505-01 Professional Problems and Ethics in Psychology

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SYLLABUS
Professional Problems and Ethics in Psychology
PSYC 505-01 (3 credit hours)
Xavier University
Summer 2016

Location: Joseph 306
Day & Time: May 16- June 27 MW 8:30-11:45

Instructor: Rick Reckman
Office: My office is off campus. We can meet in the adjunct office, Elet 106.
Office hours: Before class and by appt.

Email: rfreckman@fuse.net
Phone#: (513) 984-9940 (O), (513) 535-0235 (C)

Department of Psychology Mission Statement: In keeping with the Jesuit, Catholic, liberal arts tradition, the department of psychology educates students in the science of behavior and mental processes with sensitivity toward the diversity of all people so students may use psychological knowledge and insight to address human concerns.

Psy.D. Program Mission Statement: The Psy.D. program provides the highest standard of educational experience to enable graduate students to become practicing clinical psychologists who have a solid appreciation of the role of science in all aspects of professional activity, a clear understanding of the ethical demands of such a position, and who hold the value of contributing to the lives of others, especially those in our society whose needs have been traditionally underserved.

Catalog Description: Professional issues in psychology including principles of ethics and their applications.

Course Overview: This course covers professional ethics and ethical decision making for psychologists. The methodology is case based meaning that we will begin with actual case examples and then discuss how the profession's ethical principles apply in these cases.

The course also addresses common problems facing the practicing psychologist. We will discuss the range of settings that a psychologist may work in and the issues that typically arise in those settings.

The course format includes readings, lectures, and class discussion.

Course Objectives:

The student will:
1) understand how the Psychologist profession is regulated by self-governing strategies such as an ethics code, licensure, and continuing education.
2) understand the American Psychological Association (APA) Ethics Code and how to apply it.
3) understand APA practice guidelines in major practice areas,
4) explore professional risk and the liability issues facing Psychologists.
5) understand that Psychology is a developing profession.
6) learn about the professional roles that Psychologists often assume.
7) think about the professional roles the student may wish to assume.
8) learn how to introduce one's self professionally.
Course Format:

The course will include lecture, discussion, and guided exercises.

Required books to purchase:


Additional required readings available on Canvas.


Additional supplemental readings available on Canvas:


Self-Assessment: To identify their personal character strengths and to develop language to talk about their strengths, the students will take the VIA Character Survey. The survey is available at www.viacharacter.org. Please complete the VIA Character survey and bring a copy of your VIA-Me report to class on Wednesday, May 18. The cost of this report is $20. The VIA people are offering a $20 discount to you as XU clinical psychology graduate students so your cost will be $0. Here are the instructions: Register here: Adult Survey
1. Complete the survey and enter demographic information
2. Choose to purchase the VIA Me Pathways Reports ($20 USD)
3. Leave credit card fields blank and enter Coupon Code: ETH2016
4. Download your in-depth VIA Me Report

Sharing Personal Information in Class. Section 7.04 of the APA Ethics code states that "[p]sychologists do not require students or supervisees to disclose personal information in course or program related activities, either orally or in writing, regarding sexual history, history of abuse and neglect, psychological treatment, and relationships with parents, peers, and spouses or significant others...." Consistent with the code, no student is required or expected to disclose sensitive personal information in class. Should a student choose to disclose sensitive personal information in class, the student will not be evaluated negatively (or positively) for doing so.
Students are encouraged to share their personal strengths as identified through the VIA survey when we practice introducing and describing ourselves professionally.

Course Schedule


Wednesday, May 18: Lecture: Positive Psychology. Discuss the VIA-Me Reports. For the Mon 5/23/16 class, read the text, chapters 9, 10, 12, and 13. Bring a “takeaway” from your reading tu class.


Wednesday May 25: Lecture: Working in the Public Sector. Wed, June 1 class, read the text, chapters 19-21. Bring a "takeaway" from the reading to class.

Monday, May 30: Memorial Day. No class.

Wednesday, June 1: Lecture: Practice Opportunities. Lecture and Discussion: Informed Consent. Lecture and Discussion: Sex and Sexual Attraction. For the Mon, June 6 class, read the text, chapters 22-24. Bring a "takeaway" from the reading to class.


