

PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

FP 6500 (Online)

Course Syllabus - Spring 2011

January 10 - March 2, 2011

- Professor:** Amy Bacharach, Ph.D.
- Meeting Times:** Online throughout each week of the session
- Officer Hours:** By appointment via IM or telephone
- Contact Info:** AmyBacharach@aol.com
415-489-8778 or 415-865-7913
- Tech Support:** support@embanet.com (24/7)
Embanet – 1-866-256-5883, Ext. 1

Required Reading:

[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.]

- *The Portable Ethicist for Mental Health Professionals* (2008)
Available as ebook in Argosy's elibrary
Thomas L. Hartsell
ISBN: 9780470140307
- *American Psychological Association's (APA) ethics code* – Available online at www.apa.org/ethics
- *Committee on ethical guidelines for forensic psychologists* (2008, Fourth Draft Revision) – Available online at <http://www.ap-ls.org/links/92908sgfp.pdf>
- *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th Edition (2009)
ISBN: 1-55798-790-4
- Any supplemental materials provided by instructor

Recommended Reading:

- *Ethical Practice in Forensic Psychology: A Systematic Model for Decision Making* (2006)
Shane S. Bush, Mary A. Connell, & Robert L. Denney
ISBN: 978-1-59147-395-4
- *Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook and Training Guide*, 6th Edition (2009)
ISBN: 1557988919
- *Life Principles: Feeling Good by Doing Good* (2005)
Bruce D. Weinstein

ISBN: 1578602165

- *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation* (2004)
Lynne Truss
ISBN: 1-59240-087-6

Course Description (from university catalog):

This course considers the ethical and legal conflicts or dilemmas within the legal system and includes a discussion of other professional issues such as race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. The course reviews applicable approaches to addressing or resolving these issues, dilemmas, and conflicts as they relate to forensic psychology.

Course Objectives:

- To understand from where ethics derive, and how ethics apply to your role in forensic psychology
- To understand specific ethical obligations of psychologists and within the legal system such as being an expert witness, interrogating, and medicating to induce sanity for the purpose of applying the death penalty
- To understand ethical obligations of conducting research in general and with those under 18
- To understand ethical obligations when dealing with children, mandated reporting laws, and domestic violence
- To understand both ethical and legal obligations of practice-related issues such as confidentiality, record keeping, duty to warn, and suicide prevention
- To understand how cultural, racial, religious, and ethnic diversity affects ethical obligations

Course Policy:

The schedule and procedures for this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If substantive changes are required, you will receive a revised syllabus.

Students are welcome and encouraged to contact the professor with questions, comments, or issues regarding course content or assignments.

Schedule:

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>LECTURE/READING</u>
1	1/10 – 1/16	Bush, Connell, & Denney Ch 1: Law & Psychology APA ethics code Ethical guidelines for forensic psychologists Reporting abuse Paper topic due by 1/16
2	1/17 – 1/23	B, C, &D Ch 2: Referrals Hartsell (ebook) Ch 27: Duty to Warn
3	1/24 – 1/30	B, C, &D Ch 3: Collection & Review of information; Midterm exam distributed by 1/30
4	1/31 – 2/06	B, C, &D Ch 4: Evaluations Hartsell Ch 31: Forensic Evaluation Midterm exam due by midnight on 2/06

5	2/07 – 2/13	B, C, &D Ch 5: Documentation
6	2/14 – 2/20	B, C, &D Ch 6: Testimony & Termination; Paper due by midnight on 2/20
7	2/21 – 2/27	B, C, &D Ch 7: Ethical misconduct; Final exam distributed by 2/21
8	2/28 – 3/02	B, C, &D Ch 8: Conclusion and wrap up; Final exam due by midnight on 3/01

Evaluation Methods:

1. Exams: 40% (20% each)

The exams will consist of a possible combination of multiple-choice, short-answer, and/or essay questions. The questions will come from your assigned readings and online lectures. The quality of writing will be used in grading essays.

2. Paper: 40%

Papers may be written on any topic related to the course objectives and content. Please peruse the book's table of contents and this syllabus for topics that we will be covering. **Topics must be approved by January 16.** Students must also read and reference a minimum of two peer-reviewed, academic journal articles related to the topic selected. Each paper must be reviewed by another student with the reviewer's name referenced in a footnote. Reviewers should read for content and style, making suggestions to the writer.

Papers must adhere to formatting and style set forth in the APA Publication Manual, 5th edition, and are expected to contain no grammar or spelling errors. If you have MS Word 2007, you can have the program check your document for things such as spacing after punctuation and use of the oxford comma, which is also required. Under the "Review" tab, click the "Spelling & Grammar" button. Click the "Options" button at the bottom left of the window. From the dropdown menu for "Writing Style," select "Grammar & Style." Click the "Setting" button and select "always" for "Comma required before last list item," select "inside" for "Punctuation required with quotes," and select "1" for "Spaces required between sentences." Also check everything under Grammar and Style.

