

American University of Beirut
Department of Psychology

Fall 2018-2019

Psyc 305: Ethics and Community-Based Learning in Psychology
Jesup 107 A, Thursdays 2:00-4:30

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Office hours: Wednesdays 12:30-2:30, or by appointment

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**Course description**

The purpose of this course is to provide an in-depth exploration of ethical and professional issues in psychological science and its applications, with a special focus on clinical psychology, civic engagement and community based learning. Topics include privacy, confidentiality, record keeping, informed consent, competence, integrity, social responsibility, and conflicts of interest. They also include academic integrity, psychological research involving vulnerable populations, and professionalism in academic and nonacademic contexts.

**Student Learning Objectives**

1. Describe and discuss the various ethical principles and codes of conduct in psychology and social science (SLO 1a).
2. Critically analyze academic or clinical work, and research designs, in the context of these ethical principles (SLO 2b).
3. Apply ethical standards in acquiring knowledge about individuals and communities, and in conducting research (SLO 4a, 4b, & 4c).
4. Conveying complex ethical ideas and dilemmas in oral and written form (SLO 6a & 6b).

**Required Textbook**

Koocher, G.P., & Keith-Spiegel, P. (2016). *Ethics in psychology and the mental health professions* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press. [Available at the bookstore]

Additional readings will be assigned as needed. Please refer to the tentative course plan, which lists the topics scheduled for each class meeting.

**Policies**

**Missing quizzes or deadlines:** Make-up quizzes and assignment rescheduling will be provided **only** if the student provides an adequate medical note, or excuse letters that are acceptable by the AUB administration.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Violating rules of proper academic conduct will NOT be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to strict AUB recommendations.

**E-mails:** E-mails and moodle are core elements in our communication. Regular access to your e-mail and moodle accounts are important in this course.

### **Evaluation Methods (Requirements and Grade Distribution)**

Final grades will be based on exams, written assignments, and an oral presentation. Grades will be calculated as follows and graded out of 100:

- 10% - Attendance, discussion and participation
- 5% - Reflection paper
- 25% - Exam 1
- 25% - Exam 2
- 25% - Written assignment
- 10% - Oral presentation

**Attendance and participation (10% of the final grade):** You are required to attend the lectures and to participate in class discussions. **If you miss a lecture, please be sure to obtain notes and information about announcements from a classmate. As classmates, you are kindly asked to be generous and cooperative with one another.** One way to ensure adequate, positive participation would be to come to class prepared to answer or ask questions relating to the material we will cover. Given the nature of this seminar, your professional attention and participation in **each lecture, including your classmates' presentations**, is valuable. **If you find that you are having difficulty participating or contributing to class discussions, let me know so I can help.**

**Reflection paper (5% of the final grade).** At the beginning of the course, you will be required to write a reflection paper of 2-3 pages (APA format) in which you describe and discuss your thoughts about ethics in psychology, your questions and uncertainties, and your ideas for your final written assignment. The reflection paper will be graded based on engagement in reflective thinking, not on content, and will be pass/fail.

**Exams (50% of the final grade).** Two 2-hour essay-based exams, worth 25% each, will take place in week 6 and 11, based on the content of the book and class discussion.

**Written assignment (25% of the final grade).** Each student will investigate an ethical issue in applied psychology and its ethical, professional, and legal (if applicable) manifestations in Lebanon from a clinical-psychological or service-learning perspective. Relevant domains include NGOs employing psychologists, corporations, clinical settings, institutions for people with psychological disorders, retirement homes, or schools. Critical evaluations and recommendations are expected. The paper constitutes a 2,500-word report divided into two main parts, and a reflective appendix (additional 500 words):

- a) Review of the literature on the topic: This involves a review of the relevant literature on the target ethical issue (books or peer-reviewed articles are accepted). The literature review has to be exhaustive and must depend upon the relevant ethics literature that is published in peer-reviewed psychology journals. The paper has to be written in accordance with the APA Manual.
- b) Applied topic in Lebanon: This involves a field investigation conducted by the student in a professional setting (in a mental health setting or other relevant service). It is expected that this be based on some form of volunteer, work, or internship role that the student has. Any clinical material used for this assignment must have written consent from participants.

**Oral presentation (10% of the final grade).** Students will be required to present (15 minutes plus 5 minutes facilitated discussion) their final assignment to the class. The presentation is worth 10 % and is designed to help with writing up of the final written assignment, due the following week.

**More detailed requirements and particulars of these components will be provided later in the course.**

### **Tentative Course Plan**

|                   |                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1: Aug 30:   | Chapters 1,2 & APA Ethical Code and Practices: Intro to the course                                                                  |
| Week 2: Sep 6:    | Chapter 3: Psychotherapy Part I                                                                                                     |
| Week 3: Sep 13:   | Chapter 4: Psychotherapy Part II                                                                                                    |
| Week 4: Sep 20:   | <b>NO CLASS (Ashoura)</b>                                                                                                           |
| Week 5: Sep 27:   | <b>Reflection Papers</b><br>Chapter 6: Privacy, Confidentiality, and Record Keeping<br>Chapter 7: Psychological Assessment          |
| Week 6: Oct 4:    | Chapter 8: Nonsexual Multiple Role-Relationships<br>Chapter 10: Relationships with Colleagues, Supervisees, Students, and Employees |
| Week 7: Oct 11:   | Chapter 9: Attraction, Romance, and Sexual Intimacies with Clients and Subordinates                                                 |
| <b>TBA</b>        | <b>Midterm Exam</b>                                                                                                                 |
| Week 8: Oct 18:   | Chapter 5: Diversity                                                                                                                |
| Week 9: Oct 25:   | Chapter 14: Academia<br>Chapter 16: Research                                                                                        |
| Week 10: Nov 1:   | Chapter 11: Media                                                                                                                   |
| Week 11: Nov 8:   | Chapter 13: Legal and Forensic Settings<br>Chapter 15: Challenging Work Settings                                                    |
| <b>TBA</b>        | <b>Exam 2</b>                                                                                                                       |
| Week 12: Nov 15:  | Chapter 12: Money & Managed Care<br>+ Mental Health System in Lebanon                                                               |
| Week 13: Nov 22:  | <b>NO CLASS (Independence Day)</b>                                                                                                  |
| Week 14: Nov. 29: | <b>Final Presentations</b>                                                                                                          |
| Week 15: Dec. 6:  | <b>Reflections and Submissions of written assignments</b>                                                                           |