

Ethical Issues In Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences

FYC4114 | Section 20267 | Fall 2025

100% Online, Asynchronous via Canvas (UF E-Learning)

Welcome to the *Helping-People* Major

Instructor: Dr. Kate H. Fletcher

Email: khfletcher@ufl.edu

Office: McCarty B G085

Student Hours: TBD

Class Location: 100% online, asynchronous via UF E-learning/Canvas

*Please be mindful: Email responses are replied to within a 24-hour period,
M-F from 8am to 4pm.*

Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UGTAs):

Olivia Behringer - Canvas mail

Daniela Frank-Fernandez - Canvas mail

Ruth Joseph - Canvas mail

Ayush Patel - Canvas mail

Natalie Kreider - Canvas mail

Marisa Ricks - Canvas mail

Chelsea Robinson - Canvas mail

THE BASICS: COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ethics and ethical decision-making by professionals working individuals and their families is addressed.

Emphasizes ethical issues related to family relationships and family life.

Prereq: junior standing or higher.

COURSE FORMAT

Session Preview Videos: Engaging short videos designed to provide a brief overview of topics covered.

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Assigned Readings: Carefully selected readings to offer deeper insights.

Media Analyses: Critical evaluations of various media sources to develop and apply analytical skills.

Weekly Quizzes: Quizzes at the end of each week to apply your knowledge of the material covered.

Application Paper: A comprehensive paper where you will apply course concepts to real-world ethical scenarios.

CANVAS/E-LEARNING

All students are expected to check Canvas (<http://elearning.ufl.edu>) on a regular basis (daily is my suggestion). Please ensure that you have access to this service as all course-related materials will be housed in Canvas, this includes your assignments, quizzes, grades, announcements, and email correspondence. The instructor and UGTA's will respond to emails within ~48 hours to all email inquiries, excluding weekends and holidays.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is for all students to gain an understanding of ethical conduct within the areas of research, writing, and professional behavior within the human service professions. Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Understand why ethics are needed in research.
2. Be able to engage in research in an ethical manner.
3. Understand legal issues associated with human service work.
4. Know what plagiarism entails and how to avoid it.
5. Understand ethical decision-making for human service professions.
6. Have an awareness of the common ethical issues for human service professionals.
7. Be able to apply professional ethics in real life situations.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BUY?

COURSE TEXTBOOK

Parsons, R. D., & Dickinson, K. L. (2016). *Ethical practice in the human services: From knowing to being*. SAGE Publications, Inc.

Good news—this textbook is available online for FREE through the UF Library Course Reserves! Additional readings will be provided in Canvas.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

This is an asynchronous course where the expectations are for you to check in weekly to complete work, which includes weekly quizzes. To make the most out of this online course, please do your due diligence by logging in weekly, reading, watching, and completing all assigned course materials and quizzes. If you

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have any issues, difficulties or challenges please do not hesitate to reach out to your instructor via canvas mail. And, please have easy access to the APA 7th edition manual as you will use it for your ethics project.

How to Succeed in this Course

- Log in each week of the semester.
- Complete all work as assigned each week of the semester.
- Pay attention to *Available From* (open), *Due*, and *Until* (grace period) dates.
 - Every assignment and quiz will have a built-in grace period (Until date).
 - No Late work will be accepted due to the built-in grace period for all assignments and quizzes.
- If you're unsure of anything as it pertains to this course, please email your instructor via Canvas mail.
 - We have undergraduate teaching assistants in this course. They have each taken this course and are highly familiar with the course content, please seek their wisdom and input too.
- We are here to support you and your success in this course— please let us know how we may support you to be successful in this semester.

Assignments

All assignments must be submitted to Canvas on the assigned date by 11:59 pm.

- Emailed assignments will not be accepted.
- Each assignment must follow the requirements listed within each assignment.
- All assignments will be graded in our Canvas hub.

MAKE-UP WORK & LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Each assignment has a built-in grace period, allowing you to complete work without late penalty. The deadline and grace period are as follows:

- Due: Fridays at 11:59pm
- Grace Period: Sundays at 11:59pm

If you are unable to complete an assignment by the end of the grace period, please communicate with the instructor in a timely and professional manner to discuss possible accommodations. Note that no make-up work will be accepted after the grace period has ended, and a zero will be recorded for missed assignments/quizzes.

Please refer to the Canvas Hub for all due dates, which are designed to help you stay on pace and provide timely feedback to enhance your learning experience.

- These links are provided in this sentence for university policies on regulations regarding absences: <https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>
 - Additional UF policy and procedure information as it pertains to attendance can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

This course is designed to provide students with the tools, knowledge, and skills regarding ethical issues as they pertain to the field of human services.

