

**Wurzweiler School of Social Work Yeshiva University**  
**SWK6134 – Social Work Values and Ethics**  
**Summer 2015**

## **Course Outline**

### **I. Course Description**

This course is intended to assist students at the advanced level of practice to assess their work with individuals, families, groups, and communities from an ethical perspective. While ethics is addressed in all areas of social work education, this course will provide the theory and framework for making sound ethical decision-making. The focus of this course begins with an overview of the values of social work practice, utilizing the NASW Code of Ethics as a framework. Students will become familiar with the challenges of negotiating value conflicts that emerge between the worker, professional standards, agency, and personal religious values versus professional values in the work environment.

The deontological, utilitarian, and moral theories will be the basis for ethical decision-making and justification models will be introduced through the use of concrete issues and cases, thus combining theoretical frameworks with practical analysis. Students will learn the difference between a value conflict and an ethical dilemma, how to apply theory, and a model for mediating ethical dilemmas in their work with individuals, families, and groups, in social policy, and in social welfare. The exploration of values and ethics reinforces the profession's commitment to its standards and codes of practice. It is an in-depth exploration of values introduced in first-year courses, such as Foundations of Social Work Practice, Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Cultural Diversity, and Social Welfare Organization.

### **Course Objectives**

**By the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:**

1. Their appreciation and understanding of the history and evolution of values and ethics in the social work profession (CSWE advanced competency 2.1.2).
2. Knowledge and skills to relevant ethics concepts and theories of ethics in social work practice (CSWE advanced competency 2.1.2)
3. Knowledge about professional values and ethical standards of practice and their role in competent, ethical social work (CSWE advanced competency 2.1.1, 2.1.3).
4. Recognize the value conflicts that may arise in professional practice (CSWE advanced competency 2.1.3).
5. Increased self-awareness and develop an awareness of the interplay of personal values on their professional behavior (2.1.2, 2.1.3).
6. Their ability to recognize ethical dilemmas in social work practice and to apply ethical decision-making frameworks and protocols through enhanced use of critical thinking skills (2.1.3).
7. Recognize and embrace the unique values of social work: service, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, competence (professional and cultural), integrity, and fairness and social justice when addressing value conflicts and

ethical dilemmas 2.1.4, 2.1.5).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There will be two assignments for this course, a mid-term describing a value conflict and a final paper presenting an ethical dilemma, the theoretical framework that applies to it, and the ethical justification model. The specific requirements of each written assignment can be found later in this outline. Late papers will be accepted at the discretion of your professor and may result in lower grades. Attendance is required and will be adhered to, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

### **PLAGIARISM:**

Students should remember that the School will not condone plagiarism in any form and will sanction acts of plagiarism. A student who presents someone else's work as his or her own work is stealing from the authors or persons who did the original thinking and writing. Plagiarism occurs when a student directly copies another's work without citation; when a student paraphrases major aspects of another's work without citation; and when a student combines the work of different authors into a new statement without reference to those authors. It is also plagiarism to use the ideas and/or work of another student and present them as your own. It is not plagiarism to formulate your own presentation of an idea or concept as a reaction to someone else's work; however, the work to which you are reacting should be discussed and appropriately cited. Any student who can be shown to have plagiarized any part of any assignment in this course will automatically **FAIL** the course and will be referred to the Associate Dean for disciplinary action, which may include expulsion.

### **HIPAA ALERT:**

In line with the new HIPAA regulations concerning protected health information, it is important that you understand that any case information you present from your work will need to be de-identified. What this means is that any information that would allow another to identify the person needs to be changed or eliminated. This includes obvious things like names and birth dates but may also contain other information that is so unique to the person that it will allow for identification, including diagnosis, race/ethnicity, or gender. If diagnosis, race/ethnicity, gender is directly related to the case presentation it can be included if it will not allow for identification.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who are enrolled in this course and who will be requesting documented disability-related accommodations are asked to make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services, Rochelle Kohn, Beren Campus, 917-326-4828, [rkohn1@yu.edu](mailto:rkohn1@yu.edu), Abby Kelsen, Wilf Campus, 646-685-0118, [akelsen@yu.edu](mailto:akelsen@yu.edu), during the first week of class. After approval for accommodations is granted, please submit your accommodations letter to Disability Services Office immediately.

### **Required Texts:**

\*Beauchamp, T.L. & Childress, J.F. (2012). *Principles of biomedical ethics*, (7th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0199924585

\*Reamer, F.G. (2006). *Social work values and ethics*, (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) New York: Columbia University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0231137898

## Suggested Texts:

Levine, C. (2013). *Taking sides: Clashing views on bioethical issues*, (13<sup>th</sup> ed.) New York, NY: McGraw Hill. ISBN – 13: 978-0078050114

Linzer, N. (1999) *Resolving Ethical Dilemmas in Social Work Practice*.

