

Psy 541 - Professional Issues and Ethics in Psychology

Department of Psychology
Western Kentucky University
Winter Term 2024
MTWTF 8:00-11:45
GRH 3002

Please note. Classes meet every day, Jan. 2-5 and 8-13 with the final on Saturday the 13th.

Professor: Carl Myers, Ph.D.
Office: GRH 3013
Phone: 270-745-4410

Course Description:

Ethics codes, professional behaviors, and legal issues in applied psychology.

Course Objectives:

As a result of participating in this class, students will:

- 1) develop an understanding of the APA and NASP ethics codes;
- 2) develop an ability to think through ethical dilemmas by applying appropriate ethical and legal standards to the dilemmas;
- 3) develop an understanding of how ethics and laws guide the practice of psychology;
- 4) develop an understanding of the ethical implications of providing psychological services to culturally diverse clientele;
- 5) understand how federal special education law (IDEA-04), federal regulations, and state rules guide the practice of school psychology;
- 6) develop an understanding of how the U.S. Constitution and case law impact special education and school psychological services; and
- 7) understand how Section 504 relates to school psychological services.

Required Readings:

- Jacob, S., Decker, D. M., Lugg, E. T., & Diamond, E. L. (2022). *Ethics and law for school psychologists* (8th ed.). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Kentucky Department of Education. (2008). *Kentucky administrative regulations*. Frankfort, KY: Author. (Will be posted on BlackBoard.)

Suggested (non-required) Resources:

- Armistead, L., Jacob, S., & Williams, B. B. (2021). *Professional ethics for school psychologists: A problem-solving model casebook* (3rd ed.). National Association of School Psychologists.
- Fagan, T. K., & Wise, P. S. (2007). *School psychology: Past, present, and future* (3rd ed.). National Association of School Psychologists.

Class Schedule: (Subject to change)

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan. 2 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to the class. • Intro to the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix B of textbook – APA Ethical Principles
Jan. 3 (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APA Ethics Code continued. • Overview of KY Legal Procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 1 & 3 (Quiz 1-20 pts.) • Start reading NASP's (2020) Principles for Professional Ethics - Appendix A of textbook
Jan. 4 (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NASP's (2020) Principles for Professional Ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 (Quiz 2 - 10 pts.) • Finish reading NASP's Principles for Professional Ethics • Start reading chapters 7-10
Jan. 5 (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NASP's (2020) Principles for Professional Ethics continued. • Ethical decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapters 7-10 • Quiz #3 over chapters 7, 8, 9, & 10 (25 points) and Exam I – Applying Ethics Codes (50 points) given as take-home activity (Due Monday)
Jan. 8 (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education & IDEA-04 	
Jan. 9 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education & IDEA-04; • Special education case law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 (Quiz 4 - 5 pts.)
Jan. 10 (Wednesday)	Appropriate evaluation planning: KY special education disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 (Quiz 5 - 10 pts.) • KY Administrative Regulations (2008) • Final exam part 1: KY Regs take home exam, due Friday (34 pts)
Jan. 11 (Thursday)	Student presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural safeguards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 (Quiz 6 - 5 pts.)
Jan. 12 (Friday)	Student presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IEP development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11 (Quiz 7 - 5 pts.)
Jan. 13 (Saturday)	Comprehensive Final Exam – Special education laws and regulations (26 points)	

Course Grading: Possible points are as follows:

Chapter Quizzes	80
Presentation	50
Exams	110
Professional Behaviors	<u>20</u>
Total Possible	260

Assignment of grades will be based on percent of points earned with cut-offs at 90%, 80%, etc.

I. Chapter Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given over each Jacob et al. (2022) textbook chapter on the day the reading is assigned, unless otherwise noted. These quizzes will be in a multiple-choice format. The quizzes have several purposes such as providing you with external motivation to read and review the textbook, facilitating classroom discussions, giving you feedback on your understanding of the material, and giving me feedback on what material was understood. Point value of each quiz is listed in the class schedule.

II. Presentation:

In general, the assignment calls for each student to develop a presentation on a topic. (Topics will be randomly assigned.) Each presentation should be professionally done (e.g., PowerPoint, formal presentation style) and the information presented should be useful and practical to the class participants. The topics may require varying lengths of time to present; however, plan on approximately 20-30 minutes. A handout (1 to 2 pages) summarizing key points should be distributed to the class participants.

III. Exams:

The exams emphasize the application of the material covered in class (e.g., APA and NASP ethical codes, case law, special education law, the Kentucky Administrative Regulations). The exams will consist of short answer and essay questions.

IV. Professional Behaviors:

Professional behaviors include such things as attendance, timeliness, participation in class, disruptions of instruction, professional attitude, courtesy toward others, and writing skills (e.g., spelling, grammar). Points will be given based on my subjective evaluation of your professional behaviors (inside and outside of the classroom) at the end of the term.

Required WKU Syllabus Information

ADA Accommodations

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment

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