

**Argosy University—San Francisco Bay Area**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
*C7462 Ethics in Practice*  
*Spring 2010 – OLA [online]*

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**Faculty Information**

**Faculty Name:** Susan Guzzo, Psy.D  
**Contact Information:** Phone: 510/282-0680  
[sguzzo@argosy.edu](mailto:sguzzo@argosy.edu)  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Argosy Communication:**

If you choose to use an email address other than the assigned Argosy email, please be advised that you do so at your own risk. Any difficulty receiving Argosy emails will be your responsibility.

**Course Pre-requisites:** None

**Course Description:**

This course offers a critical examination of common ethical issues that may arise in the practice of psychotherapy and assessment. The course will explore boundaries, personal and professional responsibilities in the course of acting ethically, and developing a process to assess situations from an ethical framework. Students will become familiar with the 2002 APA Ethics Code and its applications in various therapeutic settings. Attention will also be paid to specific ethical situations, such as suicidality, informed consent, multiple relationships, and cultural aspects of ethics.

**Final Date to Drop the Class:**

To receive a “W” grade a student must officially drop this class by the date listed below that corresponds to this course’s term and length. Students may not withdraw from this course after this date. If a student chooses to discontinue course work after the final drop date, the student may receive an “F” grade for the course.

Spring Session I (7.5 week courses): February 14, 2010

Spring Session II (7.5 week courses): April 7, 2010

Spring Full Term (15 week courses): March 20, 2010

**Required Textbooks:**

Pope, K.S., & Vasquez, M. (2007). *Ethics in psychotherapy and counseling: A practical guide, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

ISBN-13: 978-0787994006 (paperback)

Note: DO NOT use a previous edition of this text—the APA Ethics Code is obsolete in previous editions.

Fadiman, A. (1998). *The spirit catches you and you fall down: A Hmong child, her American doctors and the collision of two cultures*. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux.  
ISBN-13: 978-0374525644 (paperback)

**Technology:** Pentium III CPU/ Windows 98; 128MB RAM printer; Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat (full version), Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5 (PC), 5.0 (MAC), or Netscape Navigator 4.08. Norton Antivirus.

**Course length:** 15 Weeks

**Contact Hours:** 45 Hours

**Credit Value:** 3.0

**Program Outcomes: Doctor of Education in Counseling Psychology:**

Program Outcome One: Professional Practice

Competency 1: Assessment and Skills

**Formulate assessments of psychological functioning and apply therapeutic intervention strategies when working with individuals, couples, families, and groups, toward the development of optimal mental health.**

Competency 2: Theory

**Synthesize and apply psychological and developmental theories to therapeutic intervention strategies.**

Competency 3: Writing

**Employ appropriate media and technology when presenting information orally and in writing, so that the presentation is concise, organized, well supported, professional, and appropriate to the audience.**

Program Outcome Two: Research

Competency 1: **Analyze research, translate research findings, and conduct research for improvement of counseling psychology services using statistics and evaluation methods.**

Program Outcome Three: Interpersonal Effectiveness and Professional Development

Competency 1: **Students will develop positive relationship skills that promote personal and professional development via effective communication, encouragement, empathy, respect for others, self-awareness, and other-awareness.**

- a. **Apply active listening communication skills in interpersonal scenarios to establish empathetic relationships.**
- b. **Analyze the importance of effective nonverbal communication skills in interpersonal relationships.**
- c. **Solicit and utilize feedback to build and maintain interpersonal relationships.**

Competency 2: **Participate in professional development activities in the discipline of**

**counseling psychology to reflect lifelong learning.**

Program Outcome Four: Ethics

**Competency 1: Using the American Counseling Association's Standards of Practice /or the American Psychological Association's Ethical Code, as well as, and local state law as it applies to the behavior of mental health professionals, identify ethical dilemmas, interpret the standards of practice to apply ethical decision-making strategies while engaging in professional activities.**

Program Outcome Five: Diversity

Competency 1: Multicultural Skills

**Develop assessment, counseling, and consultation services by applying counseling and multicultural theories and research to diverse populations, and modifying counseling interventions as needed to work effectively with diverse clients.**

Competency 2: Multicultural Awareness

**Reflect and integrate personal values, beliefs and biases in working with clients as well as in interpersonal relationships with others.**

Competency 3: Multicultural Knowledge

**Synthesize the complexity and multidimensionality of cultural/diversity issues in the field of counseling psychology while working with clients as well as interpersonal relationships with others.**

**Course Objectives:**

This course will examine common ethical issues that arise in the course of therapeutic practices. At the conclusion of this course students will

- 1) be well versed with the issues covered by the ethics code
- 2) apply the ethics code to common situations that may occur within the therapeutic setting
- 3) fully appreciate the ethical implications of the therapeutic relationship, including special situations such as informed consent, suicide assessment, and ethics in research
- 4) develop an ethical decision-making process for approaching ethical problems
- 5) understand the implications of ethics with regard to other aspects of the client, such as culture, gender, age, and client type.

**Course Requirements:**

This course is taught in an online format that involves posted lecture material, discussion groups, and assignments. Online course curriculum will be presented on the Argosy Internet platform. Throughout the duration of the course, students will be expected to read the required texts, participate in online discussions, and complete all assignments as indicated. There will be two question sets, weekly posting assignments, one midterm exam, one final exam, and an essay. Assignments should be emailed to the instructor at the above email address and are due by 5pm on their respective due dates. **No late work**

**will be accepted without prior permission from the instructor.** Since online discussion is the heart of effective online learning, students are expected (i.e., required) to post to the discussion board to demonstrate their full engagement with the material (a minimum of three times per week). Students will respond to the weekly discussion thread presented, respond to classmates' ideas in a thoughtful manner, and/or start a new discussion thread that relates to the material in some manner. **All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.**

**Weekly Schedule:**

During the course you should be reading the book by Anne Fadiman at your own pace. Please be prepared to discuss this text before the last week of class.