Loewenberg, F.M., Dolgoff, R. & Harrington, D. (2000). *Ethical decisions for social work*

## VII. Assignments

### First Assignment

Select a situation from your practice where there is a conflict between you and a colleague, agency, parent or supervisor, over a client or group. This model does not apply to conflicts between you and the client. Describe the conflict in detail. Utilizing Levy's Values Classification model, provide the details of each of the three classifications from each position. As this classification model is not meant to provide resolution, enter any resolution or solution that occurred since the conflict, and how you understand the conflict as a result of using this classification model. (CSWE Advanced Competencies: 2.1.1, 2.1.2)

### Final Paper: An Ethical Dilemma

The purpose of this paper is to achieve the main objectives of the course: to identify an ethical dilemma and detail the process of its resolution and justification.

Select a topic, preferably from your practice, that has wider social import. Obtain prior approval of the topic from your instructor.

1. Discuss the history or genesis of the ethical dilemma and, if applicable, the values underlying the topic from the perspectives of society, the profession, religion, the agency, the client, and your own.
2. Present a case in which the social worker is in conflict with the family, agency, colleagues, group, or community over this ethical dilemma. Describe the specific conflict situation.
3. Present the ethical dilemma in one or two sentences.
4. Utilizing the Ethical Justification Model of Beauchamp & Childress, apply the model to your case. Begin with the background information
  - a. Identify any value conflicts that may be present in the ethical dilemma.
  - b. Identify ethical **principles and theories** as they pertain to the ethical dilemma.
  - c. Identify possible courses of action and the benefits/costs and possible outcomes of each.
  - d. Make the decision/resolution and explain how and why you arrived at that decision.
  - e. Discuss how your personal values entered into the decision-making process.
5. Throughout the paper, cite relevant literature on the topic and on the value and ethical considerations.
6. Use APA style consistently. Proofread and use spell-check. Approximate length: 10-12 pages. Follow this outline accurately. Deviation will lead to a lower grade.

(CSWE Advanced Competencies: 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5)

## Course Outline

- Indicates available on E-RES

### I. Values Theoretical Framework (Sessions 1-3)

1. The nature of values
2. Definition of values
3. Values in contrast to preferences
4. The functions of values
5. Values classification model

#### Readings:

Barsky, A.E. (2010). *Ethics and values in social work: An integrated approach for a comprehensive curriculum*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Pg. 12-30.

\*Levy, C. (1974) The value base of social work.

\*Gordon, W. (1965) Knowledge and value: Their distinction and relationship in clarifying social work practice. *Social Work 10* (3), 32-39.

\*Linzer, N. (1992). The role of values in determining agency policy. *Families in Society 73* (9), 553-558.

Loewenberg, F.M., Dolgoff, R. & Harrington, D.. (2009). *Ethical decisions for social work practice*. Chapter 2.

Reamer, F.G. (2006). *Social work values and ethics*, Chapter 1&2

### II. Value Conflicts Between Social Worker and Client (Session 4)

Moving from the nature and function of values, this unit focuses on the nature of value conflicts between social worker and client.

1. Value conflicts and Cultural Competence
2. Informed Consent
3. Confidentiality/Duty to Warn
4. Paternalism vs. Autonomy

#### Readings

\*Abramson, M. (1989). Autonomy vs. paternalistic beneficence: Practice strategies. *Social Casework 70*, 101-105.

\*Abramson, M. (1985). The autonomy-paternalism dilemma in social work practice. *Social Casework, 66* (7), 387-393.

Beauchamp, T.L. and Childress, J.F. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. Chapter 3: Respect for autonomy, Chapter 5: Beneficence

Suggested Readings:

*Is informed consent still central to medical ethics?* Yes: Arnold, R.M. & Lidz, C.W.; No: O'Neill in Levine, C. (2010) *Taking Sides: Clashing views on bioethical issues* (13<sup>th</sup> Ed).

*Should truth-telling depend on the patient's culture?* Yes: Blackhall, Frank, Murphy, & Michel; No: Kuczewski & McCrudden in Levine, C. (2010) *Taking Sides: Clashing views on bioethical issues* (13<sup>th</sup> Ed).

Walker, R., & Staton, M. (2000). Multiculturalism in social work ethics. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 36, 449-462.

### III. Conflict Between Personal and Professional Values (Session 5)

1. What is the social worker to do with personal values in the professional context?
2. Factors that influence personal values, with a particular emphasis on religion.
3. Dealing with personal values and ethics and their interface with professional values and ethics.

