



**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 659 (L01) – Ethics and Professional Issues in Clinical Psychology**  
**Winter 2010 – Course Outline**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Keith S. Dobson	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	Administration Bldg. 248
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-5096	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	Block Week, January 4- 8, 2010; 9:00- 4:30 daily
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:ksdobson@ucalgary.ca">ksdobson@ucalgary.ca</a>		
<b>Office:</b>	Administration 233A		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment		

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***Course description and goals:***

This course will provide an overview of ethics issues for students who are pursuing training in clinical psychology. Students will read major ethics documents related to the practice of psychology in Canada and Alberta. Additionally, the application of ethics documents and other practice guidelines to actual cases will be discussed. The regulation of psychology as an independent profession will be covered. We will discuss such issues as training models, continuing education, and professional liability. Later aspects of the course will focus on applied issues, including confidentiality, right to privacy, informed consent, therapeutic relationship issues, involuntary commitment and social responsibility. Special applications of clinical psychology to the medical and legal contexts will be discussed.

***Prerequisites:***

This course is intended for graduate students in the Program in Clinical Psychology at the University of Calgary. Other qualified students may be admitted by application through the instructor and Department.

***Required Text:***

There is no single required text for this course. Readings will be identified by and made available from the instructor for each topic below, and should be read before each class.

Date	Topics
January 4	The organization of professional psychology in Canada. Training models in professional psychology. The Scientist-Practitioner Model. Program Accreditation. The definition of clinical psychology.
	The Profession of Psychology in Alberta and Canada. The College of Alberta Psychologists and the Health Professions Act.
	The Canadian Psychological Association's Code of Ethics, history and description of its organization. Ethical decision-making. Case evaluations.
January 5	The APA Code of Ethics. Codes of Conduct, Practice and other Guidelines
	<i>Ethics Examination</i>
January 6	Continuing Education, Practice Review, Professional Liability, and the Disciplinary Process.
	Patient Rights, Confidentiality, Right to Privacy, Informed Consent, Involuntary

	commitment, competence, Right to refuse treatment.
January 7	Clinical Psychology in the health context, multidisciplinary issues.
	Practice Issues: Gender and sexual orientation
January 8	Practice Issues: Multicultural Factors in Clinical Practice
	Practice Issues: Clinical Psychology in the Courts
	Business aspects of Clinical Psychology. Internship and other Clinical training opportunities.
	The future of Clinical Psychology. Other issues by request.
March 31	Term paper due

### **Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

In a course such as this, consistent class attendance and participation are critical to the learning process. As such, performance in the course will include an evaluation of attendance and participation. Students are expected to attend all classes to obtain maximal credit for attendance.

The second component of the course will be an examination on the ethics of Clinical Psychology. This examination will consist of a series of ethical dilemmas, for which the student must write down the identified ethical concerns (if any), and state a course of planned action. This examination will take place in class on January 5.

The third component of the course will consist of 2 reaction papers to the material being read. Each reaction paper must be submitted at the beginning of the class on which it is relevant, and should describe your reactions to, thoughts about, or appraisals of the ideas in one or more of the readings for that class. Each reaction paper must be no longer than 3 double-spaced (12 pitch font, 1" margins) pages, inclusive of everything (no title page; no references). Each paper will be count 12.5% of your final grade.

The balance of the course grade will be based upon a term paper of no more than 30 typewritten double-spaced pages (completed consistent with the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition *APA Publication Manual*). The topic of the term paper will address a topic from this course, agreed to between you and the instructor. The term paper is due on March 31, 2010.

### **Summary of course evaluation procedures:**

### **Maximum score:**

Class attendance and participation:	10
Ethics Examination:	25
Reaction papers:	25
Term paper:	<u>40</u>
TOTAL Possible Course Grade:	100

Grades will be assigned no more stringently than the following:

96- 100	A+	85- 95	A	80- 84	A-		
75- 79	B+	70- 74	B	50- 69	B-	00- 49	F

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 84.5% will be rounded up to 85% = A; 84.4% will be rounded down to 84% = A-).

### **Reappraisal of Grades:**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor

within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

***Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct:***

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

***Academic Accommodation:***

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

***Absence From A Test/Exam:***

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

***Evacuation Assembly Point:***

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

***Important Dates:***

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund is Jan 22nd, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**.