

PSK 554 – Ethical Principles in Clinical Psychology Applications

2017-2018 Spring

Assoc. Prof. Okan Cem Çırakoğlu

Course Description?

After psychology has appeared as a separate profession at the beginning of the 20th century, ethical codes have become more important than before in research, application and education in psychology. Certain ethical principles are widely accepted by professionals almost without debate. On the other hand, some principles are not so clear and may or may not be applicable to certain cases. It is clear that each case has its own characteristics and dynamics which may require special consideration in terms of ethical principles. Therefore, clinical psychologists need to know compromised ethical codes and efficient decision-making skills for unexpected cases.

It is worth to say that there are more similarities than differences among many of the ethical guidelines used in different countries. On the other hand, ethical dilemmas may always appear because of cultural characteristics, changing societal norms, new techniques and methods. Critical and scientific thinking play crucial roles in ethical decision-making process. However, it is nearly impossible to make ethical decisions without professional knowledge, cultural sensitivity and a humanitarian approach.

This course aims to contribute to students' ethical knowledge related to research, application, supervision, publication and teaching. Therefore, this course aims to (a) provide knowledge on compromised ethical standards and (b) help students to review their ethical understandings and attitudes.

At the end of this course, you are expected to;

- Learn basic ethical principles and standards related to research, publication, psychotherapy, supervision and teaching,
- Improve your critical thinking skills to make ethical decisions,
- Improve your awareness how to avoid ethical violations
- To gain knowledge on how potential ethical violations can be resolved

Course Organization

This is a lecture course in which topics are presented by the instructor. Depending on the subject, class sessions will include discussions which will mainly focus on both theoretical knowledge and personal experiences. Students are responsible reading weekly materials before classes.

Reading Materials and Student Resources

This course will follow three main textbooks and several chapters of them will be used in the term. Students will also be responsible certain chapters even though they will not be reviewed in the class sessions.

Text Book

Pope, K. S., & Vasquez, M. J. T. (2010). *Ethics in psychotherapy and counseling: A practical guide* (4th ed.). NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Additional materials

Korkut, Y. (2014). *Psikologlar için etik öğretim el kitabı*. Ankara: Türk Psikologlar Derneği

Eldoğan, D., Korkmaz, L., Yeniçeri, Z., & Kökdemir, D. (2017). *Akademik yazım kuralları kitapçığı* (5. Baskı). Ankara: Başkent Üniversitesi.

Grading

Grades will be based upon performance on the following:

| Graded activity | Weight (%) |
|-----------------|------------|
| Final Exam | 60 |
| Term Paper | 20 |
| Presentation | 20 |
| Total | 100 |

You are expected to present an ethical dilemma and possible ways to solve this dilemma in a class session. You may either select one of the cases from your text book or bring a real/imaginary case from clinical practice. Your term paper will be built on the case you presented in the class. In your term paper, you are expected to discuss your ethical dilemma and possible ways to avoid make a ethical violation.

Weekly Schedule

| Week | Date | Subject |
|------|-------------|--|
| 1 | 19 February | Introduction |
| 2 | 26 February | Foundations of Ethical Behavior [PDF] Ethics and Critical Thinking [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:3] |
| 3 | 5 March | Therapy in the Digital World: The Ethical Challenges of the New Technologies [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:5] |
| 4 | 12 March | Steps in Ethical Decision Making [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:11] |
| 5 | 19 March | Beginnings and Endings, Absence and Access [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:13] |
| 6 | 26 March | Informed Consent and Informed Refusal [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:14] |
| 7 | 2 April | Assessment, Testing, and Diagnosis [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:15] |
| 8 | 9 April | Sexual Relationships With Clients [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:16] |
| 9 | 16 April | Nonsexual Multiple Relationships and Other Boundary Issues [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:17] |
| 10 | 23 April | Culture, Context, and Individual Differences [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:18] |
| 11 | 30 April | Confidentiality [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:19] |
| 12 | 7 May | Recognizing, Assessing, and Responding to Suicidal Risk [Pope & Vasquez, Ch:20] |
| 13 | 14 May | Case works |
| 14 | 23 May | Closing and Evaluation |