

## Course Description

### Title of the Course: Professional Issues and Ethical Problems in Psychology

#### Aim of the course

**Aim of the course:** To deepen students' understanding of professional ethics in the work of the psychologist which has been built on the foundation of ethics laid at the BA level and to clarify issues of professional socialization in "becoming a psychologist". The purpose of the course is to provide a general ethical guidance to cover typical situations encountered by professional psychologists. The evolution of moral behaviours, history of professional psychologists' ethical codes, fundamental ethical principles of psychologists, relationship between legal and ethical issues, and evaluative procedures and corrective actions in case of complaints about unethical conduct will be covered by lectures, problems and dilemmas emerging in the practical application of professional ethics will be discussed in seminars.

#### Learning outcome and competences

Knowledge:

- Legal and ethical regulation of psychological practice
- Learning the rules of professional ethics.
- In depth knowledge of national ethical code(s), and APA and EFPA codes
- Recognising ethical problems and dealing with them adequately.
- Ways of resolving ethical dilemmas
- Recognizing the limits of competency
- Rules of research and publication ethics

Attitude:

- Respect of the patients and their relatives
- Commitment to the principles of professional ethics.
- Sensitivity to ethical problems.
- Being able to approach the problems / dilemmas from others' points of views
- Being open-minded and actively find ethically coherent solutions for various problems / dilemmas

Skills:

- Ability to apply ethical principles and rules.
- Ability to make thoughtful decisions on ethical problems / dilemmas
- Formulating, expressing, sharing and defending ethical points of views
- Discussing ethical dilemmas with colleagues / supervisors
- Using appropriate language, professional terms when discussing cases and other professional issues
- Recognizing the importance of appropriate self-care, managing emotional impact

#### Content of the course

##### Topics for the course

Ethical problem, ethical dilemma

Ethical questions in clinical psychology

Ethical and methodological dilemmas in social psychology

Ethics of psychology and ethical questions in psychotherapy

Research and publication ethics

The operation of the Institutional Research Ethics Committee

Relational issues

Financial issues

Competency

Rights and obligations in the work of the clinical psychologist; legal regulations for psychotherapy

Ethical questions in health psychology

### **Learning activities and learning methods**

Information is provided in lecture form during the block classes, while instruction is practice-oriented in the specialization classes. Topics are discussed via movies, interviews and case examples through which to professional ethics topics to be actively raised, discussed, and related to other studies within psychology.

### **Evaluation of outcomes**

#### **Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, and criteria for evaluation:**

The entire year will take a written examination on the material covered in the block classes and on the required reading for those classes. Attendance at block classes is compulsory. Students have the opportunity for a retake if they are unable to take the written examination on the first occasion or if they receive a failing grade. One of the conditions for completing the class is to take (or retake) the written examination and to earn a passing grade. Additional conditions for completing the course are to be agreed within each specialization. The final grade is based on the written examination grade and the average of the marks for the practice within the specialization.

### **Reading list**

#### **Compulsory reading list**

- European Federation of Psychologists Associations: Ethical Codes. Source: <http://www.efpa.be/ethics.php>
- National Codes of Ethics.
- POPE, K. S. & VETTER, V. A. Ethical dilemmas encountered by members of the American Psychological Association: A national survey. Source: <http://psychology.about.com/od/ethicalissues/>
- <http://www.kspope.com/>
- BERSOFF, D. (2003) *Ethical conflicts in psychology*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- KOOCHER, G. & KEITH-SPIEGEL, P. (1998) *Ethics in psychology* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Oxford University Press.

#### **Recommended reading list**

- BOND, Tim (2007): *Ethics and Psychotherapy : An Issue of Trust*. In: Richard E. Ashcroft—Dawson, Angus—Draper, Heather —McMillan, John R. (eds.) (2007): *Principles of Health Care Ethics*. (Second edition) Chichester-New York-Bisbane: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

- KOOCHEER, Gerald P.— KEITH-SPIEGEL, Patricia (2008): *Ethics in Psychology and the Mental Health Professions. Standards and Cases.* (Third. edition) Oxford—New York: Oxford University Press.
- LAKIN, Martin (1988): *Ethical Issues in the Psychotherapies.* New York—Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- NAGY, T. F. (2005) *Ethics in plain English: An illustrative casebook for psychologists.* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- POPE, Kenneth S. (1991): Dual Relationships in Psychotherapy. *Ethics and Behavior*, 1 (p. 23-24)
- USA Ethical code in psychology Source: <http://www.apa.org/ethics/code.html>
- NUCASE Internet Resources: Click on StepForward and NUCASE resources (Library) <http://www.ethicaladvisory.com/nucase/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZ311jgmYrY>
- APA rules: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/16/>
- Belmont report: <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/guidance/faq/children-research/index.html#>