

# **Course Information Page for Ethics for Behavior Analysts PSYC 0655- online**

This class is a required course for completion of both the ABA masters degree program as well as the ABA certification series of classes.

You will receive 3 course credits upon successful completion of the course.

Prerequisites to this class include acceptance into the ABA masters degree program at WSU and/or acceptance into the ABA certification series at WSU.

## **Contact Me:**

Instructor: Sarah Boudreau

Sboudreau4@hotmail.com

413 563-2471

I am typically available by email at any point throughout each week. I will do my best to respond to emails within 48 hours. If there is some type of an emergency, please use the phone number to leave a message and I will try to respond sooner. I will set up informal office hours via Blackboard or Facetime if any student wishes to communicate in another method other than email.

## **Course Description:**

This course is for graduate students working towards board certification in Applied Behavior Analysis. Students will be introduced to legal and ethical topics in ABA and complete in depth study of the Behavior Analyst Certification Boards' Guidelines for Responsible Conduct and Professional Disciplinary and Ethical Guidelines. Readings will highlight important perspectives on the ongoing evolution of ethics and social validity in the field. Students will be challenged to consider appropriate decision making in case study scenarios, reflecting on their own personal views of what is good and ethical, the radical behaviorist approach to "good" and ethical behavior, and the BACB guidelines.

## **Required text(s) include:**

Bailey, J. & Burch, M. (2011). *Ethics for behavior analysts: 2nd Expanded Edition*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2007). *Applied Behavior Analysis* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

## **Optional Recommended Texts:**

Hacker, D. & Sommers, N. (2012). *Rules for writers*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Perrin, R., (2009). Pocket Guide to APA Style, Updated Third Edition. Boston, MA: Wadsworth.

## **Scheduling and Deadlines:**

Each tuesday, a week's assignments will be available for completion. All assignments must be completed by the following tuesday at midnight. Late work will be accepted for up to a week, but will be penalized each day with a deduction of points. if work is not submitted within a week of the initial due date, it will not be accepted.

## **Course Objectives**

Throughout this class we will discuss many topics within the field of ethical responsibilities in Applied Behavior Analysis such as

- Guidelines, laws and regulations pertinent to professional activities in Applied Behavior Analysis including special populations such as children and individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Core ethics of science and ABA
- How to systematically carry-out an ethics decision making process in professional ABA case studies.
- How to recognize and avoid professional conflicts of interest.
- How to ethically respond to suspected conduct violations.
- How to ethically obtain informed consent, including with vulnerable populations.
- How to ethically approach the protection of confidential information.
- How to ethically approach behavioral assessment and functional analysis.
- How to ethically select target behaviors for change and intervention goals.
- How to ethically select, implement, monitor and evaluate behavior change procedures.
- How to ethically approach supervision and teaching responsibilities.
- How to fulfill ethical responsibilities to staff, students, colleagues and the field of ABA.
- How to fulfill ethical responsibilities to society.
- How to ethically conduct applied behavior analytic research.

## **Grading**

A (93-100), A- (90 – 93), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C (70-79), F (0-69)

### **10% Quizzes**

- Quizzes will be posted each week and must be completed by midnight on the due date.
- Format will be multiple choice, true/false, short answer
- Content will be based on Bailey and Burch chapters, BACB Guidelines, posted lecture/presentation materials, and other supplemental materials as announced.

### **30% Reading reactions**

- Each week, you will write and post a 2-3 page summary and reaction to the assigned articles.
- In addition, you will review one other student's reading reaction and post 1 to 2 meaningful comments about their paper.
- Detailed assignment instructions will be distributed.

**30% Case study decision and defense papers and or other activities**

- Every week, case study scenarios requiring an ethics decision will be posted.
- You will choose one case to review, determine an appropriate ethical solution, and write a 1-2 page defense of this decision, and/or create a podcast (as determined by weekly assignment), citing appropriate BACB guidelines and other sources as needed.
- You will also select another student's posted defense from the prior week and write a 1-2 page argument, and/or create a podcast (as determine by weekly assignment), for an alternative solution.
- Detailed assignment instructions will be distributed for other activities such as consent form creation and/or interviews

**30% Cumulative final exam**

- Short answer and long essay format covering all course material

**THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES TO EARN EXTRA CREDIT THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER, IF YOU FEEL YOU MAY NEED ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF POINTS, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS YOUR OWN IDEAS FOR OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS**

## **Students with disabilities:**

If you are an individual with disabilities and would like support or accommodations, please contact the campus Banacos center (phone: 572-5789) immediately to discuss a plan, which must be shared with me in writing *by the second class meeting*. Please contact me by e-mail or in person with any questions or concerns.

## **Academic Integrity**

Please review the WSU academic honesty policy. Honesty in your work is expected and taken very seriously. Without exception, you must always complete your own work and you must never use any portion of another's work, words, or ideas and present it as your own. Graduate students are assumed to understand plagiarism and to *actively* avoid it at all times. This literally means that you write with special attention to *avoiding* using other author's words and, in addition to properly citing other's work, you select your words so that they are not the same as the author's you are citing or paraphrasing. You are expected to use appropriate APA citations at all times. Any student who does not strictly follow these rules even one time may fail an assignment or the course. If you have questions, ask immediately. Lack of understanding will not change the consequence.