the instructor a student's grade may be raised but never lowered, for any of the following reasons:

1. quality of class participation,
2. improvement throughout the course
3. isolated low grade.

These exceptions to the "total points" rule will be considered only when a student's final average is within a few points of the cut-off for the next highest grade. This distinction is made as the discretion of the instructor and is not guaranteed. The grade of "Incomplete" is not an automatic grade. Students should consult the Registrars office if they have questions concerning dropping a course.

VII. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in one or more of the following:

- Written reprimand;
- Requirement to re-do work in question;
- Requirement to submit additional work;
- Lowering of grade on work in question;
- Assigning grade of “F” to work in question;
- Assigning grade of “F” for course;
- Recommendation for more severe punishment.

VIII. DROPPING THE COURSE
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

July 29th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**IX. Grade Appeals**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**X. DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**XI. STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be
modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

XII. ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

July 8th: Syllabus and course overview
Readings: Syllabus

July 9th: APA Ethics code
Readings Fisher Preface and Chapters 1-3

July 10th: APA Ethics code
Fisher Chapters 4-5

July 11th: APA Ethics code
Fisher Chapter 6

July 15th: APA Ethics code
Fisher Chapters 7-8

July 16th: APA Ethics code
Fisher Chapters 9-10

July 17th: APA Ethics code
Fisher Chapter 11

July 18th: APA Ethics code
Fisher Chapters 12-13

July 22nd: Ethics and Laws
Readings, choose 2:


**July 23rd: Privacy, Confidentiality, and Record Keeping**

Readings, choose 2:


**July 24: Therapy, Part 1**

Readings, choose 2:


48 States Still Allow This Ridiculous Thing, But California's Now Free To Ban It

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/03/gay-conversion-therapy_n_5548982.html


**July 25th: Human Relations**

Psychologists to Review Role in Detainee Interrogations

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/14/world/middleeast/psychologists-to-review-role-in-detainee-interrogations.html?_r=0

*New Evidence Links CIA to American Psychological Association’s “War on Terror” Ethics*


*APA Response to Risen Book and Allegations of Support for Torture*


**July 30nd: Competence**

Readings, Choose 2


Raja, A. (2016). Ethical considerations for therapists working with demographically similar clients. Ethics & Behavior, 26(8), 678-687.


**July 31rd: Education and Training**

Readings, Choose 2


**August 1st: Assessment, Forensics, Research, Publication, and Marketing Psychology**

Readings, Choose 2


Rosen, G.M. & Davison, G.C. (2003). Psychology should list empirically supported principles of change (ESPs) and not credential trademarked therapies or other treatment packages. *Behavior Modification. 27*(3), 300-312.


**August 5th**

Complete TAMUCC CITI Training “Social & Behavioral Research – Basic/Refresher”.

**August 6th**


**August 7th: Presentations**

Student presentations on out of class experience. They will assign relevant readings

**August 8th: Presentations**

Student presentations on out of class experience. They will assign relevant readings

**August 9th Final Exam date**

Turn in paper, complete any presentations that have yet to be completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day of the week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class topic</th>
<th>Reading topics due for this class</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>July 8th</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Ethical decision making</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>July 9th</td>
<td>APA Ethics Code</td>
<td>Readings Fisher Preface and Chapters 1-3</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Chapters/Topics</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>July 10th</td>
<td>APA Ethics Code</td>
<td>Fisher Chapters 4-5</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>July 11th</td>
<td>APA Ethics Code</td>
<td>Fisher Chapter 6</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>July 15th</td>
<td>APA Ethics Code</td>
<td>Fisher Chapters 7-8</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>July 16th</td>
<td>APA Ethics Code</td>
<td>Fisher Chapters 9-10</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>July 17th</td>
<td>APA Ethics Code</td>
<td>Fisher Chapter 11</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>July 18th</td>
<td>APA Ethics Code</td>
<td>Fisher Chapters 12-13</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>July 22nd</td>
<td>Ethics and laws</td>
<td>See reading options in syllabus</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>July 23rd</td>
<td>Privacy, confidentiality, and record keeping</td>
<td>See reading options in syllabus</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>July 24th</td>
<td>Therapy part 1</td>
<td>See reading options in syllabus</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>July 25th</td>
<td>Human Relations</td>
<td>See reading options in syllabus</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>July 29th</td>
<td>LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>July 30th</td>
<td>Competence</td>
<td>See reading options in syllabus</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>July 31st</td>
<td>Education and Training</td>
<td>See reading options in syllabus</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>August 1st</td>
<td>Assessment, Forensics, Research, Publication, and Marketing</td>
<td>See reading options in syllabus</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>August 5th</td>
<td>Citi Training (ethics in research)</td>
<td>Complete TAMUCC CITI Training “Social &amp; Behavioral Research – Basic/Refresher”.</td>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>August 7th</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
<td>As assigned by presenters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>August 8th</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
<td>As assigned by presenters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>August 9th</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Paper due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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