

PSY 0904 - Ethical Concerns & Multicultural Issues in Forensic Psychology

I. Course Information

Course: PSY 0904 - Ethical Concerns & Multicultural Issues in Forensic Psychology

Semester Credit Hours: 3.0

Course CRN and Section: 20150 - L07

Semester and Year: Fall 2021

Course Start and End Dates: 08/23/2021 - 12/12/2021

II. Instructor Information

Professor: Stephanie L Akl

Email: sa988@nova.edu

Instructor:

Stephanie Akl, Psy.D. (Adjunct Professor)

Email: sa988@nova.edu

Phone: Telephone office hours established by request

Teaching Assistant:

Caleigh Covell

Email: cc3204@mynsu

III. Class Schedule and Location

Day	Date	Time	Location	Building/Room
	08/23/2021 - 12/12/2021			Online Venue-CANVAS

IV. Course Description

This course will review the ethics of forensic psychology, including the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct and the Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists of the American Psychological Association (APA), as well as the American Bar Association (ABA) Ethics. Additionally, the APA Guidelines for Multicultural Psychology will be discussed, as well as their relevance in forensic psychology. Areas of conflict between the rules of legal procedure and the psychologist's administrative code will be highlighted. Ethical issues pertaining to supervision and consultation within forensic settings will also be an integral part of the course, as many psychologists engage in supervision of non-doctoral level associates. Consultation skills will be highlighted, as they are critical for the harmonious integration of laws and psychology. Finally, the ethical and legal aspects of detaining and confining people in the corrections system will be explored, with an emphasis on the responsibilities of those who work in the system.

V. Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

- 1) Discuss and apply APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct, the forensic guidelines and other guidelines that are relevant to forensic psychology practice.
- 2) Discuss the APA Multicultural guidelines and their application to forensic work.
- 3) Describe a minimum of 2 areas of conflict between law and psychology and provide appropriate resolutions.
- 4) Explain supervision skills relevant to forensic practice.
- 5) Describe consultation skills relevant to forensic practice.

VI. Materials and Resources

Book Url: [NSU Book Store](#)

Section Required Texts and Material:

?Bush, S., Connell, M., and Denney, R. (2006) *Ethical Practice in Forensic Psychology –A systematic Model for Decision Making* Washington, D.C., A.P.A. ISBN: 1-59147-395-0

?Knapp, S. & Vandecreek (2003). *–A Guide to the 2002 Revision of the APA Ethics Code.* Washington, D.C. A.P.A. ISBN: 1-56887-079-5

?Hartsell, T. & Bernstein, B. (2013). *The Portable Lawyer for Mental Health Professionals* (3rd ed.). New York: Wiley ISBN: 978-1118341087

?Weiss, R.A. and Rosenfeld, B. (2012). Navigating Cross-Cultural Issues in Forensic

Assessment: Recommendations for Practice - Professional Psychology, Research and Practice - Vol. 43, #3, June 2012.

&

-American Psychological Association. (2017). *Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct.* Washington, DC.

Section Supplemental Material:

?Record keeping Guidelines (2007). A.P.A.org

?Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology [APA.org](#)

VII. Course Requirements

Plagiarism Policy: Students are expected to act in accordance with the Nova Southeastern University policy on academic integrity. Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior. Work that is submitted for credit must be the original work of the student. Assignments that are not the original work of the student are considered plagiarized and in violation of the Code of Student Conduct and Academic Responsibility. Self-plagiarism, such as resubmitting the same assignment or portions of an assignment to a different instructor, is also considered to be a violation of the policy. Assignments submitted that are found to have plagiarized information will be granted a failing grade, and may result in failure of the course. Please refer to Canvas for links to writing and APA Style assistance.

Hardship Policy: Unforeseen events, emergencies, and life events can arise that impact academic success or cause time away from class (e.g., divorce, illness, a family member's death, etc.). When a student needs to miss a class or submit an assignment past the due date, students are expected to communicate with their instructor within 24-72 hours to discuss arrangements for completing late assignments and to catch up with the course. Such notification can occur through email or a phone call to the instructor. Likewise, if students anticipate multiple absences or missed assignments, students are expected to communicate with their instructor as early as possible to discuss a plan to make up missed exams or submit other missed work. The instructor is not obligated to offer extended time for completion of assignments or make-up work and has sole discretion in the determination of whether the missed work/absence will be accepted. Moreover, the instructor has the right to request supporting documentation including but not limited to medical notes, hospital discharge summaries, and obituaries to determine whether to accept late work and excuse absences. On a rare occasion, the instructor may encourage the student to drop the course with an option to enroll in a future term once the crisis or life event is resolved. However, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to decide to complete or drop the course. If students need help deciding to continue with a course, they can discuss their decision with their instructor.

