Title of Course: Ethics and Diversity in Psychology

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

This course explores concepts of ethics and diversity in the research, education, and practice of psychology. Students will be introduced to various topics of diversity and to the ethical principles and codes of conduct that guide decision making about ethical dilemmas.

3 credit hours

II. Prerequisite(s):

PY102 and PY103.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

A. To become familiar with the ethical principles and codes of conduct that guide the behavior of psychologists in various settings.

B. To become aware of the diversity present in individuals and to recognize how cultural background influences behavior in various settings.

C. To become aware of ethical dilemmas encountered in research, education, and practice within the field of psychology.

D. To apply knowledge of ethical principles to make choices that are consistent with professional codes of conduct and to consider the consequences of the choices that are made.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes (Minimum of 3)

A. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the content of the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.

B. The student will demonstrate working knowledge of specific ethical issues involving informed consent, confidentiality, privacy, disclosures of information, competence, assessment, and therapy.

C. The student will demonstrate knowledge of research about diversity in psychology, particularly as it affects the behaviors of psychology professionals engaged in research, education, and practice with diverse groups of people.

V. Expectations of Students:

A. Attendance at all class meetings.

B. Satisfactory performance on projects, papers, in-class activities, discussions, and quizzes/examinations.

C. Behavior that adheres to the APA's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.
VI. Course Content or Outline (Indicate number of class hours per unit or section):

A. Introduction to Ethics  (15 hours)
   1. What are ethics?
   2. APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct
   3. Ethical dilemmas encountered in research, education, and practice

B. Introduction to Diversity (15 hours)
   1. What is diversity?
   2. Types of diversity, including age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, national origin, religion, gender, sexual identity, disability, and other less well-known aspects of diversity.
   3. Diversity issues encountered in research, education, and practice

C. Using knowledge of ethical principles and diversity for decision-making when encountering ethical dilemmas  (15 hours)
   1. Research dilemmas: informed consent, confidentiality, debriefing, reporting results, scientific misconduct
   2. Education: professionalism, privacy, and consultation
   3. Practice: confidentiality, disclosures of information, competence, assessment, and therapy

VII. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:


B. APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct

C. Various outside readings

VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

A. Satisfactory performance on quizzes and examinations

B. Satisfactory participation in group discussions and activities about the topics within the course

C. Satisfactory performance on presentation/project of topic within the course