Wednesday, June 8: Lecture and Discussion: The APA, National Security and Torture. For the Mon, June 13 class, read the text chapters 25-27. Bring a "takeaway" from the reading to class.

Monday, June 13: Lecture and Discussion; Suicidality and Duty to Warn.

Wednesday, June 15: Exam. Self-introductions and professional self-presentations.


COURSE POLICIES
Academic Honesty: "Violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests...the falsification of results and materials submitted in reports...All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student's own...the direct and unattributed use of another's efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own. Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an "F" in the course, and expulsion from the University" (Xavier University, Office of the Registrar, 2012).

Equal Access: Anyone who feels he/she may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me to discuss your needs as soon as possible. I rely on the Disability Services Office for assistance in verifying eligibility for academic accommodations. If you have not previously contacted Disability Services, I encourage you to do by calling 513-745-3280, stopping by room 514 of the Conaton Learning Commons, or e-mailing Cassandra Jones at jonesc20(a).xavier.edu.

ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING

Requirements:

Attendance & Participation. You are expected to attend all class meetings. If you will be late or miss a class due to unavoidable circumstances, please notify the instructor in advance or as soon as you are able. Everyone is expected to arrive on time and be prepared for class. Class participation is a hallmark of professional development. Everyone's success is dependent upon participation as though it were a clinical roundtable, peer supervision group or professional staffing. This requires the commitment of colleagues who provide useful feedback to facilitate learning.

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<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular attendance in class</td>
<td>Missing two or more classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consistently demonstrate that you have read and thought about all assigned readings</td>
<td>Demonstrate that you have not read and/or thought about assigned readings on two or more occasions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respectful, supportive, attentive, constructive, and candid interactions with classmates and instructor</td>
<td>Disrespectful, rude, inattentive, and/or disparaging interactions with classmates and/or instructor</td>
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Professional Self-Introductions and Presentations. Students will practice introducing themselves professionally to the class several different times in several different ways. This includes describing one's own character strengths and how these strengths come into use as a graduate student and as a practicing Psychologist in the future. Students will also introduce themselves in terms of a specific career direction and Ethics considerations arise commonly in that career direction.

Students are encouraged to share their personal strengths as identified through the VIA survey when we practice introducing and presenting ourselves professionally.

Journaling. Students will write a journal of "takeaways" for each class and "takeaways" from their readings for each class. Takeaways are key learnings, what was valuable or useful or inspiring. Journal entries should be brief: a listing of three or four bullet points or one to two paragraphs.

Exam, The exam will consist of 8-10 cases or ethical dilemmas. The students will identify which two sections of the APA Ethics code pertain most directly to the case and then write out a few paragraphs discussing the dilemma and describing their
recommended actions. The exam will be open book to the extent that students will have copies of the APA Ethics code in hand during the exam.

Grades. Your grade for the class will be based on:

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Introductions/Presentations</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>100pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journaling</td>
<td>50pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>300pts</td>
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Grading Scale:

- 279-300 pts 93-100% Average A
- 270-278 pts 90-92.99% Average A-
- 261-269 pts 87-89.99% Average B+
- 249-260 pts 83-86.99% Average B
- 240-248 pts 82.99-80% Average B-
- 210-239 pts 79.99-70% Average C
- 180-209 pts 69.99-60% Average D
- 0-179 pts Below 60% F

Students who miss more than one class will have 10 class participation points deducted from their total for each missed class (after the first one). Students who come to class unprepared or who behave in any other unsatisfactory manner, will have up to 10 points deducted for each class.

Grading for Professional Self-Introductions and Presentations. High quality self-introductions and self-presentations are clearly spoken, delivered with confidence, and convey accurate and appropriately comprehensive information about the speaker. The intent in this area is to build a skill over the length of the course. The first round is practice and ungraded. The second round will earn up to 15 points toward the final grade. The last round will earn up to 35 points toward the final grade.

Grading for Journaling. Five points for each class; 50 points total.

Grading for the Exam. Grading will reflect the students' choice of code citations (40%) and the soundness of their recommended actions (60%). The exam score can be up to a total of 100 points.