ETHICS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ethics in the Social Sciences begins with an introduction to moral theory, then surveys research regulation and research ethics, uses of authorship, plagiarism, peer review, data ownership, and stewardship. Also examined are human subjects research and informed consent; research using live animals; and the clinician-patient relationship. Case studies are derived from anthropology, sociology, and psychology.

COURSE TOPICS

- Introduction to theories of moral reasoning
- Exploring ethical decision-making models
- Case studies in ethical decision making
- What is plagiarism?
- What is intellectual property?
- Analysis of case studies
- History of ethics in research
- The importance of the Belmont Report
- Human use issues in research
- Ethical approaches to conducting research
- Ethical codes in professional practice
- Conducting ethically responsible assistance to clients
- Informed consent
- Professional client-provider relationships in the social sciences

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you should be able to:

CO1   Identify and describe theories of moral reasoning.

CO2   Critically analyze ethical decision-making models.

CO3 Apply ethical decision-making models.

CO4 Identify plagiarism and the rights of intellectual property.

CO5 Critique research for ethical issues.

CO6 Explain and apply informed consent.

CO7 Compare and contrast ethical issues in human subject research.

CO8 Analyze case studies in ethical decision making.

CO9 Prescribe appropriate professional client-provider relationships in the social sciences.

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

- Houser, R. A., & Thoma, S. (2013). *Ethics in counseling and therapy: Developing an ethical identity*. Washington, DC: Sage.
  - Print **ISBN: 978-1452241852**
  - e-Text: **ISBN: 978-1412981378**

COURSE STRUCTURE

Ethics in the Social Sciences is a three-credit, online course consisting of six modules. Modules include an overview, topics, learning objectives, study materials, and activities. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: Ethical Decision Making**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO1, CO2, CO3

- **Module 2: Plagiarism and Intellectual Property**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO4, CO8

- **Module 3: Ethical Issues in Research**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO5, CO7

- **Module 4: Case Studies in Research**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO3, CO5, CO8

- **Module 5: Introduction to Ethical Codes in Professional Practice**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO1, CO2, CO3

- **Module 6: The Client-Provider Relationship**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO6, CO9

ASSESSMENT METHODS

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in online discussion forums, complete written assignments, and take a proctored final examination. 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 will participate in **six** discussion forums on a variety of course-related topics. Be sure to complete all relevant readings before answering the discussion forum question.

Communication with the mentor and among fellow students is a critical component of online learning. Participation in online discussions involves two distinct activities: an initial response to a discussion question and at least two subsequent comments on classmates' responses. 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, the reading, or your mentor, state **and support** your agreement or disagreement. You will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of your participation. Responses and comments should be properly proofread and edited, professional, and respectful.

📋 *Written Assignments*

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

All written assignments should be well organized and well written with correct grammar, word choice, punctuation, and spelling. Your writing should be clear and coherent. When you have utilized the thoughts or words of others, you must either paraphrase or quote directly and document the source in proper APA format.

📋 *Final Examination*

There will be a proctored online final exam in which you will be provided with a number of scenarios and asked to respond to related questions in essay form. The time allowed for the final exam is three hours, and you will be able to use your book and notes during the exam.

You are required to use the University's Online Proctor Service (OPS). Please refer to the "Examinations and Proctors" section of the Online Student Handbook (see Student Handbooks in the General Information area of the course website) for further information about scheduling and taking online exams and for all exam policies and procedures. You are strongly advised to schedule your exam within the first week of the semester.

Online exams are administered through the course website. Consult the Course Calendar for the official dates of exam weeks.

Statement about Cheating

You are on your honor not to cheat during the exam. Cheating means:

- Looking up any answer or part of an answer in an unauthorized textbook or on the Internet, or using any other source to find the answer.
- Copying and pasting or in any way copying responses or parts of responses from any other source into your online test. This includes but is not limited to copying and pasting from other documents or spreadsheets, whether written by yourself or anyone else.
- Plagiarizing answers.
- Asking anyone else to assist you by whatever means available while you take the exam.
- Copying any part of the exam to share with other students.
- Telling your mentor that you need another attempt at the exam because your connection to the Internet was interrupted when that is not true.

If there is evidence that you have cheated or plagiarized in your exam, the exam will be declared invalid, and you will fail the course.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Discussion forums (6)**—30%
- **Written assignments (6)**—35%
- **Final exam**—35%

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, how to schedule exams, and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.

- Arrange to take your examination(s) by following the instructions in this Syllabus and the Online Student Handbook.

- 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 scheduling and taking examinations.

- 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 webpage 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](#)