The quality of your writing will impact your grade. Papers should not exceed 10 pages including title page and references. Writing should be for quality rather than quantity. **Papers will be due via email by February 20.**

Grading of the paper shall be based on the following criteria:

- a) Clarity of content
- b) Integration of information that demonstrates knowledge and understanding of ethics related to topic
- c) Following APA style in format, citations, and references
- d) Grammar
- e) Punctuation
- f) Sentence structure
- g) Following instructions for writing and turning in the paper

3. Attendance/Participation: 20%

Due to the nature of online classes, participation in online discussions is very important. Students are expected to complete any required reading on time. "Lectures" will be posted by Monday evenings for that week. Following each lecture, discussion questions or topics will be posted. Students are required to respond to those questions or topics within that week. **Students are required to post a thought, question, or response to someone else's questions, or otherwise contribute to the forum, a minimum of four times per week. At least one of these posts must be within the first 24 hours of the week (by Tuesday evening).** In addition, students are required to complete any posted exercises.

Grading:

Important Note: All writing must adhere to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* (2009). This includes in-text citations, references, gender-neutral writing, running heads (if used), etc. Also important is your writing. **YOUR WRITING WILL INFLUENCE YOUR GRADE.** It is important to proofread anything submitted for grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. At this point in your academic career, you should know how to write well. Please also review the information about writing your paper in the section above. In addition to substantive topic information, this class will also cover basic writing skills. Questions about writing style are welcome and encouraged.

Exams, Papers, and Assignments will be graded from 0 to 100 points.

Grading Scale:

- 90 - 100 = A
- 80 - 89 = B
- 70 - 79 = C
- 65 - 69 = D
- Below 65 = F

Please note policy on plagiarism below. I do not tolerate plagiarism and any student caught plagiarizing will fail the class.

Grade	Requirements
A = 90+	Paper is <ul style="list-style-type: none">• well thought out with proper grammar/writing skills AND <ul style="list-style-type: none">• in appropriate APA format AND <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provides excellent coverage of material
B = 80 – 89	Paper is <ul style="list-style-type: none">• well thought out with proper grammar/writing skills BUT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is missing one component of APA format OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• coverage of material is adequate
C = 70 – 79	Paper has <ul style="list-style-type: none">• poor grammar/writing skills present OR (one or more of the following) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• APA format is inadequate• Insufficient number of references provided• limited coverage of material
F = <70	Paper is (one or more of the following) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• disorganized• coverage is not adequate• does not conform to APA format• there is evidence of plagiarism• paper not submitted

Final Date to Drop the Class:

After the add/drop period, to receive a grade of “W” (Withdrawal) you must officially drop this class by **February 13, 2011**. You may not withdraw from the course after this date. If you choose to discontinue coursework after the final drop date, you may receive grade of “F” for the course.

University Policy on Plagiarism and Screening for Plagiarism

Argosy University seeks to foster a spirit of honesty and integrity. Any work submitted by a student must represent original work produced by that student. Any source used by a student must be documented through normal scholarly references and citations, and the extent to which any sources have been used must be apparent to the reader. Argosy University further considers resubmission of a work produced for one course in a subsequent course or the submission of work done partially or entirely by another to be academic dishonesty. It is the student’s responsibility to seek clarification from the course instructor about how much help may be received in completing an assignment or exam or project and what sources may be used. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty or plagiarism shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from Argosy University.

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 to 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.

ADA Accommodations

Argosy University is committed to providing qualified students with a disability an equal opportunity to access the benefits, rights and privileges of college services, programs, and activities in compliance with The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you have a disability-related need for accommodations in this class, contact the Campus Director of Student Services at 510-215-0277.

Argosy University Ethical Code of Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical, professional, and civil manner. Unprofessional behavior includes, but is not limited to, hostile or careless uses of profanity or obscenities, physical displays of anger or aggressiveness, threatening gestures or comments, violence or harassment, insubordination or persistent, disrespectful arguing with supervisors, or any other illegal or unethical conduct. Unprofessional behavior may be cause for disciplinary action.

Argosy University is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning, as well as to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. Each student, by registering, assumes the responsibility of becoming familiar with, and abiding by, the general standards of conduct expected by Argosy University. This set of standards, known as the Argosy University Ethical Code of Conduct, is not to be confused with the guidelines set forth in other professional association ethics codes. Specifically, each student is expected to refrain from engaging in the following:

- Academic dishonesty of any kind with respect to examinations or coursework. This includes any form of cheating and plagiarism.
- Falsification or alteration of Argosy University documents, records, or identification cards
- Forgery, issuing bad checks, or not meeting financial obligations to Argosy University

- Theft or the deliberate damaging or misusing of property belonging to others or the property of Argosy University
- The manufacture, possession, use, or distribution of any form of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while on Argosy University property
- Possession, display, or use of any dangerous instrument, weapon, or explosives (certified law enforcement officers required by their employer to carry a firearm are excluded)
- Disrupting the study of others or of Argosy University activities, or interfering with the freedom of movement of any member or guest of the Argosy University community.
- Deliberate interference with academic freedom, freedom of speech, or movement of any member or guest of the Argosy University community
- Participation in any activity that disrupts or interferes with the education of others or the orderly operation of Argosy University
- Physical abuse, threatening acts, or harassment toward others

In addition, students in the clinical psychology programs are also required to adhere to the standards set forth in the *American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*.

Students found guilty of violating Argosy University's Ethical Code of Conduct are subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal from Argosy University.

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/>