Per [8.003](#): Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor. The instructor is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Please remember, **your grade is a direct result of the effort that you put into this course.**

Course Materials	Possible Points
Let's Kick of the Semester Discussion	10
Syllabus Search	10
Weekly Quizzes (<i>course objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</i>)	140
Ethics Project - Step 1 (<i>course objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</i>)	10
Ethics Project - Step 2 (<i>course objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</i>)	20
Ethics Project - Step 3 (<i>course objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</i>)	30
Ethics Project - Final Step (<i>course objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</i>)	40
Ethical Conflicts in Human Services Media Analysis (<i>course objectives: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7</i>)	20
Trainings (<i>course objectives: 4, 5, 6, 7</i>)	20
Total Points	300

LET'S KICK OF THE SEMESTER DISCUSSION (10 points)

This introduction discussion allows you to share your background, goals, and experiences with the instructor and peers, fostering connections and engagement in the course.

SYLLABUS SEARCH (10 points)

Carefully review the course syllabus to familiarize yourself with the course content, policies, and expectations.

WEEKLY QUIZZES (140 points)

- The course consists of 14 modules, accessible on the Home Page and the Pages tab in Canvas.
- Each weekly quiz is designed with an 'unlimited' time frame, allowing you to work at your own pace.
- Each week includes assigned readings, and may also feature recorded lectures, videos, or written submissions.
- Complete the weekly quiz after reviewing the materials.
- Weekly quizzes are worth 10 points each.

ETHICS PROJECT (100 points total)

This Ethics Project is a multi-part assignment designed to help you explore ethical dilemmas in the human services profession. Through this scaffolded approach, you will gradually develop your analysis by completing distinct parts over the course of the semester.

- A detailed rubric for the Ethics Project is available in Canvas under the assignment description.
- Each part builds upon the previous one, so it's important to complete each section thoughtfully.
- Submit your work on time to stay on track with the scaffolded structure of the assignment.

By breaking the assignment into manageable parts, you'll gain a deeper understanding of ethical issues and decision-making processes within human services.

Part 1: Selecting and Describing the Dilemma (10 points)

- Choose a code of ethics relevant to the human services profession, as provided in the course.
- Identify an ethical dilemma from one of the following sources:
 - Real-life experiences
 - News stories
 - Made-up scenarios
 - Media (movies, TV shows, or books)
- Describe the scenario in detail.
- Explain what makes this situation an ethical dilemma, not just a difficult choice.

Part 2: Analyzing Ethical Guidelines (20 points)

- Identify the ethical guidelines relevant to your chosen dilemma.
- Explain how these guidelines apply to the dilemma and what they suggest about potential decisions.

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- Analyze the pros and cons of different possible choices.

Part 3: Applying an Ethical Decision-Making Model (30 points)

- Choose one ethical decision-making model provided in this course.
- Describe the model and how it informs the decision-making process for your dilemma.
- Apply the model to your scenario, explaining how it helps in resolving the ethical issues.

Part 4: Evaluating the Resolution (40 points)

- Describe how the dilemma was resolved in real life, your story, or the media source.
- Analyze the resolution:
 - Do you agree with how it was resolved? Why or why not?
 - What are the potential consequences of the decision?
 - Suggest better or worse alternatives for resolving the dilemma.

ETHICAL CONFLICTS IN HUMAN SERVICES MEDIA ANALYSIS (20 points total)

The Ethical Conflicts in Human Services Media Analysis assignment invites students to critically analyze ethical dilemmas presented in media, such as movies, TV shows, books, or podcasts, and connect them to the principles and guidelines of ethics in the context of human services. By engaging with media examples, students will practice identifying ethical issues, applying relevant codes of ethics, and proposing thoughtful resolutions. You will submit 2 of these assignments, each worth 10 points.

TRAININGS (20 points total)

LinkedIn Learning: Crucial Conversations (10 points) – Develop essential communication skills to effectively navigate high-stakes, emotional, or sensitive conversations with confidence and respect.

Academic Integrity Module (10 points) – Gain a clear understanding of academic honesty, ethical decision-making, and university policies to uphold integrity in academic work.

Grading

COURSE GRADING

assignment, activity, and quiz, has a point value attached to it. You will earn these points as you successfully complete them.

A minimum grade of "C" is required for General Education credit.

A = 93-100%

C = 73-76%

A- = 90-92%

C- = 70-72%

B+ = 87-89%

D+ = 67-69%

B = 83-86%

D = 63-66%

B- = 80-82%

D- = 60 – 62%

C+ = 77-79%

E = 59%

COURSE CALENDAR

Our Course Calendar is subject to change based on circumstances that are beyond our control.