Technology Requirements: You need access to a computer with Internet access for this course. Access to Canvas and your NSU e-mail will also be required. You can log in to Canvas using your NSU ID and password. Students will find course articles and other relevant information on Canvas: <https://sharklearn.nova.edu/webapps/login/>. Students also need to check Canvas daily for important announcements and class-related business. If you experience technical difficulties, please contact the NSU OIT Help Desk at 1-800-541-6682, ext. 24357 or help@nova.edu.

Students are required to submit a help desk ticket for Canvas related problems if they encounter difficulty while taking an exam, submitting an assignment, or logging into a chat session so that there is a record of the problem and the day/time they submitted the ticket. You can submit a Computing Help Desk Ticket

using the following link: https://www.nova.edu/webforms/help/bb_problem.html.

Additional information regarding the NSU Student Computing Help Desk and student technology resources can be found at: <http://www.nova.edu/help/students/index.html>.

A Note on Class Participation: Students are expected to participate in scheduled chats and discussions. This includes responding to emails/messages in a timely manner, regularly accessing Blackboard, and overall investment and effort in the course, projects, and assignments. Your final course grade is likely to be affected by both the quality and quantity of your participation.

VIII. Course Schedule and Topic Outline

Course Schedule:

Calendar of Topics & Assignments:

Please note: the reading assignments listed with each week are expected to be read/completed by the date they accompany. This way you're fully prepared for chat.

Date	Topics to Consider	Reading/Assignments
Week 1 8.25.21	Instructor, TA, Student Introductions Syllabus Review Plagiarism and Academic Integrity (LIVE CHAT: YES)	-Familiarize yourself with the "APA Ethics Code," posted on Canvas (and citation included above) prior to the first chat session. We will be discussing general overview of this document as well as discussing the importance of academic integrity and avoiding plagiarism. (DISCUSSION BOARD: YES)
Week 2 9.1.21	Introductory Info about Ethics Code and General Principles/Preamble	?Knapp, S. & Vandecreek (2003). <i>–A Guide to the 2002 Revision of the APA Ethics Code</i> . Washington, D.C. A.P.A.ISBN: 1-56887-079-5 - Chapter 1: Chapter 1: Background - Chapter 2: Introduction and Applicability - Chapter 3: Preamble and General Principles - Chapter 4: Considerations When Reading the Ethical Standards (DISCUSSION BOARD: YES)
Week 3 9.08.21	APA Code of Ethics – Standards 1 –3 (LIVE CHAT: YES)	?Knapp, S. & Vandecreek (2003). <i>–A Guide to the 2002 Revision of the APA Ethics Code</i> . Washington, D.C. A.P.A.ISBN: 1-56887-079-5 - Chapter 5: Enforceable Ethical Standards • Section 1: Resolving Ethical Issues • Section 2: Competence (DISCUSSION BOARD: YES)

<p>Week 4 9.15.21</p>	<p>Catching/Keeping Up</p>	<p>?Knapp, S. & Vandecreek (2003). <i>–A Guide to the 2002 Revision of the APA Ethics Code</i>. Washington, D.C. A.P.A.ISBN: 1-56887-079-5</p> <p>-Chapter 5: Enforceable Ethical Standards</p> <p>•Section 3: Human Relations</p> <p>•Section 4: Privacy and Confidentiality</p> <p>•Section 5: Advertising and Other Public Statements</p> <p>Completion of Plagiarism Training Module Due by Saturday 9/18/21 at 10:00 p.m. (EST) (DISCUSSION BOARD: YES)</p>
<p>Week 5 9.22.21</p>	<p>APA Code of Ethics - Standards 4-5 (LIVE CHAT: YES)</p>	<p>?Knapp, S. & Vandecreek (2003). <i>–A Guide to the 2002 Revision of the APA Ethics Code</i>. Washington, D.C. A.P.A.ISBN: 1-56887-079-5</p> <p>-Chapter 5: Enforceable Ethical Standards</p> <p>•Section 6: Record Keeping and Fees</p> <p>•Section 7: Education and Training</p> <p>•Section 8: Research and Publication (DISCUSSION BOARD: YES)</p>
<p>Week 6 9.29.21</p>	<p>CATCHING UP/MIDTERM PREP</p>	<p>?Knapp, S. & Vandecreek (2003). <i>–A Guide to the 2002 Revision of the APA Ethics Code</i>. Washington, D.C. A.P.A.ISBN: 1-56887-079-5</p> <p>-Chapter 5: Enforceable Ethical Standards</p> <p>•Section 9: Assessment</p> <p>•Section 10: Therapy (DISCUSSION BOARD: YES)</p>
<p>Week 7 10.06.21</p>	<p>Finish Standards Through 6, Midterm Review (LIVE CHAT: YES)</p>	<p>MIDTERM EXAM DUE No Later than Saturday 10.09.21 by 10:00 p.m.</p> <p>?Bernstein, B. (2004). <i>The Portable Lawyer</i> (2nd ed.). New York: Wiley ISBN: 0-471-46551-8</p> <p>?SECTION TWO: Confidentiality (DISCUSSION BOARD: YES)</p>

