

Psy 541 - Professional Issues and Ethics in Psychology

Department of Psychology
Western Kentucky University
Winter Term 2020
MTWTF 9:00-12:15, GRH 3002

Professor: Carl Myers, Ph.D.
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Course Description:

Ethics codes, professional behaviors, and legal issues in applied psychology.

Course Objectives and NASP Standard(s):

As a result of participating in this class, students will:

- 1) develop an understanding of the APA and NASP ethics codes (NASP 2.9, 2.10);
- 2) develop an ability to think through ethical dilemmas by applying appropriate ethical and legal standards to the dilemmas (NASP 2.10);
- 3) develop an understanding of how ethics and laws guide the practice of psychology (NASP 2.10);
- 4) develop an understanding of the ethical implications of providing psychological services to culturally diverse clientele (NASP 2.8, 2.10);
- 5) understand how federal special education law (IDEA-04), federal regulations, and state rules guide the practice of school psychology (NASP 2.10);
- 6) develop an understanding of how the U.S. Constitution and case law impact special education and school psychological services (NASP 2.10); and
- 7) understand how Section 504 relates to school psychological services (NASP 2.10).

Required Resources:

- Jacob, S., Decker, D. M., & Lugg, E. T. (2016). *Ethics and law for school psychologists* (7th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Kentucky Department of Education. (2008). *Kentucky administrative regulations*. Frankfort, KY: Author. (Will be posted on BlackBoard.)

Suggested (non-required) Resources:

- Armistead, L., Williams, B. B., & Jacob, S. (2011). *Professional ethics for school psychologists: A problem-solving model casebook* (2nd ed.). Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.
- Fagan, T. K., & Wise, P. S. (2007). *School psychology: Past, present, and future* (3rd ed.). Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.

Class Schedule: (Subject to change)

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan. 6	Intro to the class; Intro to the APA (2010) Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct	Appendix B of textbook
Jan. 7	APA Ethics Code continued	Chapter 1 (Quiz 1 - 10 pts.)
Jan. 8	Overview of KY Legal Procedures; Introduction to NASP's (2010) Principles for Professional Ethics	Chapters 3 & 6 (Quiz 2 - 20 pts.) Start reading Appendix A
Jan. 9	NASP's (2010) Principles for Professional Ethics continued	Appendix A; Chapter 7 & 8 (Quiz 3 - 15 pts.)
Jan. 10	Exam I – Ethics Codes & Chapters 1, 3, 6, 7, & 8 (50 points)	
Jan. 13	Ethical decision-making; Intro to Special Education & IDEA-04	Chapters 9 & 10 (Quiz 4 - 10 pts.)
Jan. 14	IDEA-04	Chapter 2 (Quiz 5 - 5 pts.)
Jan. 15	Special education case law	Chapter 4 (Quiz 6 - 10 pts.)
Jan. 16	Appropriate evaluation planning: KY special education disabilities	KY Administrative Regulations (2008)
Jan. 17	Exam: Case law & Chapters 2, 4, 9, & 10 (30-50 points)	
Jan. 20	No class – MLK day	
Jan. 21	Appropriate evaluation planning: KY special education disabilities Student Presentations	KY Administrative Regulations (2008)
Jan. 22	Section 504 Student Presentations	Chapter 5 (Quiz 7 - 5 pts.)
Jan. 23	Ethical issues in supervision Student Presentations	Chapter 11 (Quiz 8 - 5 pts.)
Jan. 24	Final Exam – KY Administrative Regulations, & Chapters 2, 4, 5, & 11 (40 points)	

Course Grading:

Possible points are as follows:

Chapter Quizzes	80
Presentation	50
Exams	120-140
CITI ethics training	25
Professional Behaviors	<u>20</u>
Total Possible	295-315

Assignment of grades will be based on percent of points earned with cut-offs at 90%, 80%, etc.

I. Chapter Quizzes (NASP 2.8, 2.10):

Quizzes will be given over each Jacob & Hartshorne (2016) textbook chapter on the day the reading is assigned. These quizzes will be in a multiple-choice format. The quizzes have several purposes such as providing you with external motivation to read and review the textbook, facilitating classroom discussions, giving you feedback on your understanding of the material, and giving me feedback on what material was understood. Point value of each quiz is listed in the class schedule.

II. Presentation (NASP 2.10):

In general, the assignment calls for each student to develop a presentation on a topic. (Topics may be randomly assigned in class). Each presentation should be professionally done (e.g., powerpoint, formal presentation style) and the information presented should be useful and practical to the class participants. The topics may require varying lengths of time to present; however, plan on approximately 20-30 minutes. A handout (1 to 2 pages) summarizing key points should be distributed to the class participants. This assignment is considered a “key assessment” for accreditation purposes.

III. Exams (NASP 2.8, 2.10):

Exam I will focus on APA and NASP ethical codes and assigned chapters. Exam II will emphasize case law and the chapters covered that week. The final exam will emphasize special education law and the Kentucky Administrative Regulations. The exams will consist of short answer and essay questions.

IV. CITI Ethics Training (NASP 2.9, 2.10):

WKU’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) requires a new training program (i.e., CITI) for all research projects. CITI is a web-based ethics training course for those conducting research with human subjects. Anyone conducting research (e.g., your thesis project) must complete CITI training with a minimum score of 80%. Follow the general steps below (specific steps may have changed) to sign up for the CITI Course:

- Go to www.citiprogram.org
- Click on the “Register” button near the top right of the page.
- In the “Select Your Organization Affiliation” area, type in: “Western Kentucky University,” and click the “I AGREE...” and “I affirm...” boxes, and then the “Continue to Create...” button.
- Follow the steps to include your personal information, account information, etc.
- You are to complete two courses – [1] Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Course-Basic Course, and [2] Responsible Conduct of Research. Each course contains several modules. The two courses have been reported to take a minimum of 1-3 hours to complete (each).
- Print off the certificates of completion and turn in to Dr. Myers.
- Note: If you have already completed the CITI training modules as an undergraduate or for your assistantship and they are still good for another year, you can simply give me a copy of those certificates of completion.

V. Professional Behaviors:

Professional behaviors include such things as attendance, timeliness, participation in class, professional attitude, courtesy toward others, and writing skills (e.g., spelling, grammar). Points will be given based on my subjective evaluation of your professional behaviors (inside and outside of the classroom) at the end of the term.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and

Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

ADA Accommodation Statement

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.