

Argosy University—San Francisco Bay Area
COURSE SYLLABUS
C7462 Ethics in Practice
Spring 2011 – OLA [online]

Faculty Information

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

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.

Session I (7.5 week courses):

Deadline for withdrawal “W”: February 13, 2011

Session (15 week courses):

Deadline for withdrawal “W”: March 19, 2011

Session II (7.5 week courses):

Deadline for withdrawal “W”: April 6, 2011

Required Textbooks:

[eBook access and links are available at the course eCollege website. Students should familiarize themselves with the eBook use resources and the VitalSource Bookshelf website and tutorials to develop competence in using the eBook format.]

Pope, K.S., & Vasquez, M. (2007). *Ethics in psychotherapy and counseling: A practical guide, 3rd edition*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
ISBN-13: 978-0470633076 {eBook}

Note: DO NOT use a previous edition of this text—the APA Ethics Code is obsolete in previous editions.

Recommended Textbooks:

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:

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: Developing Ethical Awareness
 Read Chapters 1 and 2 of *Ethics in Psychotherapy and Counseling*
- Week 2: Ethics and the Therapist
 Read Chapters 3, 4, and 7 in *Ethics*
 Reflection paper
- Week 3: Personal and Professional Responsibilities
 Read Chapters 5 and 6 in *Ethics*
- Week 4: The Practice of Ethics
 Read Chapters 8 and 9 in *Ethics*
- Week 5: Boundaries
 Read Chapter 10 in *Ethics*
- Week 6: Informed Consent
 Read Chapter 11 in *Ethics*
 Midterm posted, due next week
- Week 7: Assessment and Diagnosis
 Read Chapter 12 in *Ethics*
 Vignette assignment
- Week 8: Sexual Relationships
 Read Chapter 13 in *Ethics*
- Week 9: Multiple Relationships
 Read Chapter 14 in *Ethics*
- Week 10: Cultural and Individual Differences
 Read Chapter 15 in *Ethics*
 Writing assignment

- Week 11: Confidentiality
Read Chapter 16 in *Ethics*
- Week 12: Suicidality
Read Chapter 17 in *Ethics*
- Week 13: Supervision
Read Chapter 18 in *Ethics*
- Week 14: The Clash of Cultural Paradigms
Finish reading *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*
Final Exam posted, due next week
- Week 15: Wrap-Up
No reading
Final due
Spirit Paper due

Grading Criteria:

<i>Attendance/online participation</i>	20%
<i>Weekly Assignments</i>	15%
<i>Midterm Exam</i>	20%
<i>Final Essay</i>	25%
<i>Final Exam</i>	20%
	100%

Grading Scale

Grading Requirements

A	100 – 93
A-	92 – 90
B+	89 – 88
B	87 – 83
B-	82 – 80
C+	79 – 78
C	77 - 73
C-	72 – 70
D+	69 – 68
D	67 – 63
D-	62 – 60
F	59 and below

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.argosyu.edu>. Detailed descriptions of online resources are located at <http://library.argosyu.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.argosyu.edu/infolit/>

APA Style Requirements

Minimum required elements of APA style for written assignments in first year courses include the following:

- Cover page that meets APA style requirements of elements and formatting (i.e., title of paper, name, course number/course name, Argosy University, semester or term and year, running head in left header, and page number in right header)
- Body of paper with critical voice (e.g., synthesis of opinions/ comments) supported by paraphrasing of credible sources using the two styles of APA citing (out-of-text and in-text) with correct punctuation; avoid use of 1st person singular "I" (except personal reflection papers) and 2nd person singular "you;" use of third person plural "we" acceptable to reflect universal human experience
- Quoted passages to include author, year, and page number; emphasis on paraphrasing with minimal use of quotations to support critical voice
- Reference page that meets APA style requirements to include appropriate sources (e.g., no Wikipedia), references that match citations (e.g., no references listed that are not also cited), and correct formatting/punctuation
- APA style formatting to include 1" margins, running head in left header, page number in right header, Times New Roman 12 point font, left justification of all passages, indentation of 5 spaces for new paragraphs, 1 ½ line spacing and double sided pages (modified APA in spirit of promoting "green" for all programs)
- Grammatical and punctuation errors edited to address incomplete sentences, run-on sentences, awkward sentences, inconsistent verb tense, inconsistent pronoun use, redundancy of ideas/words, use of extremes or superlatives (e.g., "always," "never," "very,") and conversational or idiomatic language

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, 5th Edition (2001)*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association (APA) format. Please refer to Appendix A in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th 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), 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.