San José State University
Department of Psychology
Psychology 228, Fall, 2010

Instructor: Victoria Dickerson
Office Location: DMH 310
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Email: vcd@cruzio.com
Office Hours: Monday by appointment
Class Days/Time: Monday, 1:30—4:15
Classroom: DMH 308

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignments, handouts, etc. may be found on D2L.

Course Description
Consideration of ethical and legal issues related to the professional application of psychology. Designed particularly for students involved in fieldwork.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the fundamentals of professional ethics.
2. Understand the major ethical pitfalls to which psychotherapists are vulnerable.
3. Recognize the relationship between ethical psychotherapy and effective psychotherapy (or vice versa).
4. Distinguish between "top-down" ethics and "bottom-up" ethics.
5. Know how to research and stay current with regard to ethics guidelines.
6. Know the requirements for ethical practice of psychotherapy: including confidentiality, record-keeping, fees and finances, insurance and managed care, continuing education, reporting requirements, dual or multiple role relationships, scope of practice, research and publication, assessment, requirements for licensure, supervision, sanctions, and other specific issues.

Required Texts/Readings

Other Readings
Determined mostly by you.
**Classroom Protocol**
Please be on time, turn off cell-phones, and prepare to participate.

**Dropping and Adding**
Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at [http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). Information about late drop is available at [http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

**Assignments and Grading Policy**
This is a graduate seminar, which means that you will do most of the “heavy lifting” for this course. At our first meeting we will go over the syllabus and assign topics for each student. On the day of your assigned topic you will be responsible for the following:

1. **(45% of your grade.)** Research the topic and prepare a one hour presentation outlining the following:
   a. What is the issue you researched?
   b. Discuss the background of that issue: i.e., where did this issue originate? Have views on this issue changed over time? How? Why?
   c. What legal requirements exist with regard to this issue?
   d. Are there exceptions to the legal requirements? What are they? Why do they exist?
   e. Present case examples (you may use examples from your textbook, invent them, or use examples that you are aware of from any other sources – the *California Therapist* is a good source for reports of unethical conduct.)
   f. You should come prepared with several discussion questions, and you will be expected to lead the discussion of your topic.

   Your grade will be based on the thoroughness, preparation, accuracy, and professionalism of your presentation. Please prepare handouts summarizing your presentation—you can email them to members of the class and to me—at least a day before your presentation.

   By the end of the semester you might possibly have a binder containing the handouts from the presentation. This could be a valuable resource for you as you prepare for your comprehensive exams and even for licensure.

   Some topics will barely fit into one class session, while others may be less time-intensive. My job will be to see to that our discussions are clinically relevant and that we use our time productively.

2. **(35% of your grade.)** A mid-term paper that outlines a current clinical dilemma with which you are dealing and how your understandings in this class have helped you resolve the dilemma.

3. **(20% of your grade.)** Participation. The ground-rules for discussion are:
   a. speak for yourself
   b. if you don’t understand something, have objections to what is presented, or have some concern that is occupying your thoughts, bring it up
   c. there are no bad questions and no bad answers (though there may, at times, be correct or incorrect answers)
   d. You will not be graded on your questions, comments, or opinions, only on the presence or absence of active engagement in the class

4. **(10% of your grade.)** Final exam. This will likely be an in-class conversation about ethical dilemmas.
University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/30/10</td>
<td>Introduction, overview, assignment of topics. Ch. 1 of K &amp; K-S or Ch. 1 of Corey, et al.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/06/10</td>
<td><strong>Labor day: University closed</strong></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9/13/10</td>
<td>What does it mean to be ethical? Ch. 2 of K &amp; K-S or Ch. 2 of Corey, et al. Sanctions. Ch. 3 of K &amp; K-S</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9/20/10</td>
<td>The professional counselor. Ch. 4 of K &amp; K-S or Ch. 3 of Corey, et al.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>9/27/10</td>
<td>Cultural Issues/Evidence-Based. Chs.5-6 of K &amp; K-S or Ch 4 of Corey, et al</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10/04/10</td>
<td>Fees, Finances, Insurance, Managed Care. Ch. 7 of K &amp; K-S or Ch. 5 of Corey, et al.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/11/10</td>
<td>Confidentiality. Ch. 8 of K &amp; K-S or Ch. 6, 7 of Corey, et al</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/18/10</td>
<td>Assessment. Ch. 9 of K &amp; K-S or Ch 8 of Corey, et al</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10/25/10</td>
<td>Multiple Role Relationships. Chs.10-11-12 of K &amp; K-S or Ch.9 of Corey</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11/01/10</td>
<td>Supervision. Ch. 13 of K &amp; K-S or Ch. 9 of Corey, et al</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/08/10</td>
<td><strong>Theory &amp; Practice.</strong> Ch. 10-11 of Corey, et al</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>11/15/10</td>
<td>Marketing. Ch. 14 of K &amp; K-S</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>11/22/10</td>
<td>Research and Publication. Ch. 19 of K &amp; K-S or Ch. 10 of Corey, et al</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>11/29/10</td>
<td><strong>Ethics of Care.</strong> Chs. 11, 12, 13 of Corey, et al</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>12/06/10</td>
<td>Last Class / Final</td>
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