



BHS 420 Practicum (3-1) Winter 2011

Class Schedules:

Class Times: M 1:00-2:15

Room: TBA

Instructor Information

Instructor: Alex Sanderson-MacIntyre

Phone: 410-2000 ext. 5907

Office: L2101

E-Mail: asanderson@ambrose.edu

Course Description:

A continuation of the supervised practical experience placement in a community, faith-based, or social agency related to the student's interest and/or future plans. Seminars will focus on the relationship between ethical issues and practical issues and models of ethical decision-making as related to the behavioural sciences.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate:

- Skills in identifying and clarifying the specific ethical concerns that emerge as a result of the unique nature of the helping relationship;
- The ability to mobilize his or her values, beliefs, needs, and goals in order to further the healthy development of individuals, groups, or programs;
- A deeper understanding of the professional skills, competencies, and challenges unique to the process of becoming an ethical practitioner;
- The ability to apply the ethical and legal principles to a variety of settings and human experiences; and
- Assimilation of the professional and ethical principles into his or her own value structure, thus becoming an ethical behavioural science practitioner.

Textbooks

Truscott, D., & Crook, K. H. (2004). *Ethics for the practice of psychology in Canada*. Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta Press.

Course Requirements and Grading

- 1) **Journal/Text assignments:** Your journal should contain a record of your volunteering activities. You should incorporate your reactions (emotional and cognitive) to practicum experiences in a manner that is critically reflective and exploratory in nature. You will also be required to chart your stress and self-care activities throughout the term in order for you to assess your competency on a regular basis. The journal will also include your responses to the assigned exercises from the text and class. In total, there will be ten (10) textbook exercise assignments that are due on the day that each chapter will be discussed. Specifics of each assignment will be provided, but will normally involve responding to questions that require self-reflection, skill review, and/or application to your current practicum placement. You will be asked to share portions of your responses during class. The journal and completed exercises are worth **40%** of your final grade and are due on **April 4, 2011**
- 2) **Supervisor Evaluation:** Site supervisors will be asked to complete a comprehensive evaluation of your practicum performance. Areas to be evaluated include basic work effectiveness (e.g., time use, reliability), ethical awareness and conduct (e.g., sensitivity, consultation), knowledge and learning (e.g., of clients, role and purpose of professional setting), response to supervision (e.g., seeking and receiving feedback), interactions with clients and co-workers (e.g., rapport-building, communication), and productivity (e.g., record keeping, report writing). Supervisor evaluations will be handed out three weeks prior to the end of term and are due on **April 4, 2011**. The supervisor evaluation will be worth **20%** of the final grade.
- 3) **Reflection Paper:** You will also be required to complete a brief (5-6 pages) reflection paper as it pertains to your practicum experience. The focus of the paper should be to articulate any ethical, legal, and/or professional issues that were notable during your practicum. Chapters 4 through 9 will be useful in organizing your reflections for this assignment and your journal will provide the detailed information from your practicum experience. This reflection paper is due on **April 4, 2011**, and is worth **20%** of your final grade.
- 4) **Participation:** You will be required to be an informed and active participant for all class discussions. Your participation is worth **20%** of your final grade.

All requirements must be completed to receive a passing grade in this course.

Grading: The available letters for course grades are as follows:

Percentage:	Letter Grade:	Grade Point Weight:
96-100	A+	4.0
91-95	A	4.0
86-90	A-	3.7
82-85	B+	3.3
75-81	B	3.0
72-74	B-	2.7
68-71	C+	2.3
63-67	C	2.0
60-62	C-	1.7
56-59	D+	1.3
50-55	D	1.0
0-49	F	

Course Schedule

January 17	Introduction
January 24	Ch. 1 Ethical Principles and Systems
January 31	Ch. 2 Professional Standards
February 7	Ch. 3 Law and Legal Standards
February 14	Ch. 4 Ethical Decision Making
February 21	No Class (Reading Week)
February 28	Ch. 5 Free and Informed Consent
March 7	Ch. 6 Confidentiality
March 14	Ch. 7 Professional Boundaries
March 21	Ch. 8 Maintaining and Enhancing Competence
March 22	Ch. 9 Providing Services Across Cultures
March 28	No Class (Student Conference)
April 4	Ch. 10 Social Justice and Responsibility
	Completion of hours/supervisor evaluations

Important Notes

Learning and Classroom Etiquette

In the Behavioural Science Department we believe that learning is an active and interactive process, a joint venture between student and teacher and between student and student (i.e., learning is not just “downloading” information from teacher to student). Therefore, it is expected that professors will come to each class well read and prepared to engage students on the topic at hand, giving students the utmost attention and respect. In

turn, it is expected that students will take an active role in the learning process. This includes: (a) regular class attendance, (b) reading course material in advance of class, (c) showing up to class on time, and (d) attentively and proactively being “present” at class (i.e., not on the internet, not texting, not conversing with the person beside you). Committing to this type of "active learning" significantly increases the learning experience for both teacher and student, and reflects the Christian ethos of excellence and respect that lies at the heart of the Ambrose educational experience.

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.

Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty 21 January 2011

The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course or change to audit without academic penalty 18 March 2011

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension.” Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.”

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.
