

**FYC 4114: Ethical Issues in Family, Youth and Community Sciences**  
**Fall 2017, Section 253H, 3 Credit Hours**  
**Course Meeting Time: M 4:05-7:05**

386-365-8025

**Instructor**

Carrie Avery, M.A.

Carrie.avery@ufl.edu

**Office Hours**

Monday (by appointment)

**Textbook:** Ethics for Life: A Text with Readings. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Judith A. Boss, 2014.

**Prerequisites**

This course is designed for advanced undergraduate students in any major that prepares students for assisting children, youth, and families in the community. Junior or senior standing or consent of instructor required.

**Course Description**

This course will explore the principles and practice of ethical decision-making. We will explore different frameworks for making ethical decisions and learn how to apply those perspectives in your personal and professional lives. The course will give students an opportunity to consider controversial social issues from multiple theoretical perspectives and reflect on ethical considerations when working with families, youth and communities.

**Course Objectives**

This course is designed to:

- Provide students with a theoretical foundation for ethical decision-making;
- Prepare students to cope with ethical conflicts they may encounter in their personal and professional lives;
- Familiarize students with multicultural perspectives on ethics;
- Present ethical dilemmas related to social issues experienced by youth, families and communities.

**Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate different approaches and theories underlying the study of professional ethics and ethical decision-making;
- Explain cultural differences in ethical principles and practice;
- Apply current research and standards of practice in professional ethics and ethical decision-making when working with families, youth or communities;
- Evaluate social problems experienced by families, youth or communities from multiple ethical perspectives;
- Propose ethical solutions to professional dilemmas they may encounter.

***Important Note:*** We will discuss many controversial issues in this course. Although there will undoubtedly be areas of disagreement as we discuss specific ethical issues it is imperative that class members feel safe to offer their opinions and ideas. **Students will demonstrate respect for differing beliefs and views expressed within the classroom environment.** At no time will personal innuendoes or attacks be tolerated. Students will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive a 'zero' grade for any graded activity for the day if they are unable to adhere to these guidelines.

### **Course Materials**

All course materials will be provided to students via the course website on Canvas. Go to [www.lss.at.ufl.edu](http://www.lss.at.ufl.edu) to login. Notify the instructor as soon as possible if you do not see the course website upon logging in.

### **Class Attendance**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Students are expected to attend *and participate* in all class sessions. While attendance will not be taken for a grade, participation in class activities and discussion is a substantial part of the course grade. **Students with more than five unexcused absences will receive a failing grade for the course.**

### **Course Grade**

This course will use the following grading scale:

A	93 – 100%
A-	90 – 92%
B+	87 – 89%
B	83 – 86%
B-	80 – 82%
C+	77 – 79%
C	73 – 76%
C-	70 – 72%
D+	67 – 69%
D	63 – 66%
D-	60 -62%
E	<59%

The student's grade for the course will be determined as follows:

<b>Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Assignment One: Professional Ethics</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Assignment Two: Articulate Your Ethical Perspective</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Assignment Three: Debate a Social Issue</b>	<b>30%</b>

**Participation:** Achieving the learning objectives of this course depends heavily on participation in class discussions and activities. Participation accounts for a total of 10% of the student's overall course grade. Two aspects of participation will be graded: 1) participation in class discussions and 2) completion of in-class activities.

**Assignment One: Professional Ethics:** Students will research their field of interest to determine ethical guidelines and practices. Students will evaluate the ethical guidelines and consider ethical dilemmas they may encounter as a professional. The instructor will provide discussion questions and an evaluation instrument for this assignment. This assignment is due in class on 9/25.

**Assignment Two: Articulate Your Personal Ethical Perspective:** Students will articulate their personal ethical perspective after learning about multiple ethical perspectives in the classroom.

Students will apply their ethical perspective as well as one alternative perspective to different scenarios. This assignment is due in class on 10/30.

**Assignment Three: Debate a Social Issue:** Students will select a social issue to research. Students will present their social issue and ethical considerations to the class. Students will select an ethical stance on the social issue and engage in a debate with other students approaching the social issue from a different ethical perspective. Due dates will vary depending on which topic students select. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

### **Late Assignments**

Students may submit late assignments by 5:00 PM within three days of the published due date. For example, if the due date is Monday, the last day to submit **with a late penalty** is Thursday at 5:00 PM. There will be a 10% grade reduction per day late, so an assignment awarded 100% but is three days late is reduced to 70%. **Due to the nature of assignment three, late assignments will not be accepted for this assignment.**

### **Online Course Evaluation Process**

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

### **Academic Honesty**

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or

criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

Dean of Students Office:  
0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

### **Campus Helping Resources**

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)  
Counseling Services  
Groups and Workshops  
Outreach and Consultation  
Self-Help Library  
Wellness Coaching*
- *Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)*

*\*Note: This syllabus and course schedule is intended as a guide by which the course will be conducted. Course content, dates and assignments may be changed at the discretion of the professor when necessary to better meet course goals and objectives.*

### Course Schedule

Week	Topic
8/21	What are ethics? Why are ethics important?
8/28	Moral Reasoning/Models for Ethical Decision-Making
9/4	No class- Labor Day
9/11	Conscience and Moral Development
9/18	Professional Ethics
9/25	Ethical Subjectivism  <b>Assignment One DUE 9/25</b>
10/2	Ethical Theories: Divine Command Theory and Civil Religion
10/9	Ethical Theories: Cultural Relativism and Ethical Egoism
10/16	Ethical Theories: Utilitarianism and Natural Law
10/23	Ethical Theories: Deontology and Rights Ethics
10/30	Ethical Theory: Virtue Ethics  <b>Assignment Two DUE 10/30</b>
11/6	Social Issues
11/13	Social Issues
11/20	Social Issues
11/27	Social Issues
12/4	Case Studies