

Professional and Ethical Issues

The University of Toledo
College of Arts and Letters
Department of Psychology

PSY 6260
Fall, 2018
University Hall 1610
9:30 am - 12:15 pm Tuesdays

Contact Information

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Outside of speaking with me face-to-face, email is the best way to reach me. Please allow up to 24 hours for a reply during business days.

Office location: University Hall, Room 1880A

Office hours: Tuesday: 12:20 - 12:50, 2:15 - 4; Thursday: 11:55-12:55, 2:15-4. Also by appointment.

Course Catalog Description

Exploration of ethical and professional issues faced by clinical psychologists. Detailed analysis of the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.

Course Overview

The purpose of *Professional and Ethical Issues* is to provide a sound foundation of knowledge pertaining to psychological ethics that will be receptive to revision and adjustment over the length of a career in psychology. Thus, it will be necessary to internalize relevant ethical principles and standards. At the same time, we will engage in the analysis of ethically challenging situations to begin the career-long process of clarifying and refining ethical practice. We will review the historical foundations and development of the ethics code, and consider how it currently addresses issues of diversity and ethical concerns in our diverse society. As our readings and discussions will reveal, a rigid application of ethical principles and standards, without regard for context, may not appropriately guide our behavior in many ambiguous situations. It is also important to keep in mind that we need not be alone when weighing ethical issues, and this course should model how consultations pertaining to ethics may be conducted. The overarching theme that I hope to convey is that ethics codes have value in guiding our behavior as psychologists and serve a crucial role in protecting all parties involved, including us, our profession, and those with whom we interact.

Required Readings

Fisher, C. B. (2017). *Decoding the Ethics Code: A Practical Guide for Psychologists, Fourth Edition*. Los Angeles: Sage.

APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, which may be downloaded here:

<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/principles.pdf>

Primary source journal articles

Resources Related to Sexual or Gender-based Violence and Harassment

The University of Toledo cares greatly about the health and well-being of our students, staff, and faculty, and takes all sexual or gender-based violence and harassment very seriously. If you have experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking and want a confidential place to obtain support and information, please contact the Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness on the main campus in Health and Human Services Room 3017. You can call 419.530.2497 during regular business hours and 419.530.3431 for 24 hour assistance from a trained advocate. In-person, walk-in appointments are also available Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness provides free and confidential advocacy and counseling services to students, faculty and staff. The YWCA H.O.P.E. Center also can be accessed as an off-campus confidential resource at 419.241.7273. Faculty, teaching assistants, and other university employees are mandated reporters of any incidents of sexual or gender-based violence or harassment. Thus, any disclosures of sexual or gender-based violence or harassment on or off campus made to faculty or teaching assistants, or other university employees must be forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Office will then contact you regarding your rights, your option to participate in the investigation, interim safety measures and/or academic accommodations, and the need to proceed with an investigation (even if none is requested). Your participation in the process is voluntary. You may call 419.530.3152 to file a complaint or visit the following website for more information and resources: <http://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/>. Policies relating to Title IX can be found at: <http://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/policies.html>.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

| Date | Topic |
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| Oct. 16 | Midterm Exam |
| Oct. 23 | Privacy and confidentiality DEC: Chapter 7 |
| Oct. 30 | Public statements, record keeping, fees DEC: Chapters 8 & 9 |
| Nov. 6 | Education, training, research, and publication DEC: Chapters 10 & 11 |
| Nov. 13 | Assessment DEC: Chapter 12 |
| Nov. 20 | Therapy DEC: Chapter 13 |
| Nov. 27 | Group Presentations |
| Dec. 4 | Group Presentations |
| Dec. 11 | Final Exam |

References

American Psychological Association (2013). *Guidelines for the practice of telepsychology*.
Retrieved from