<p>Week 8 10.13.21</p>	<p>APA CODE OF ETHICS STANDARDS 7-8</p>	<p>?Greenberg, S. & Shuman, D. (1997). Irreconcilable Differences between Therapeutic and Forensic Roles – Professional Psychology Research, Practice 28(1) pp. 50-57 ?Bush, S., Connell, M., and Denney, R. (2006) <i>Ethical Practice in Forensic Psychology –A systematic Model for Decision Making</i> Washington, D.C., A.P.A. ISBN: 1-59147-395-0 ?Chapter 1: Interface of Law & Psychology ?Chapter 2: The Referral (DISCUSSION BOARD: NO)</p>
<p>Week 9 10.20.21</p>	<p>APA CODE OF ETHICS CONTINUING STANDARDS 7-8 (LIVE CHAT: YES)</p>	<p>Just Catching Up ?</p>
<p>Week 10 10.27.21</p>	<p>APA CODE OF ETHICS, STANDARDS 9-10 & REVIEW</p>	<p>?Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology APA.org ?Record keeping Guidelines (2007). A.P.A.org ?Knapp, S. & Vandecreek (2003). –<i>A Guide to the 2002 Revision of the APA Ethics Code</i>. Washington, D.C. A.P.A.ISBN: 1-56887-079-5 Chapter 6: Summaries of Specific Topics (DISCUSSION BOARD: YES)</p>
<p>Week 11 11.03.21</p>	<p>Catching Up (LIVE CHAT: YES)</p>	<p>?Bernstein, B. (2004). <i>The Portable Lawyer</i> (2nd ed.). New York: Wiley ISBN: 0-471-46551-8 -Section 1: Clinical Records - Protected or Not ?Bush, S., Connell, M., and Denney, R. (2006) <i>Ethical Practice in Forensic Psychology –A systematic Model for Decision Making</i> Washington, D.C., A.P.A. ISBN: 1-59147-395-0 -Chapter 3: Collection and Review of Information Chapter 4: The Evaluation ?Weiss, R.A. and Rosenfeld, B. (2012). “Navigating Cross-Cultural Issues in Forensic Assessment: Recommendations for Practice” -<i>Professional Psychology, Research and Practice</i> - Vol. 43, #3, June 2012. (DISCUSSION BOARD: YES)</p>

Week 12 11.10.21	Catching Up	Just Catching Up ?
Week 13 11.17.21	Multicultural Issues & Forensic Evaluations (LIVE CHAT: YES)	?Bush, S., Connell, M., and Denney, R. (2006) <i>Ethical Practice in Forensic Psychology –A systematic Model for Decision Making</i> Washington, D.C., A.P.A. ISBN: 1-59147-395-0 - Chapter 5: Documentation of Findings and Opinions ?Bernstein, B. (2004). <i>The Portable Lawyer</i> (2 nd ed.). New York: Wiley ISBN: 0-471-46551-8 ?Section 5: Forensic Issues (DISCUSSION BOARD: YES)
Week 14 11.24.21	Nada...Happy Thanksgiving!	Nada...Happy Thanksgiving!
Week 15 12.01.21	Issues Surrounding Violent Behavior (LIVE CHAT: YES)	?Bush, S., Connell, M., and Denney, R. (2006) <i>Ethical Practice in Forensic Psychology –A systematic Model for Decision Making</i> Washington, D.C., A.P.A. ISBN: 1-59147-395-0 - Chapter 6: Testimony and Termination - Chapter 7: Addressing Ethical Misconduct ?Bernstein, B. (2004). <i>The Portable Lawyer</i> (2 nd ed.). New York: Wiley ISBN: 0-471-46551-8 - Section 7: How to Avoid Malpractice Charges Section 10: Unusual Practices (DISCUSSION BOARD: NO)
Week 16 12.08.21	Just Work on Your Final Exam!	Final Examination Due by SATURDAY 12/11/21 at 10:00 p.m. (EST) (DISCUSSION BOARD: NO)

IX. Assignments

Live Chats

?Attendance and participation in the weekly chat constitutes 16 points out of the final grade (there will be 2 points possible for each of 8 chats throughout the semester; see schedule above).

