COURSE APPROVAL DOCUMENT
Southeast Missouri State University

Department: Psychology ____________________________ Course No. PD573 ______

Title of Course: Ethics in Professional Psychology ________________ Date: August 1, 2015

Please check: X New

I. Catalog Description (Credit Hours of Course): The ethical situations faced by clinical psychologists and the need to safeguard the rights of those served in professional contexts are examined. Professional ethical codes are addressed. (2)

II. Co- or Prerequisite(s):

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course (optional):

1) Recognize the ethical implications of professional behavior on patients, their relatives, colleagues, ourselves, and the profession in general.

2) Identify and apply the guidelines for treatment of minors with/without their parents’ consent.

3) Identify and apply the importance of knowing and making appropriate professional decisions regarding the solution of ethical issues and dilemmas.

Add additional Objectives as needed

IV. Student Learning Outcomes (Minimum of 3):

1) The student will explain how ethical behavior impacts clients, families, colleagues, the practitioner, and the profession.

2) The student will identify guidelines for the treatment of minors with or without parental consent.

3) The student will provide appropriate professional decisions for several ethical dilemmas.

Add additional SLOs as needed

V. Optional departmental/college requirements:

A.

B.

VI. Course Content or Outline (Indicate number of class hours per unit or section):

A. See syllabus attached

B.

C.

Please Attach copy of class syllabus and schedule as an example

Signature: ____________________________________________ Date: ________________

Chair

Signature: ____________________________________________ Date: ________________

Dean

Approved by Academic Council, April 1, 2014
Revision: April 1, 2014
COURSE TITLE: Ethics in Professional Psychology
CODING: PSY 573
CREDIT HOURS: 2 credits
CONTACT HOURS: 30
PREREQUISITE: None

SEMESTER

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
All professional activities performed by a Clinical Psychologist involve other individuals who are part of society and who are probably served by an organization. Many ethical situations involve conflictive decision making which intends to protect all participants of the issue. Such interactions and the need to safeguard the needs and rights of those being served in the professional context will be a major component of this course. The nature and types of ethical dilemmas will be examined from a conceptual as well as from an applied perspective. The course will gear around multiple cases that by themselves illustrate the different ethical issues that are most confronted in clinical practice.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:
Provide students with a background of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct and “El Código de Ética de Psicólogos de Puerto Rico” and its application in professional practice.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
By the end of the course the students will be able to:

1. Recognize the ethical implications of our professional behavior on our patients, their relatives, colleagues, ourselves and the profession in general.
2. Identify and apply the guidelines for the treatment of minors with/without their parents’ consent.
3. Identify and applied the importance of knowing and making appropriate professional decisions regarding the solution of ethical issues and dilemmas.
COURSE CONTENT

UNIT 1
Introduction to ethics
Definitions, purposes, and functions of the ethical code
Ethic’s historical approach
Moral, ethic, and law

Assigned readings:

UNIT 2
Psychology’s professionalism
The historical and cultural context of the professionalism
The law for the psychology practice-Ley 96
Professional organizations and internal controls

Assigned Readings:
Ley Núm. 96 del 4 de junio de 1983: Para reglamentar el ejercicio de la profesión de la psicología en Puerto Rico.

UNIT 3
Ethical principles
Responsibility
Competence
Ethical and moral standards
Public statements
Confidentiality
Client’s well-being
Professional relations
Measurement and assessments techniques
Research with human subjects
Use and handling of animals in research

Assigned Readings:
UNIT 4
Themes and issues for discussion in the field of professional ethics: Privacy, confidentiality and privileged communication

Right of privacy and its exceptions
Group interventions
Minors

Assigned Readings:

UNIT 5
Dual relations

Assigned Readings:

UNIT 6
Ethical issues in Research

Assigned Readings:

TEACHING STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
Lectures
Small groups’ discussions
Group dynamics
Movies and/or documentary
Case Presentations
Role playing

