

SYLLABUS FOR HUS-4010

Values and Ethics in Human Services Practice

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This core undergraduate course provides a comprehensive examination of the values and ethics inherent to the human services profession and their application in professional practice. Students will explore the foundational principles and ethical standards that guide human services practitioners in promoting the well-being and empowerment of individuals, families, and communities. Through case studies, interactive discussions, and experiential learning activities, students will develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for ethical decision-making, self-awareness, and professional growth within the human services field.

COURSE TOPICS

- Ethics: the helping professional
- The ethical challenge of a diverse culture and community
- The legal challenges: communication, decision-making, application of the law
- Standards for implementing ethical principles: informed consent, confidentiality
- Power, influence, equity, and fair treatment
- Making a difference in the lives of groups, couples, and families
- The code of ethics for professional practice and why it matters

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- CO 1** Apply core values of the human services profession to contemporary practice.
- CO 2** Apply ethical principles in complex practice scenarios.
- CO 3** Recognize and respect diversity, integrating culturally responsive approaches for inclusivity and equity.

- CO 4** Engage in self-reflection and professional development strategies for personal and career growth.
- CO 5** Integrate ethical standards into professional practice, ensuring adherence to principles and legal requirements.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. Some course materials may be free, open source, or available from other providers. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents. To purchase course materials, please visit the [University's textbook supplier](#).

Required Textbook(s)

- Parsons, R., & Dickinson, K. (2017). *Ethical practice in the human services: From knowing to being*. Sage Publications.
ISBN-13: 978-1506332918
eText ISBN: 978-1506332925

COURSE STRUCTURE

Values and Ethics in Human Services Practice is a three-credit, online course consisting of five modules. Modules include an overview, topics, learning objectives, study materials, and activities. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: Exploring and Connecting With Ethics as a Way of Knowing**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 4, CO 5
- **Module 2: Understanding Ethics: A Way of Being**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5
- **Module 3: Discovering Human Services in Our Social Networks**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5
- **Module 4: Can Research Heal the Pain in Human Services?**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5

- **Module 5: Building Success Plans: Coming to the End of Service Delivery**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5

ASSESSMENT METHODS

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in online discussion forums, complete written assignments, complete simulation responses, complete reflections, and complete a final paper. See below for details.

Consult the Course Calendar for due dates.

Promoting Originality—One or more of your course activities may utilize a tool designed to promote original work and evaluate your submissions for plagiarism. More information about this tool is available in [this document](#).



Discussion Forums

You are required to complete **five** graded discussion forums. The discussion forums allow you to share your learning with your classmates and apply concepts. There is also one ungraded but required Introductions Forum in Module 1.

Communication with your mentor and among fellow students is a critical component of online learning. Participation in online class discussions involves two distinct activities: an initial response to a discussion question and at least two subsequent comments on classmates' responses.

All of these responses must be substantial. Meaningful participation is relevant to the content, adds value, and advances the discussion. Comments such as "I agree" and "ditto" are not considered value-adding participation. Therefore, when you agree or disagree with a classmate or your mentor, state and support your position.

You will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of your participation, including your use of relevant course information to support your point of view, and your awareness of and responses to the postings of your classmates. Remember, these are discussions: responses and comments should be properly proofread and edited, mature, and respectful.

Located within the Evaluation Rubrics section of the course website is the online discussion forum rubric used to aid in the grading of all online discussion assignments.

Written Assignments

You are required to complete **five** written assignments. The written assignments are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.

Simulation Case Assessments

You are required to complete **two** simulation case assessments. The simulation case assessments ask you to analyze and respond to a scenario associated with the topics in the course modules.

Reflections

You are required to keep a journal to discuss your experiences with the course material and how your thoughts on ethics and biases in human services have evolved during the course. At the end of each module, write one reflection. Each reflection should be dated and should not exceed 1 page. You don't have to submit your reflection at the end of Modules 1 to 4. **At the end of Module 5, you will submit all five reflections together in one document.**

Final Paper

You are required to write a final paper to explore the topic of ethical practice in human services. You will examine various ethical challenges and decide how to balance the tension between following ethical rules and acting from the heart. You will also reflect on how your ethical approach as a future human services professional has shifted after taking this course. For specific details and requirements, refer to the **Final Paper** section of the course website.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Online discussions (5)**—25%
- **Written assignments (5)**—35%
- **Simulation case assessments (2)**—10%
- **Reflections (5)**—5%

- **Final paper—25%**

All activities will receive a numerical grade of 0–100. You will receive a score of 0 for any work not submitted. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for numerical grades are as follows:

A	= 93–100	C+	= 78–79
A–	= 90–92	C	= 73–77
B+	= 88–89	C–	= 70–72
B	= 83–87	D	= 60–69
B–	= 80–82	F	= Below 60

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of C or better (for an area of study course) or D or better (for a course not in your area of study), based on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., exams, assignments, discussion postings).

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

First Steps to Success

To succeed in this course, take the following first steps:

- Read carefully the entire Syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.
- Take time to read the entire Online Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.
- Familiarize yourself with the learning management systems environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.
- If you are not familiar with web-based learning, be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments before class begins.

Study Tips

Consider the following study tips for success:

- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the Course Calendar. The Course Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting

assignments, posting discussions, and submitting the final paper.

- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students

TESU's [Academic Code of Conduct](#) permits student AI use in support of their writing and research process—not as a replacement for original writing. Document AI use with an acknowledgment statement at the end of each assignment, noting the tools and prompts used. Cite any AI-generated content on the References page. Please review [Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students](#) for more detailed information.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Thomas Edison State University recognizes, values, and relies upon the diversity of our community. We strive to provide equitable, inclusive learning experiences that embrace our students' backgrounds, identities, experiences, abilities, and expertise.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Thomas Edison State University adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990; ADAAA, 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) oversees requests for academic accommodations related to disabilities; a student who is pregnant, postpartum, or a student parenting a newborn who is not the birth parent [as covered under NJSA18A]; and students requesting academic accommodation for a short-term/temporary illness and/or injury. Information can be found on the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) web page and questions can be sent to ADA@tesu.edu.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

To ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University, familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies including those related to academic integrity, course late submissions, course extensions, and grading policies.

For more, see:

- [University-wide policies](#)
- [Undergraduate academic policies](#)
- [Undergraduate course policies](#)
- [Graduate academic policies](#)
- [Graduate course policies](#)
- [Nursing student policies](#)
- [Nursing graduate student policies](#)
- [International student policies](#)
- [Academic code of conduct](#)