

PSYCHOLOGY AND RESEARCH IN EDUCATION (PRE) 880

Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues in Counseling

Spring Semester 2009

Line #63343

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Schedule: Thursdays 8:30 to 11:15 **Location:** 146 JRP

The primary mission of the School of Education is to prepare leaders in education and human services fields. As stated in the School Code

Within the University, the School of Education serves Kansas, the nation, and the world by (1) preparing individuals to be leaders and practitioners in education and related human service fields, (2) expanding and deepening understanding of education as a fundamental human endeavor, and (3) helping society define and respond to its educational responsibilities and challenges.

The components that frame this mission for our initial and advanced programs are Research and Best Practice, Content Knowledge, and Professionalism. These interlocking themes build our Conceptual Framework.

Course Description: Welcome to PRE 880! YOU WILL USE THE MATERIAL FROM THIS COURSE **EVERYDAY** as a practicing counselor/counseling psychologist! This course is an examination of legal, ethical, and professional standards and issues affecting the practice of the professions of counseling and counseling psychology. Topics include an overview of the history and organization of the counseling profession, legislative/statutory and “healthcare industry” regulation of counseling, ethical standards of the counseling and psychology professions, standards for professional practice, and issues of practice liability and risk management.

Texts: Herlihy, B., & Corey, G. (2006). ACA ethical standards casebook. ACA: Alexandria, VA.

Bersoff, D. (2008). Ethical conflicts in psychology. APA: Washington, D.C.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS AVAILABLE IN THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (LRC), on-line and through KU Electronic Reserves. These readings are contained in a single notebook which is available for student check-out –thereby allowing for photocopying of readings if so desired. If several students would like to have copies of the articles, it is suggested that they collectively check-out the notebook of readings and together make the needed number of copies. Reference citations have been appended to this syllabus. If the notebook of reserved readings has been checked-out by another student, you may want to check the electronic reserves for this course. Instructions on how to do so are included with the list of readings.

***Regardless of whether you make copies of the other readings, all students should have their own copies of the the following codes, guidelines, and standards. **YOU ARE ASKED TO BRING THESE MATERIALS WITH YOU TO CLASS EACH WEEK SO THAT WE MAY REFER TO THEM AS NEEDED DURING OUR IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS.**

1. Ethical Standards: American Counseling Association (2005) www.counseling.org also in textbook

2. Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct: American Psychological Association (2002) (available at www.apa.org) also in textbook
3. Kansas Statutes and the Rules/Regulations governing the credentialing of Professional Counselors, Masters-Level Psychologists, and Psychologists (available at www.ksbsrb.org)

Grading: Grading will be A-F (plus/minus) and will be based on (a) **two exams – a mid-term and a final;** (b) **completion of a documentation/record-keeping activity;** (c) **completion of a licensing application activity;** (d) **a research paper, accompanying outline and brief presentation;** and (e) **regular class attendance and informed class participation concerning the “daily dilemma” and other discussion topics.**

In certain exceptional circumstances, a grade of **I** (incomplete) may be assigned. If you determine that you do not wish to complete the course, it is imperative that you let me know as soon as possible and go through the formal withdrawal procedures for the university. **In all cases, incomplete grades must be discussed with the instructor beforehand.**

Exams (25% each for a total of 50% of your final grade) Each examination will involve some combination of multiple choice and/or short-answer identification items to assess general factual recall. Each exam will also include essay questions that will involve knowledge of ethical and legal issues and ethical decision-making processes. Students are to **bring a clean “blue book” (available at the Student Union and at the JRP snack bar) to each exam** for responding to the essay questions. In accordance with the University’s final examination schedule, **the final exam for PRE 880 will be held on May 11th in our usual classroom from 7:30 AM to 10:00).**

Paper (30%) Each student will submit a semester paper –specifically a critical review of literature on, scholarly commentary about, or empirical investigation of a course-relevant ethical, legal, or other professional issue in counseling psychology. Resources for the preparation of the paper include your required course readings (and references contained therein); however, other primary sources (books/chapters and periodicals/articles) relevant to the topic should be consulted and reviewed for the paper. Especially useful periodicals include: Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, American Psychologist, Psychotherapy, The Psychotherapy Bulletin, certain “special issues” of The Counseling Psychologist, and law reviews (available in the Law Library [Green Hall]). However, you may find other interesting and pertinent professional resources. Maximum length of the paper is 30 pages (including references), so keeping a narrow focus on your topic may be helpful. However, your paper should be at least 15 pages long to provide an adequate coverage of the topic. **Please gain instructor approval of your paper topic by April 1st.**

Paper Format Papers are to be typed, double-spaced throughout, with one-inch margins on all sides. Each page of the paper (including the title page) should be numbered in the upper right hand corner and include a short heading (APA style). Reference citations and listings should conform to current APA format. **WARNING – I was an English teacher in a former life and value well-written and well-spoken communication!** Therefore, do your best to assure that your paper is a positive representation of your best effort. You may want to seek the assistance of the K.U. Writing Center and/or I am happy to talk with you about your paper-in-progress. **You must turn in to me a hard copy of the paper. It is a department policy to not print out individual student papers.**

Brief Paper Presentation and Outline On April 30th and May 7th, we will spend our class session informally sharing your papers. You are asked to present a 5-10 minute summary of your work and provide your classmates with a **one-page outline** of the most salient parts of your research. You will be exchanging valuable information with your classmates and we will benefit from each other’s hard work!

Documentation Activity (5%) You will be provided with information related to a counseling scenario and asked to write up a case-note/documentation based upon the relevant issues and what you have learned in the course. Examples will be provided in class.

Licensing Activity (5%) You are to go to the BSRB website (www.ksbsrb.org) and find the application for your desired level of licensure. You are to print off this document and complete it. This activity is to get you familiar with the rules and regs that govern our profession and the application process. If you plan to be licensed in a state other than Kansas, you may complete the information for that state instead. However, please inform Dr. Mikinski about your plans. **You may decide to do this at any point in the semester to avoid feeling overwhelmed at the end when other things are due.**

Informed Class Participation (10%) At the heart of ethical decision-making is consultation. Therefore, our class discussions will be consultation on a grand scale and require active, engaged ethical decision-makers. This only happens if you are present, prepared and engaged in thoughtful, respectful dialogue. You may choose to bring your laptop to class and refer to on-line copies of readings and ethics codes. However, web surfing during class is not appropriate professional behavior and will result in a reduction of participation points. I will not stop class to warn you.

Disability Statement: The staff of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), 135 Strong, 785-864-2620 (v/tty), coordinates accommodations and services for KU courses. If you have a disability which affects the full expression of your abilities, you may request accommodation in KU classes and should contact SSD as soon as possible. Please also see me privately in regard to this course.