RESOURCES
Audiovisual media
Videos
Library database

STUDENT’S EVALUATION CRITERIA AND GRADING SYSTEM:
Short Paper: The Ethics Autobiography
1 Written Exam
Ethical Dilemma Debate
Reflective essays
Class attendance and participation

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Diversity Statement
Diversity relates to the acknowledgement of the human condition in all manifestations; its similarities and differences. Diversity seeks to understand different biopsychosocial experiences. It strives towards the human values of equality, respect, and acceptance, within a multicultural world whose boundaries have been overshadowed by technology and globalization. Diversity is the antithesis to oppression in all its manifestations (e.g. sexism, racism, exploitation) and to discrimination in any form, including discrimination due to sexual orientation, physical (dis)Abilities, socioeconomic status, worldviews, places of origin, cultural orientation, primary language, or to any other human characteristic, preference or state.

The notion of diversity is central to the study of human behavior. It requires the development of self-awareness of prejudiced attitudes. It includes understanding of differences in worldviews associated to the psycho-cultural and psycho-economic background of recipients of psychological services. Our training program promotes the awareness of subtle and “invisible” prejudice (e.g. homophobia) acquired during formative years.

Request for Reasonable Accommodations
Students in need of accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the professor privately to discuss the specific need. Students with documented disabilities should contact the Academic Deanship Office to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Attendance Policy
After three absences for a 3 credit course, or 2 absences for a 2 credit course, the student will automatically be dropped from the class unless the professor recommends otherwise. The complete institutional attendance policy is included in the Appendix.

Honor Code Reminder
Any violation of the ethical dispositions of our institution or program will be automatically referred to the corresponding authorities. For the present course, plagiarism may lead to obtaining a grade of “0” on the plagiarized work and this would most probably lead to a failing grade in the course. Students found to violate this policy may be referred to the institutional Promotions Committee with a recommendation of dismissal from the program. The complete plagiarism policy is included in the Appendix.
Note
This syllabus is a guide and is subject to change according to circumstances that may arise during the semester. Students are responsible for all announced changes in the syllabus.

TEXTBOOK:
The course does not require a textbook. Although I recommended the following:


ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:
APPENDIX

INSTITUTIONAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at lectures and laboratory exercises is mandatory unless excused because of illness or by previous authorization of the professor in charge of the course. Each department will decide the relative weight to be given to the attendance in calculating the final grade.

Attendance to clinical activities involving patients, patient models, and similar types of activities is considered part of the students’ professional responsibility and is mandatory. Absence may be excused after the student consults with the respective department chairperson. Three unexcused absences may adversely affect the final grade for a course.

Incomplete work due to illness or other serious circumstances during the course will be handled according to departmental policies, which must be provided to the students in writing at the beginning of each term. Faculty are not obligated to repeat lecture/laboratory topics that were presented at scheduled times and dates.

PROGRAM POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

There are different ways in which a student may incur in one of the various forms of academic dishonesty. Lack of knowledge does not justify academic dishonesty as common sense usually helps to prevent potentially problematic situations. In case of doubt, the standards of academic honesty call for the student to ask the professor or advisor. The most frequent form of academic dishonesty is plagiarism. According to the Random House Webster’s college Dictionary plagiarism is: “the unauthorized use of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own. 2. something used and represented in this manner”.

Our faculty recognizes that plagiarism in any of its forms and/or manifestation is a serious offense both in the academic and the professional world. Some of the acts that constitute plagiarism are:

a. using words or thoughts of authors without giving due credit.
b. presenting work done for one course to fulfill the requirements of another course (self-plagiarism).
c. taking credit for phrases or ideas of other authors to produce a collage of ideas that have not been created by the student.
d. not using quotation marks to identify the exact words of an author.
e. taking information from Internet without citing the source.
f. buying papers from the Internet or from other sources.
g. Using another student’s paper or clinical report to satisfy course requirements.

Each professor will evaluate alleged cases of academic dishonesty and will proceed to deal with each case according to institutional policies and procedures.