PSY 538: Ethics in Clinical Practice
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Anabel Vega Meyer, Ph.D., LP, LSP, LBA, BCBA, NCSP
Office Location: Henderson 213
Office Hours: Wednesdays 8:00am-12:00pm or Fridays 1:00pm-2:00pm via Zoom, or
by appointment. If you have any questions or difficulties with the course
material, please contact me.
University Email Address: Anabel.Meyer@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Usually 24-48 hours, with the exception of
weekends and holidays

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: None
Readings will be assigned from URLs and PDFs and identified in the Course
Outline/Schedule

Course Description

The course will provide a review of the basics of ethical philosophy and the current code
of ethics of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, which governs the licensing
of psychologists and Licensed Psychological Associates in the State of Texas, with
emphasis on clinical practice. It will also provide a review of necessary ethical and legal
practices for practicing psychology while minimizing risk to clients and developing and
maintain the professional integrity of the psychologist and psychological associate.
Prerequisites: Admission to the applied psychology program.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Learn the Rules of Practice from the Texas Administrative Code
2. Develop an understanding of ethical responsibilities for licensed psychologists,
   psychological associates, and behavior analysts.

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2. Apply Ethical decision-making in clincal practice and research

3. Identify reporting requirements under Texas Law and BACB Compliance Code.

4. Learn Licensing/Certification requirements as a licensed psychologist, psychological associate, or behavior analyst.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will the ability to use word processing programs and internet-based learning management software to complete course successfully.

Instructional Methods

A variety of teaching strategies will be used to help students become familiar with the Texas Administrative Code, Licensing requirements of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, which governs the licensing of psychologists and Licensed Psychological Associates in the State of Texas, and the laws which cover reporting, working with minors, and other relevant provisions including relevant laws of the Texas Health and Human Services. Students will also become familiar with the BACB Compliance Code.

These strategies include:
1. Instructor class presentations
2. Online discussions
3. Examinations
4. Application of concents learned through various reflection assignments
5. Small Group applied and active learning

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course
1. Attend all classes.
2. Read the assigned readings carefully and thoroughly.
3. Schedule and plan due dates for all assignments.
4. Complete assignments thoroughly and on time.
5. Take notes and use them to create review outlines.
6. Actively participate in class discussions and small groups.
7. Ask for assistance if you cannot self-facilitate an answer.

Assignments

Self-Reflection and Application Papers (Total 90%; 15% each, 6 total)

For each Self-Reflection and Application paper, you will write 5-10 pages, double-spaced in APA format with a cover page and references page (do not count towards the page count) a summary of key points from the ethical rules in the Handbook, how you will apply them in practice as a licensed professional, and any concerns or proactive

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measures you will implement to guard against violations of any of the rules. Please integrate other sources, in addition, to the Handbook, as you deem appropriate to your paper. Your assignments will be due by 11:59 pm on each Sunday.

Discussion (10%)

There is one discussion worth 10% of your final grade. You will post a discussion interacting with the discussion question and the course materials and then post two replies according to the requirements of the discussion question.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool
https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

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Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Professional Conduct. Students are expected to conduct themselves as mature and responsible adults while enrolled in this course. Be cognizant that side conversations in class can be distracting to the instructor and your classmates. Please show respect for others when they speak. If you do not agree with their point of view, ask for clarification or offer alternative viewpoints. Behavior meant to demean or belittle a class member will not be tolerated. Also, student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at ETAMU. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor will seek the assistance form the proper authorities (e.g. Chair of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education and/or Dean's Office).

For in-person or synchrounous online courses: Please turn off all phones or put them on silent. Laptops are permitted in class but should be used to enhance learning. Students should not use them for checking email or posting messages on Facebook, Twitter, or other social networks (the same with cell phones). If students are found to be using laptops or cell phones for purposes not related to class the instructor will ask the student to reframe from using their laptops/cell phones during class.

Class Participation: All students **MUST** actively participate in class discussions and class activities in order to fully gain knowledge and build competence. In addition, students are expected to have all readings and activities required for the day's class to be completed prior to coming to class.

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E-mail and myLEOonline (D2L Brightspace). All Students should activate and regularly check their Leo Mail and myLEOonline (D2L Brightspace) accounts associated with this class. All assignments will be turned in on myLEOonline (D2L Brightspace) (when applicable) unless otherwise instructed to do something differently by the instructor of this course. All class communication will be done through D2L. I **WILL NOT** send communication about the class to personal email accounts.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted unless you have provided adequate documentation allowing your absence to be excused (doctor's note in case of illness or copy of a funeral program in case of a death of a loved one). In the event your absence is excused, the missing assignment or exam must be completed **within 1 week** of your return to class or the student will receive a grade of 0.

