

Subject Details	Subject Title, code and credit hours	PSYC 435, Ethical Principles in Psychology, 6 AKTS	
	Department	Psychology	
	Program (bachelor's and master's degree)	Bachelor's degree	
	Associated Term	2025/2026 fall semester	
	Instructor	Aytaj Nuruzada	
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	Phone	+994102120864	
	Lecture room/Schedule		
	Consultations	Tuesday and Thursday at the university by appointment or online (around 10-15 minutes).	
Teaching language	English		
Subject type (mandatory/elective)	Mandatory		
Readings	Main textbooks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Knapp, S. J. & VandeCreek, L.D. 2009. Practical Ethics for Psychologists.Koocher, G. P. & Keith-Spiegel, P. 2016. Ethics in Psychology and the Mental Health Professions. 4th edition. Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">American Psychological Association. Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.Francis, R. D. 2009. Ethics for Psychologists. 2nd edition.Knapp S., Berman J., Gottlieb M., Handelsman M. 2007. When Laws and Ethics Collide: What Should Psychologists Do? APA.Psixoloji yardım haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu		
Teaching methods	Lecture	+	
	Group discussions	+	
	Activities	+	
	Case Studies	+	
	Other		
Assessment and Grading	Components	Deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm exam	8th week	30
	Quiz	December	5
	Being active member of learning community	During the semester	10
	Attendance	During the semester	5
	Individual Presentation	December	10
	Final exam	January	40
Course Description	This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the ethical principles and standards that govern the practice of psychology. It explores the foundational ethical frameworks, professional codes of conduct, and the legal responsibilities that guide psychologists in various settings, including clinical practice, research, and education.		

Course aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide students with a broad overview and general understanding of the many ethical questions and dilemmas that psychologists encounter.• Familiarize students with the role of ethical behavior and decision-making in professional practice.• Help students clarify and understand how their own values impact the ethical choices they will be called to make in their everyday practice.	
Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and explain the foundational ethical principles and standards that guide the practice of psychology, including APA’s Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, and law.• Utilize ethical decision-making models to analyze and resolve ethical dilemmas encountered in psychological practice.• Reflect on personal ethical practice and communicate ethical decisions.	
Marking Criteria	<p>Being active member of learning community - Contributing to class discussions, sharing insights, and integrating comments during lecture time. Actively participating in group work and discussions. Engage and perform in role plays. Compete in online quizzes.</p> <p>Individual Presentation – Working on a creative project chosen by the students and presenting the project in class. The project and presentation should be more than a summary of the literature. Projects can be demonstrations, engaging activities in class, experiments in class, or research.</p>	
Rules (educational policy and behavior)	<p><i>Attendance.</i> It is important for students to attend all classes. If a student is unable to attend classes for a valid reason (illness, family status, etc.), they must report the matter to the faculty dean. It is expected that students attend the class prepared and actively participate in class discussions.</p> <p><i>Laptops, Cell Phones, and Other Devices.</i> Please make sure that your cell phone and other devices are set to silent or vibration during the class period. Activities using cell phones and other devices, such as text messaging, taking pictures, and using social media, are not permitted in the classroom. Active use of electronic devices during discussions creates a distraction for me and others.</p> <p><i>Respect and Courtesy.</i> Unethical discussion and behavior of students in the classroom is strictly prohibited. This class may cover some controversial issues for educational purposes, and you may encounter different values and views expressed by other students or the instructor. Please remember to have respect and courtesy toward each other and appreciate the diversity in class. Any disrespectful comments or behaviors are not permitted in this class.</p> <p><i>Academic Ethics.</i> Cheating or any other academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a serious consequence, including, but not limited to, getting zero (0) points on the given quiz, exam, or paper. The results of students who engage in academic dishonesty will be canceled.</p> <p><i>Use of AI:</i> AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) are permitted in this course for brainstorming and checking grammar and style. Your use of AI tools must be properly documented. AI tools are <i>not</i> permitted in this course for completing the assignments, writing entire sentences and paragraphs, and competing in online quizzes. Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways will result in zero (0) points on the given assignment.</p>	
Schedule		
Week	Topics	Reference
1.	Conceptual Issues in Ethics. Background to Ethics. Remedial and Positive Ethics.	Knapp et. al., Ch 1, pgs 3-23 Koocher & Keith-Spiegel, Ch 1, pgs 1-15

2.	General Principles in Psychology. Ethical Decision Making.	American Psychological Association. Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. Pgs 1-4. Knapp et. al., Ch 2, pgs 37-65
3.	Competence. Personal Fitness, Qualifications, and Training Issues. Exceptions to Competence.	Knapp et. al., Ch 4, pgs 85-127 Koocher & Keith-Spiegel, Ch 2, pgs 19-50.
4.	Privacy and Confidentiality. Record Keeping and Fees.	Knapp et. al., Ch 7, pgs 186-217 Koocher & Keith-Spiegel, Ch 6, pgs 145-192
5.	Psychotherapy: Ethical Obligations of Psychologists.	Koocher & Keith-Spiegel, Ch 3 and 4, pgs 59-83
6.	Multiple Relationships and Professional Boundaries. Attraction, Romance, and Intimacy with Clients and Subordinates.	Koocher & Keith-Spiegel, Ch 8, 9, 10, pgs 233-312 Knapp et. al., Ch 6, pgs 147-185
7.	Ethical Challenges in Working With Human Diversity.	Koocher & Keith-Spiegel, Ch 5, pgs 123-144
8.	Midterm exam	
9.	Ethical Issues When Working in Hospital Settings. Ethics and Private Practice	Leach M. M., & Welfel, E., R, Ch-4, pgs 70-90; Ch-7, pgs 134-153
10.	Forensic Psychology. Confidentiality and Record Keeping in Forensic Settings.	Koocher & Keith-Spiegel, Ch 13, pgs 442-458. Knapp et. al., Ch 9, pgs 247-265
11.	Ethical Issues in Couples and Family Therapy. Ethical Issues in Group Work.	Koocher & Keith-Spiegel, Ch 4, pgs 86-92.
12.	Providing Mental Health in Schools. Special Topics. Psychologists as Educators.	Knapp et. al., Ch 13, pgs 342-360.
13.	Similarities and differences of ethical principles in world practice with the law for psychologists in the Republic of Azerbaijan	Psixoloji yardım haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu. Pgs 1-13.
14.	Individual Presentations	
15.	Individual Presentations	
Final exam		