Week 1: 1/11/09

Developing Ethical Awareness

Read Chapters 1 and 2 of *Ethics in Psychotherapy and Counseling*

Week 2: 1/18/09

Ethics and the Therapist

Read Chapters 3, 4, and 7 in *Ethics*

Reflection paper

Week 3: 1/25/09

Personal and Professional Responsibilities

Read Chapters 5 and 6 in *Ethics*

Week 4: 2/1/09

The Practice of Ethics

Read Chapters 8 and 9 in *Ethics*

Week 5: 2/8/09

Boundaries

Read Chapter 10 in *Ethics*

Week 6: 2/15/09

Informed Consent

Read Chapter 11 in *Ethics*

Midterm posted, due next week

Week 7: 2/22/09

Assessment and Diagnosis

Read Chapter 12 in *Ethics*

Vignette assignment

Week 8: 3/1/09

Sexual Relationships

Read Chapter 13 in *Ethics*

Week 9: 3/8/09

Multiple Relationships  
Read Chapter 14 in *Ethics*

Week 10: 3/15/09

Cultural and Individual Differences  
Read Chapter 15 in *Ethics*  
Writing assignment

Week 11: 3/22/09

Confidentiality  
Read Chapter 16 in *Ethics*

Week 12: 3/29/09

Suicidality  
Read Chapter 17 in *Ethics*

Week 13: 4/5/09

Supervision  
Read Chapter 18 in *Ethics*

Week 14: 4/12/09

The Clash of Cultural Paradigms  
Finish reading *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*  
Final Exam posted, due next week

Week 15: 4/19/09

No reading  
Final due  
*Spirit* Paper due

**Grading Criteria:**

*Grading Scale*

*Grading requirements*

<b>A</b>	100 – 93
<b>A-</b>	92 – 90
<b>B+</b>	89 – 88
<b>B</b>	87 – 83
<b>B-</b>	82 – 80
<b>C+</b>	79 – 78
<b>C</b>	77 - 73
<b>C-</b>	72 – 70
<b>F</b>	69 and below

<i>Attendance/participation</i>	25%
<i>Weekly Assignments</i>	20%
<i>Final paper</i>	35%
<i>Optional</i>	10%
<i>Optional</i>	10%
	100%

## **Library**

*All resources in Argosy University's online collection are available through the Internet. The campus librarian will provide students with links, user IDs, and passwords.*

Library Resources: Argosy University's core online collection features nearly 21,000 full-text journals and 23,000 electronic books and other content covering all academic subject areas including Business & Economics, Career & General Education, Computers, Engineering & Applied Science, Humanities, Science, Medicine & Allied Health, and Social & Behavior Sciences. Many titles are directly accessible through the Online Public Access Catalog at <http://library.argosy.edu>. Detailed descriptions of online resources are located at <http://library.argosy.edu/misc/onlinedblist.html>.

In addition to online resources, Argosy University's onsite collections contain a wealth of subject-specific research materials searchable in the Online Public Access Catalog. Catalog searching is easily limited to individual campus collections. Alternatively, students can search combined collections of all Argosy University Libraries. Students are encouraged to seek research and reference assistance from campus librarians.

Information Literacy: Argosy University's Information Literacy Tutorial was developed to teach students fundamental and transferable research skills. The tutorial consists of five modules where students learn to select sources appropriate for academic-level research, search periodical indexes and search engines, and evaluate and cite information. In the tutorial, students study concepts and practice them through interactions. At the conclusion of each module, they can test their comprehension and receive immediate feedback. Each module takes less than 20 minutes to complete. Please view the tutorial at <http://library.argosy.edu/infolit/>

## **Academic Policies**

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism: In an effort to foster a spirit of honesty and integrity during the learning process, Argosy University requires that the submission of all course assignments represent the original work produced by that student. All sources must be documented through normal scholarly references/citations and all work must be submitted using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (2009)*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association (APA) format. Please refer to Appendix A in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition* for thesis and paper format. Students are encouraged to purchase this manual (required in some courses) and become familiar with its content as well as consult the Argosy University catalog for further information regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

Scholarly writing: The faculty at Argosy University is dedicated to providing a learning environment that supports scholarly and ethical writing, free from academic dishonesty and plagiarism. This includes the proper and appropriate referencing of all sources. You may be asked to submit your course assignments through "Turnitin," ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)), an online resource established to help educators develop writing/research skills and detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Turnitin

compares submitted papers to billions of pages of content and provides a comparison report to your instructor. This comparison detects papers that share common information and duplicative language.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act Policy**

It is the policy of Argosy University to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a student with disabilities needs accommodations, the student must notify the Director of Student Services. Procedures for documenting student disability and the development of reasonable accommodations will be provided to the student upon request.

Students will be notified by the Director of Student Services when each request for accommodation is approved or denied in writing via a designated form. To receive accommodation in class, it is the student's responsibility to present the form (at his or her discretion) to the instructor. In an effort to protect student privacy, the Department of Student Services will not discuss the accommodation needs of any student with instructors. Faculty may not make accommodations for individuals who have not been approved in this manner.

### **The Argosy University Statement Regarding Diversity**

Argosy University prepares students to serve populations with diverse social, ethnic, economic, and educational experiences. Both the academic and training curricula are designed to provide an environment in which students can develop the skills and attitudes essential to working with people from a wide range of backgrounds.