

Syllabus for PSYC 550
Ethics and Professional Issues in Psychology
Department of Psychology
Summer 2022

About the Instructor

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am-12:30am (in person or via Zoom link: <https://siue.zoom.us/j/6201194517>) and by appointment

Welcome

Welcome to Ethics and Professional Issues in Psychology! I am looking forward to guiding you through this course. My hope is to help you learn as much as possible about ethical issues in psychology and, ideally, inspire you to learn more beyond this course.

Bio

I am a clinical psychologist and have been a professor in the SIUE Department of Psychology for over 20 years. In addition to this course, I teach Foundations of Psychology (PSYC 111), Clinical Psychology (PSYC 450), Counselling and Psychotherapy of the Individual Adult (PSYC 537b) and Practicum in Clinical Psychology (PSYC 523), among others. I have published numerous articles in journals related to clinical psychology, most of which focus on ethical and professional issues in psychotherapy. In addition to my academic position, I also maintain a small, part-time private practice in which I see a wide range of therapy clients.

I earned a BA in Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis, and an MA and PhD in Clinical Psychology from Saint Louis University. I completed my predoctoral internship at Indiana University School of Medicine.

My wife and I live in St. Louis (University City, to be specific), and we have two sons who are now young adults.

Communicating with the instructor

The best way to contact me is through email: apomera@siue.edu. I typically reply within 24 hours.

About the Course

Course description

From the SIUE Course Catalog description of this course: "Ethical and professional issues in the field of psychology, especially as outlined in the Code of Ethics of the American Psychological Association." It is worth 3 credit hours.

Prerequisite knowledge and credit hours

Graduate standing in Psychology or permission of instructor.

Course goals and objectives

This course is intended to familiarize students with the essential concepts, theories, and applications relevant to ethical issues in psychology. Professional issues relevant to ethics will also be incorporated. The most recent code of ethics of the American Psychological Association will form the basis of the course. A goal is for students to heighten awareness to ethical issues as they may arise in the practice of psychology and to learn methods of developing coherent, defensible,

reasoned strategies for dealing with such situations. All areas of psychology practice, including psychotherapy, assessment, research, teaching, and consultation, will be addressed. Another goal of the course is to appreciate the evolution and revision of the ethics code throughout the history of the psychological profession.

The course will focus on the APA code of ethics, with the textbook by Celia Fisher (who chaired the task force that conducted the most recent revision of the code) serving as an annotated guide. The course will also feature real-life examples of ethical dilemmas, with the collection of cases edited by W. Brad Johnson and Gerald P. Koocher providing numerous challenging, complex cases to discuss.

Course texts

Fisher, C. B. (2023). *Decoding the ethics code: A practical guide for psychologists*. (5th ed.) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Johnson, W. B. & Koocher, G. P. (Eds.) (2011). *Ethical conundrums, quandaries, and predicaments in mental health practice: A casebook from the files of experts*. New York: Oxford University Press.

American Psychological Association (2017). *Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct including 2010 and 2016 amendments*. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx>

Course activities/assessments

There are multiple ways for you to learn the material in the course, including completion of the assigned readings, attending class, and participation in the discussions. You will be assessed by completing 7 writing assignments that include a variety of different types of factual and applied questions.

Grading

Students' grades will be determined according to their scores on a series of 7 writing assignments due at approximately equal intervals throughout the course and worth approximately equal amounts of points. Each assignment will assess students' learning in a variety of ways, including questions focused on factual knowledge, questions focused on applied knowledge, questions prompting critical thinking, and questions focused on conceptual understanding. Course grades will be assigned according to the following criteria:

90-100% of total points possible=A
80-89%=B
70-79%=C
60-69%=D
below 60%=F

Feedback and grading timeline

My goal is to grade the brief writing assignments promptly, typically within a day (occasionally longer). You can find your grade by clicking the My Grades link on the left menu of the Blackboard course. To see specific feedback on your written assignments, click on the assignments themselves and look for comments that have been made in the margin of the paper itself.

Submitting work

All work will be submitted via Blackboard. If you ever encounter problems with Blackboard, as a backup, please email the work to me if possible (apomera@siue.edu). When assignments are submitted after the submission deadline, a

penalty of 20% of the possible points will be deducted for each 24-hour period by which the assignment is late, with the first 20% deduction occurring immediately after the submission deadline.

Course Schedule:

Topic #	Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment #	Assignment Deadline
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History/Evolution of APA Ethics Code Introductory Sections of Code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisher Chapter 1; Johnson & Koocher Preface (p. 1-5) Fisher Chapter 2 and 3 	1	Wednesday May 11 at 11:59pm
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards for Resolving Ethical Issues Standards on Competence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisher Chapter 5 Fisher Chapter 6; Johnson & Koocher Chapters 21, 31, and 35 	2	Friday May 13 at 11:59pm
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards on Human Relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisher Chapter 7; Johnson & Koocher Chapters 1, 2, 14, 17, 20, 30 (additional optional chapters—18, 22, 36) 	3	Monday May 16 at 11:59pm
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards on Privacy and Confidentiality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisher Chapter 8 	4	Wednesday May 18 at 11:59pm
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards on Advertising and other Public Statements Standards on Record Keeping and Fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisher Chapter 9 Fisher Chapter 10 	5	Friday May 20 at 11:59pm
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards on Education and Training Standards on Research and Publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisher Chapter 11; Johnson & Koocher Chapter 28 Fisher Chapter 12 	6	Tuesday May 24 at 11:59pm
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards on Assessment Standards on Therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisher Chapter 13 Fisher Chapter 14; Johnson & Koocher Chapters 3, 19 Fisher Chapter 4 	7	Friday May 27 at 11:59pm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethical Decision Making			
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Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

Course and University policies

Academic integrity/plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas without crediting that person. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, or dismissal from the University, per the [SIUE academic dishonesty policy](#). Students are responsible for complying with University policies about academic honesty as stated in the [University's Student Academic Conduct Code](#).

Turnitin

This course may utilize the Turnitin plagiarism detection software. A Turnitin link will be available anywhere you are expected to use it when written work is to be submitted in the course. [Find out more about using Turnitin](#).

Services for Students Needing Accommodations

It is the policy and practice of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content or the use of non-captioned videos—please contact Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) as soon as possible. In order to properly determine reasonable accommodations, students must register with ACCESS either online at siue.edu/access or in person in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling [618-650-3726](tel:618-650-3726).

If you feel you would need additional help in the event of an emergency situation, please notify your instructor to be shown the evacuation route and discuss specific needs for assistance.

Additional Support

Academic and Other Student Services

As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:

- [Lovejoy Library Resources](#)
- [Academic Success Sessions](#)
- [Tutoring Resource Center](#)
- [The Writing Center](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Campus Events](#)
- [Counseling Services](#)

If you find that you need additional support, please reach out to me and let me know.

Cougar Care

Dealing with the fast-paced life of a college student can be challenging, and I always support a student's decisions to prioritize mental health. Students have access to counseling services on campus (Student Success Center, 0222). Make an appointment by visiting cougarcare.siue.edu or by calling [618-650-2842](tel:618-650-2842).

COVID-19 Pandemic Policies Related to Classroom Instruction

SIUE posts updated information related to COVID-19 here:
<https://www.siu.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/>

Potential for Changes in Course Schedule or Modality

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, there remains a possibility that planned classroom activities will need to be adjusted. Depending on circumstances and following state-issued recommendations, potential changes include changes in course modality (e.g., transition from face-to-face to online) or in course scheduled meetings. These changes would be implemented to ensure the successful completion of the course. In these cases, students will be provided with an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version.