If there are any changes, please expect to receive an **Announcement via Canvas** with any changes, updates, information, or other. **Please ensure your Canvas settings are set to receive announcements via your UFL email.**

FYC4114: Course Calendar			
WEEK	DATE	WEEKLY TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
1	8/18 - 8/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the syllabus for the Syllabus Search (opens) Course welcome & introduction video Let's Kick off the Semester Discussion Quiz 1 Classes Begin 8/21 	Syllabus Search & Discussion: Opens 8/21 @12:00am; Quiz 1: Due date Friday 8/22 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 8/24 @11:59pm
2	8/25 - 8/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syllabus Search & Let's Kick off the Semester Discussion (closes) Self-care & Quiz 2 LinkedIn Learning: Crucial Conversations Drop/Add ends Wednesday 8/27 @11:59pm 	Quiz 2, Syllabus Search, Discussion & Crucial Conversations: Due date Friday 8/29 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 8/31 @11:59pm
3	9/1 - 9/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of ethical issues in research & Quiz 3 Labor Day is 9/1 	Quiz 3: Due date Friday 9/5 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 9/7 @11:59pm

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WEEK	DATE	WEEKLY TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
4	9/8 - 9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethics and AI & Quiz 4 Ethics Project Step 1: Selecting & Describing the Dilemma 	Quiz 4 & Step 1: Due date Friday 9/12 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 9/14 @11:59pm
5	9/15 - 9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the IRB & IRB Expectations; HIPAA & FERPA & Quiz 5 Ethical Conflicts in Human Services Media Analysis #1 	Quiz 5 & Media Analysis #1: Due date Friday 9/19 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 9/21 @11:59pm
6	9/22 - 9/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plagiarism and academic honesty & Quiz 6 Ethics Project Step 2: Analyzing Ethical Guidelines Academic Integrity Module 	Quiz 6, Step 2, & Academic Integrity: Due date Friday 9/26 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 9/28 @11:59pm
7	9/29 - 10/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethics in research and writing & Quiz 7 Mid-Semester Feedback 	Quiz 7 & Mid-Semester Feedback: Due date Friday 10/3 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 10/5 @11:59pm
8	10/6 - 10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping professions & ethical standards in helping professions & Quiz 8 Ethics Project Step 3: Applying an Ethical Decision-Making Model 	Quiz 8 & Step 3: Due date Friday 10/10 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 10/12 @11:59pm
9	10/13 - 10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethics & the law & ethical decision-making & Quiz 9 Ethical Conflicts in Human Services Media Analysis #2 UF Homecoming is 10/17 	Quiz 9 & Media Analysis #2: Due date Thursday 10/16 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 10/18 @11:59pm
10	10/20 - 10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidentiality & mandatory reporting & Quiz 10 	Quiz 10: Due date Friday 10/24 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 10/26 @11:59pm
11	10/27 - 10/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed consent & Quiz 11 Ethics Project Step 4: Evaluating the Resolution 	Quiz 11 & Step 4: Due date Friday 10/31 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 11/2 @11:59pm

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WEEK	DATE	WEEKLY TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
12	11/3 - 11/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundaries & ethical use of power & Quiz 12 Veterans Day is 11/11 	Quiz 12: Due date Friday 11/7 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 11/9 @11:59pm
13	11/10 - 11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficacy of treatment & accountability & Quiz 13 	Quiz 13: Due date Friday 11/14 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 11/16 @11:59pm
14	11/17 - 11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competence & Quiz 14 Drop Deadline ends Monday 11/17 	Quiz 14: Due date Friday 11/21 @11:59pm; Grace period Sunday 11/23 @11:59pm
15	11/24 - 11/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall Break 11/24 - 11/28 	Extra Credit Semester Break Quiz: Due date Sunday 11/30 @11:59pm; Grace period Tuesday 12/2/25 @11:59pm
16	12/1 - 12/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congratulations! You did it, All work has been completed; Enjoy your Winter Break! UF Reading Days 12/4 - 12/5 	

UF POLICIES AND SERVICES

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

- Adobe
 - [Adobe Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Adobe Accessibility](#)
- Perusall
 - [Perusal Accessibility](#)
 - [Perusal Privacy](#)
- Sonic Foundry (Mediasite Streaming Video Player)
 - [Sonic Foundry Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Mediasite Accessibility](#) (PDF)
- YouTube (Google)

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- [YouTube \(Google\) Privacy Policy](#)
- [YouTube \(Google\) Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Zoom Accessibility](#)

**The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus and to make appropriate updates. Changes to the syllabus, including the course calendar, will be communicated via *Date Revised in the header section of this syllabus.*