Readings:

\*Levy, C. (1976) Personal vs. professional values: The practitioner's dilemma. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 4 (2), 110-120.

\*Linzer, N. (1999) *Resolving ethical dilemmas*, Chapter 3.

Loewenberg, F.M. (1988). *Religion and social work practice in contemporary American society*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 3.

Danzig, R. (1986) Religious values vs. professional values: Dichotomy or dialectic? *The Jewish Social Work Forum*, 22, 41-53.

Osmo, R.; Landau, R.. (2003). Religious and secular belief systems in social work: A survey of Israeli social work professionals. *Families in Society* 84:3, 359-366.

\*Reamer, F. (1982) Conflicts of professional duty in social work. *Social Casework*, 63, (10), 579-585.

Reamer, F. (2006). *Social work values and ethics*, 115 – 121.

### IV. Ethics (Session 6-8)

#### Session #6

1. The intersection of values and ethics
2. Nature of ethics
3. Sources of ethics

Readings:

\*Linzer, N., (1999) *Resolving ethical dilemmas in social work practice*, Chapter 4

\*Loewenberg, F. M., & Dolgoff, R. & Harrington, D. (2000). *Ethical decisions for social work practice*. Itasca, Illinois: F.E. Peacock.

Reamer, F. (2006) *Social work values and ethics*, chapter 3

#### Session #7

1. Identifying ethical dilemmas
2. Ethical Theories - deontology, utilitarianism.

Beauchamp & Childress (2012) *Principles in Biomedical Ethics* (7<sup>th</sup> edition), Chapter 8

Session #8

1. The process of ethical decision-making
2. Ethical Justification models justification.

Beauchamp, T.L. and Childress, J.F. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. Chapter 4: Non-Maleficence

## **V. Ethical Dilemmas in Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities (Session 9-11)**

Readings:

\*Applewhite, L.W. & Joseph, M.V. (1994). Confidentiality: Issues in working with self-harming adolescents. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 11 (4), 279-294.

\*Kanani, K., & Regehr, C. (2003). Clinical, ethical, and legal issues in E-therapy. *Families in Society: Journal of contemporary human services* 84, 155–162.

Kadushin, G. (2001). Ethical dilemmas in home-health care: A social work perspective. *Health and Social Work* 26 (3), 136-149.

Koenig, T.L.; Rinfrette, E.S.; Lutz, W.A. (Sept 2006). Female caregivers' reflections on ethical decision-making: The intersection of domestic violence and elder care. *Clinical Social Work Journal* 34 (3) 361-372.

Reamer, F. (2006). *Social work values and ethics*, Chapter 4

Zygmund, M. & Boorhem, H. (1989) Ethical decision-making in family therapy. *Family process* 28(3), 269-280.

<http://mftcourses.net/documents/zygmund%20borhem%2089.pdf>

Suggested Reading:

In Levine, C., (2010). *Taking sides: Clashing views in biomedical ethics*

Is it ethical to use steroids and surgery to stunt disabled children's growth? Yes: Shannon, S., from "In support of the Ashley Treatment" No: Savage, T. (2006) "In opposition of the Ashley Treatment" in Levine, C. (2010) *Taking Sides: Clashing views on bioethical issues* (13<sup>th</sup> Ed.)

## **VI. Ethics In Policy and Criminal Justice, End of Life Issues (Session 12)**

### Readings:

Beauchamp, T.L. and Childress, J.F. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, Chapter 6: Justice

Callahan, J. (1994). The ethics of assisted suicide. *Health and Social Work, 19*, 237-244.

Greenhouse, L. (1996, June 14). Justices recognize confidential privilege between therapist and patient. *The New York Times*.

(<http://www.nytimes.com.96/14/6/front/scotus/privilege.html>)

\*Mallen, M., Vogel, D., Rochlen, A., (2005) The practical aspects on online counseling: Ethics, training, technology, and competency. *Counseling psychologist, 33*; 776.

Reamer, F. (2006). *Social work values and ethics*, Chapter 5

\*Shernoff, M., (2000). Cyber-counseling for queer clients and clinicians. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services, 11*; 105–111.

### Suggested Readings:

Does Military necessity override medical ethics? Yes: Gross, M. No: Bloche, M.G. & Marks, J. in Levine, C. (2010) *Taking Sides: Clashing views on bioethical issues* (13<sup>th</sup> Ed.)

## **VII. Ethics in Research, Supervision, and Administration (Session 13,14)**

### Readings:

\*Gillespie, D. (1995) Ethical issues in research. In R.L. Edwards (Ed.-in-Chief) *Encyclopedia of Social Work* (19<sup>th</sup> ed.) Washington, DC: NASW Press, 884-892.