?Chats are held on select Wednesdays, from 5:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EST) (see schedule above)

?In the event a student is unable to attend a chat, make-up credit may be earned via reviewing the chat's recording - which will be uploaded to the folder entitled, "My Course Content" - and then writing a one-paragraph (minimum) summary of the missed chat. It needs to reflect thoughtful consideration of the main points discussed, as well as a few unique ideas that would have been mentioned had the student been present. After, simply send the summary to the **instructor** (sa988@nova.edu).

Discussion Board

?Postings will constitute 40 points out of the student's total grade (there will be 4 points possible for each

of 10 discussion board assignments throughout the semester; see schedule above).

?Topics will be posted to the Discussion Board by the instructor by or on Fridays and require a response prior to the following Wednesday at 10:00 p.m. (EST). Due dates will be included with the posting itself to avoid too much confusion.

?Late responses (that is, responses posted after Wednesday at 10:00 p.m. for each respective week) *may* still receive partial credit if they are thoughtful & reflect consideration of the material; however, partial credit will not be given to responses over a week late and credit is assigned *at the discretion* of the instructor and the teaching assistant.

?Your final grade for the discussion board posts will ultimately be based on the timeliness and thoughtfulness of your response to the professor’s post;

?You do not have to respond to the comments/responses of other students, although it is both acceptable and encouraged.

Plagiarism Training Module

?You are ***required*** to complete a Plagiarism Training Module (assigned in the second week of class) and will then also be ***required*** to take and pass a brief quiz to demonstrate your mastery of the material.

Passing on this quiz will be a score of 90% or higher.

?Your final course grade **will not** be released by the instructor unless you successfully complete the **Plagiarism Training module** and earn a passing grade on the post-test contained within it. If you do not pass the post-test on the first try (with a score of 90% or higher), please e-mail your instructor immediately and you will be granted an opportunity to try again.

X. Grading Criteria

Grading Scale:

Grading Criteria:

Zoom Chats..... 16 points
 Plagiarism Training Module.....20 points
 Discussion Board Posts (10 posts x 4 points possible).....40 points
 Midterm Exam.....65 points
 Final Exam.....65 points
 Total Grade.....216 points

Grade	Percentage Earned
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	88-89
B	83-87
B-	80-82
C+	78-79
C	73-77
C-	70-72
F	Below 70

XI. University Policies

Academic Integrity: The University is an academic community and expects its students to manifest a commitment to academic integrity through rigid observance of standards for academic honesty. The following acts violate the academic honesty standards:

1. Cheating—intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
2. Fabrication—intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
3. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty—intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of this code.
4. Plagiarism—the adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, or statements of another person as one's own without proper acknowledgement.

Instructor's Statement: The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus schedule as necessary to meet the needs of this particular class. Changes will be communicated with students in a timely manner. It is your responsibility to keep informed about discussion topics and assignments. If in doubt, check with your instructor. Please remember to retain your syllabi after completion of the program; as it may be required in the future for certification and/or licensure purposes.

Personal Counseling: If you find that issues such as personal problems, career indecision, and time management difficulties are adversely impacting your successful progress at NSU, please contact the NSU Henderson Student Counseling Services at (954) 262-7050 or (954) 424-6911 for assistance. All NSU students are provided ten sessions at no charge.

Tutoring: Writing support is available through NSU's tutoring services. The tutor can assist with brainstorming and research, APA style, grammar, structuring, and formatting of papers. For more information, please call (954) 262-8350 or visit the tutoring website at <http://nova.edu/tutoring-testing/tutoring-services/>.

Disability Services: Candidates seeking accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Office of Student Disability Services prior to the commencement of classes to discuss their needs. To obtain more information from the Office of Student Disability Services, please call (954) 262-7185, email disabilityservices@nova.edu, or visit their website at <http://nova.edu/disabilityservices>.

NSU'S Veterans Resource Center (VRC): links veterans with university and community resources, as well as provides a welcoming environment for student-veterans to meet, relax, and gather. The VRC is located on the second floor of the Rosenthal Building in Room 218. The room is open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week. For more information about NSU's Veterans Resource Center, please contact Kelsey De Santis NSU's Veterans Resource Center Coordinator email kd835@nova.edu or vrc@nova.edu, call (954) 262-FLAG (3524), or visit nova.edu/veterans.

Cellular Phone Policy: The university recognizes the growing trend regarding student possession of cellular phones and electronic devices with video, camera, or voice recording capabilities. In support of each individual's reasonable expectation of privacy, the copyright and intellectual property laws, the use of these cellular phone features by NSU students must be in conjunction with express consent. Students are forbidden to video, use camera or voice recordings without the express consent of the subject(s) being photographed or recorded.

