

Psychology 528 (16:830:528:01)
Clinical Ethics I

Fall 2015

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Class Meetings: Tuesdays 9:30 AM-12:00 PM, Busch Psych 301
Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-3:00 PM, Busch Psych 213, or by appointment

Required Texts:

Fisher, C. B. (2009). *Decoding the Ethics Code: A Practical Guide for Psychologists* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 978-1-4129-5916-2 (paperback).

Pope, K. S. & Vasquez, M. J. T. (2011). *Ethics in Psychotherapy and Counseling: A Practical Guide*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. ISBN: 978-0-470-63307-6 (paperback) or 978-0-470-91722-0 (ebook)

APA Code of Ethics (2002) with 2010 amendments. <http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx>. This is also printed as Appendix A in the Pope and Vasquez (2011) text listed above.

Tarasoff v. Board of Regents of the University of California, 551 P. 2d 334 (Cal. Sup. Ct. 1976). (available in pdf format on Sakai and at <http://www.publichealthlaw.net/Reader/docs/Tarasoff.pdf>)

Hoffman, D. H., Carter, D. J., Viglucchi Lopez, C. R., Benzmiller, H. L., Guo, A. X., Latifi, S.Y., & Craig, D. C. (2015). *Report to the Special Committee of the Board of Directors of the American Psychological Association: Independent Review Relating to APA Ethics Guidelines, National Security Interrogations, and Torture*. Accessed at: <http://www.apa.org/independent-review/APA-FINAL-Report-7.2.15.pdf>

APA Council of Representatives Resolution on psychologist involvement in national security interrogations passed 8/7/2015 <http://www.apa.org/independent-review/psychologists-interrogation.pdf>

New Jersey regulations (pdf copies available on Sakai):
<http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/psy/Pages/regulations.aspx>

Course Goals:

The goals of this course are to:

- Develop knowledge of the guidelines, standards, rules, and regulations related to the responsible practice of psychology.

- Develop an increased understanding of what it means to practice ethically.
- Develop and refine skills needed to recognize and solve problems involving relevant topic areas in regard to ethical and responsible practice.

Course Assessment:

- Class attendance and participation are expected and required (20% of final grade).
- Class presentation of one section of the APA ethics code with analysis of one ethical issue/conflict related to one of the enforceable standards in that section (20% of final grade). The example may be one provided in your texts or one from your own experience or imagination. You will sign up for the presentations at the first class session.
- Final paper (60% of final grade). You will need to choose one of the topics below or obtain approval for a topic of your own prior to writing your paper. Your paper should be 10-15 pages in length with appropriate referencing.
 - Identify particular/specific clinical ethical issues associated with being a therapist-in-training. Describe specific ethical issues and challenges associated with beginning training in the practice of psychology. Identify the ethical principles, ethics code standards, and NJ statutes and regulations relevant to these issues.
 - Analyze the Hoffman report on APA involvement in torture with a focus on the ethical dimensions of the conduct of one particular key player. Identify the ethical principles and ethics code standards relevant to the conduct of this individual as a professional psychologist.
 - Analyze the ethical implications of the use of electronic communication and data storage in the professional activities of psychologists. Focus on specific issues and identify the ethical principles, ethics code standards, and NJ statutes and regulations relevant to these issues.
 - Identify key ethical issues that arise when psychologists work in multicultural settings or with individuals from cultures other than their own. Focus on specific issues and identify the ethical principles, ethics code standards, and NJ statutes and regulations relevant to these issues.
- We will use the following grading scale:
 - A = Above 90%
 - B+ = 85%-89.9%
 - B = 80%-84.9%
 - C+ = 75%-79.9%
 - C = 70%-74.9%
 - D = 60%-69.9%
 - F = Under 60%
- You will also be asked to complete anonymous polls assessing the effectiveness of the course.
- Please be advised that your conduct in this course should be consistent with the university's academic integrity policy (see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>). Violations of this policy may lead to failure in the course or other disciplinary action.

Course Outline

Class	Topic	Assignments
9/1	Introduction to ethical principles and ethical decision making	APA Ethics Code; Fisher Ch. 2-3; Pope & Vasquez Ch. 1-2
9/8	No class; Attend Monday classes on this day	
9/15	Ethical decision making and resolving issues	Fisher, Ch. 4; Pope & Vasquez Ch. 3, 9-11
9/22	Competence and public statements	Pope & Vasquez Ch. 6-7, 18, 21; Fisher, Ch. 5, 8; NJ licensing statute
9/29	Confidentiality	Fisher, Ch. 9; Pope & Vasquez, Ch. 19 NJ regulations
10/6	Duty to warn and to protect; Protecting human rights	Tarasoff; Pope & Vasquez, Ch. 20; Hoffman report executive summary; Pope & Vasquez, Ch. 12
10/13	Ethical issues in therapy and assessment	Fisher, Ch. 12-13; Pope & Vasquez Ch. 4, 13-15
10/20	Multiple relationships	Fisher, Ch. 6, Pope & Vasquez Ch. 16-17
10/26	Final paper due by 5 PM in Dr. McCarthy's mailbox in Busch 205	