Martin, J.I. (2000). Methodological and ethical issues in research on lesbians and gay men. *Social Work Research, 24* (1), 51-59.

\*Shapiro, D.E. & Schulman, C.E. (1996). Ethical and legal issues in e-mail therapy. *Ethics & Behavior* 6, 107–124.

### Suggested Reading:

In Levine, C. *Taking sides: Clashing views in biomedical ethics*

*Should Prisoners be allowed to participate in research?* Yes: Institute of Medicine Committee on Ethical consideration for Revisions to DHHS Regulations for Protection of Prisoners Involved in Research (2006) No: Talvi, S.J.A. “End of Medical Experimentation on Prisoners Now” (2006) in Levine, C. (2010) *Taking Sides: Clashing views on bioethical issues* (13<sup>th</sup> Ed.)

## Bibliography

Abramson, M. (1996). Reflections on knowing oneself ethically: Toward a framework for social work practice. *Families and Society*, 77, 195-201.

Abramson, M. (1996). Toward a more holistic understanding of ethics in social work. *Social Work in Health Care*, 23:2, 1-14.

American Psychological Association. (1991). *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*. Washington DC: APA.

Applewhite, L.W. & Joseph, M.V. (1994). Confidentiality: Issues in working with self-harming adolescents. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 11:4, 279-294.

Barker, R. L. (2003). *The Social Work Dictionary*, (5<sup>th</sup> Ed). Washington, DC. NASW Press

Beauchamp, T.L., & Childress, J.F. (2009). (6<sup>th</sup> ed) *Principles of biomedical ethics*.

Berkman, C. & Zinberg, G. (1997). Homophobia and heterosexism in social workers. *Social Work*, 42:4, 319-332.

Berman-Rossi, T. & Rossi, P. (1990). Confidentiality and informed consent in school social work. *Social Work in Education*, 12:4, 195-207.

Brennan, S. (1999). Recent work in feminist ethics. *Ethics*, 109:4, 858-893.

Callahan, J. (1994). The ethics of assisted suicide. *Health and Social Work*, 19, 237-244.

Freud, S.; Krug, S. (2002). Beyond the code of ethics, part I: Complexities of ethical decision-making in social work practice. *Families in Society* 83:5/6, 474-482.

Congress, E. (2000). What social workers should know about ethics: Understanding and resolving practice dilemmas. *Advances in Social Work* 1:1, 1-25.

Cottone, R.R; Claus, R.E. (2000). Ethical decision-making models: A review of the literature. *Journal of Counseling and Development* 78:3, 275-283.

- Finn, J. (2002). MSW student perceptions of the efficacy and ethics of Internet-based therapy. *Journal of Social Work Education* 38, 403–419.
- Furman, R., Downey, E.P & Jackson, R.L. (2004). Exploring the ethics of treatments for depression: the ethics of care perspective. *Smith College Studies in Social Work*, 74:3, 525-538.
- Galambos, C. (1999). Resolving ethical conflicts in a managed care environment. *Health and Social Work*, 24:3, 191-197.
- Garrett, K.J. (1994). Caught in a bind: Ethical decision-making in schools. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 2, 97-105.
- Gelman, S., Pollack, D., Weiner, A. (1999). Confidentiality of social work records in the computer age. *Social Work*, 44 (3), 243-251.
- Gillespie, D. (1995) Ethical issues in research. In R.L. Edwards (Ed.-in-Chief) *Encyclopedia of Social Work* (19<sup>th</sup> ed.) Washington, DC: NASW Press, 884-892.
- Greenhouse, L. (1996, June 14). Justices recognize confidential privilege between therapist and patient. *The New York Times*.  
(<http://www.nytimes.com.96/14/6/front/scotus/privilege.html>)
- Hartman, A., & Laird, J. (1998). Moral and ethical issues in working with lesbians and gay men. *Families in Society*, 79 (3), 263-276.
- Hugman, R. (2003). Professional ethics in social work: Living with the legacy. *Australian Social Work*, 33:8; 1025-1042.
- Kadushin, G. (2001). Ethical dilemmas in home-health care: A social work perspective. *Health and Social Work* 26:3; 136-149.
- Kagan, C. (2002). *Continuing education professional ethics for social workers*. Acacia Park Center for Continuing Education.
- Kagle, J. & Kopels, S. (1994). Confidentiality after Tarasoff. *Health and social work*, 19:3; 217-222.
- Kanani, K., & Regehr, C. (2003). Clinical, ethical, and legal issues in E-therapy. *Families in Society: Journal of contemporary human services* 84, 155–162.
- Kirst-Ashman, K. K. & Hull, G. H. (2003). *Understanding generalist practice (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.)*. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- Koenig, T.L.; Rinfrette, E.S.; Lutz, W.A. (Sept 2006). Female caregivers' reflections on ethical decision-making: The intersection of domestic violence and elder care. *Clinical*

*social work journal* 34:3; 361-372.