Academic Integrity. All students are expected to conform to the East Texas A&M 's Code of Student Conducted Procedures as it relates to academic integrity (links below). This states in part that all instances of cheating, fabrication and plagiarism are prohibited and will be reported. Any student who assists in any form of dishonesty is equally as guilty as the student who accepts such assistance. Any work submitted to me with your name alone on it should represent your work alone. Even in the event you are assigned group projects, each student is still expected to complete their own part of the assignment. To the extent that others contribute ideas, suggestions, they must be directly credited by name (and fully cited as appropriate).

Disciplinary action will be taken against any student found in violation of the Code, which may include failure of the given assignment, failure in the course, and possible expulsion from the University. In the event a student fails to abide by the rules set forth in the ETAMU policy, they will receive a grade of 0 on that assignment with no opportunity to make that grade up and the student will be reported to the appropriate university officials.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://www.etamu.edu/student-code-of-conduct/.

 If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at https://www.etamu.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:
https://inside.etamu.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
https://inside.etamu.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage.

Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors 'guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

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In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5930
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: StudentDisabilityServices@etamu.edu
Website: http://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at ETAMU, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit **www.etamu.edu/counsel**

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Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Topic/Task List Items	Read	Assignments
Week 1 1/29-2/1	Introduction to Syllabus and Course Requirements Texas Behavioral Health Council Licenses BACB Ethical Compliance Code	TSBEP Rules & Statutes – most recent update https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Ethics-Code-for-Behavior-Analysts-240201-a.pdf	
Week 2 2/2- 2/8	Texas Behavioral Health Council Licenses Responsible Conduct of Behavior Analysts	Pages 29-59 & 86-115 of TSBEP Handbook, Review APA Ethics code BACB Compliance Code p.9 -10 & Readings in D2L: Contreras et al., 2022	License Discussion
Week 3 2/9 – 2/15	Licenses Duties and Responsibilities	Pages 71-85 of TSBEP Handbook BACB Compliance Code p.10 & Readings in D2L: Rosenberg & Schwartz, 2018; Maintaining Certification	Reflection and Application Paper 1
Week 4 2/16 – 2/22	Complaints and Enforcement	Pages 59-71 of TSBEP Handbook BACB Compliance Code Section 3 (p. 13-14), Code-Enforcement Procedures, Reporting Alleged Violations	
Week 5 2/23 – 3/1	Rules of Practice: Supervision BACB Responsibility in Supervision	Pages 116-123 of TSBEP Handbook BACB Compliance Code Section 4 (p.15-16) & Readings in D2L: Sellers et al., 2017	Reflection and Application Paper 2
Week 6 3/2 – 3/8	Rules of Practice BACB Responsibility in Practice	Pages 123-141 of TSBEP Handbook BACB Compliance Code Section 2 (p.10-12) & Readings in D2L: Cervantes	

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		et al., 2017	
Week 7 3/9 – 3/15	Rules of Practice BACB Responsibility to Clients & Stakeholders; Responsibility and Research	Pages 141-147 of TSBEP Handbook BACB Compliance Code Sections 3 (p. 13-14) & 6 (p.17-18) Readings in D2L: Normand & Donohue, 2023; Collins & Cassill, 2022	Reflection and Application Paper 3
Week 8 3/16 - 3/22	Spring Break		
Week 9 3/23 – 3/29	Rules of Practice BACB Public Statements	Pages 147-151 of TSBEP Handbook BACB Compliance Code Section 5 & Readings in D2L: Smith et al, 2023	Reflection and Application Paper 4
Week 10 3/30 – 4/5	Texas Health and Safety Code	Pages 148-150 of TSBEP Handbook	
Week 11 4/6 – 4/12	Texas Health and Safety Code	Pages 150-156 of TSBEP Handbook	Reflection and Application Paper 5
Week 12 4/13 – 4/19	Texas Family Code Chapter 32	https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.32.htm	
Week 13 4/20 - 4/26	Texas Family Code Chapter 153	https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.153.htm	
Week 14 4/27 - 5/3	Texas Family Code Chapter 261 Texas Human Resources Code Chapter 48	https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.261.htm https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HR/htm/HR.48.htm	Reflection and Application Paper 6 Complete Course Evaluation
Week 15 5/4 – 5/8	Finals Week		

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