Kopels, S. (1992). Confidentiality and the school social worker. *Social Work in Education* 14:4, 203-205.

Levy, C.S. (1976). *Social work ethics*. New York: Human Sciences Press.

Lewis, H. (1984). Ethical assessment. *Social Casework*, 65, 203-211.

Linzer, N. (1999). *Resolving ethical dilemmas in social work practice*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Loewenberg, F. M., & Dolgoff, R. & Harrington, D. (2000). *Ethical decisions for social work practice*. Itasca, Illinois: F.E. Peacock.

Mallen, M., Vogel, D., Rochlen, A., (2005) The practical aspects on online counseling: Ethics, training, technology, and competency. *Counseling psychologist*, 33; 776.

Martin, J.I. (2000). Methodological and ethical issues in research on lesbians and gay men. *Social Work Research*, 24:1, 51-59.

Mattison, M. ( 2000). The process of ethical decision-making: The person in the process. *Social Work*, 45:3, 201-212.

Millstein, K. (2000). Confidentiality in direct social-work practice: Inevitable challenges and ethical dilemmas. *Families in Society*, 81 (3), 270-282.

Mitchell, C. (1996). Assisted suicide: A conflict of social work values. *Social Work and Christianity*, 23 (2), 102-114.

National Association of Social Workers. (1999). *NASW code of ethics*. Washington DC: NASW Press.

National Association of Social Workers. (2001). *NASW standards for cultural competence in social work practice*. (2001). Washington DC: NASW Press.

Reamer, F.G. (1983) Ethical dilemmas in social work practice. *Social Work* 28:1, 31-35.

Reamer, F. (1993). *The philosophical foundations of social work*. New York: Columbia.

Reamer, F.G. (1995) Ethics and values. In R.L. Edwards (Ed.-in-Chief) *Encyclopedia of Social Work* (19<sup>th</sup> ed). Washington, DC: NASW Press, 893-902.

Reamer, F. (1995). *Social Work Values and ethics*. New York: Columbia. 51-57.

Reamer, F. G. (1995). Malpractice claims against social workers: First facts. *Social Work*. 40, 595-601.

- Reamer, F. G. (1998). The Evolution of Social Work Ethics. *Social Work*, 43, 488-500.
- Reamer, F.G. (2000). The social work ethics audit: A risk-management strategy. *Social Work*, 45:4, 355-372.
- Reamer, F. G. (2002). Ethical Issues in Social Work. In A. R. Roberts, & G. J. Greene, (Eds.), *Social Workers' Desk Reference*, pp. 65-69. New York: Oxford
- Reamer, F.G. (2003). Boundary issues in social work: Managed dual relationships. *Social Work* 48:1, 121-133.
- Reamer, F.G. (2003). *Social work malpractice and liability: Strategies for prevention*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Shapira, B. & Lischinsky, O. (2009). Ethical dilemmas: The experiences of Israeli nurses. *Qualitative Health Research* 19 (11), 1602-1611. Wesley, C.A.
- Shapiro, D.E. & Schulman, C.E. (1996). Ethical and legal issues in e-mail therapy. *Ethics & Behavior* 6, 107-124.
- Shernoff, M. (2000). Cybercounseling for queer clients and clinicians. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, 11;105-111.
- Strom-Gottfried, K. (2000). Ensuring ethical practice: An examination of NASW code violations, 1986-97. *Social Work*, 45, 251-261.
- Strom-Gottfried, K. (2000). Ethical vulnerability in social work education: An analysis of NASW complaints, 1986-97. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 36. 241-252.
- Walker, R., & Staton, M. (2000). Multiculturalism in social work ethics. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 36, 449-462.
- Walz, T. (2000). Gandhian principles in social work practice: Ethics revisited. *Social Work*, 45 (3), 213-222.
- Wells, M., Mitchel, K., Finkelhor, D., Becker-Blease, K. (2007) On-line mental health treatment: Concerns and considerations. *Cyber-Psychology and behavior*, 10:3, 453-457.
- Wesley, C.A. (1996). Social work and end-of-life decisions: Self-determination and the common good. *Health and Social Work*, 21:2, 115-21.
- Witkin, S. (2000). Ethics-r-us. *Social Work*, 45:3, 197-200.

