Psychology 6645.2

Ethics & professional Practice

**Winter 2013**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mark Fleming Email MARK.FLEMING@SMU.CA  
Office: MS 302

MEETINGS: Wednesday 10am-12.30pm MM326

TEXT: Rodney Lowman (2006) Ethical Practice of Psychology in Organizations (SIOP) 2nd edition.

OFFICE HOURS: Mon 9.00am-12.00am, 2.30pm –4.00pm and Wed 2.30pm –4.00pm

This course provides an introduction to Ethics for Psychologists and to the ethical decision making process. It will also provide an overview of the basic business skills and knowledge necessary to practice as a psychologist.

This course is designed to prepare you to deal with ethical issues in your professional practice as an I/O psychologist and develop your professional skills.

# Learning Objectives

The **three primary learning objectives** of this course are:

1. to develop a solid base of knowledge of the ethical obligations of psychologists;
2. to be able to enable you to develop an ethical decision making framework
3. to develop your professional practice skills, including communicating to a non-academic audience.

# Format

The course is designed as a graduate seminar, which facilitates active participation, critical thinking, and a lot of discussion. The course will take a seminar format and therefore it is critical that students are prepared for class so that they are able to participate fully in class discussions.

# Evaluation Grades will be based on the following components:

## Writing a professional article 20%

Students will prepare a professional article of 800 words on any I/O psychology topic for a non psychologist audience. The article should explain why the issue is important, how organisations can deal with the issue and why the approach proposed is appropriate.

**Due February 13th**

## Ethical thought questions 15%

Students will prepare **three** ethical thought questions based on the Lowman case studies one for industrial ethical, one for organisational and one for professional dilemmas. Students must submit their question one week before the class covering that topic. For example the industrial thought question is due on Wednesday February 8th.

## Presentation 20%

Each student will give a 25 minute presentation on an ethical topic or dilemma not covered during the course. The presentation should demonstrate mastery of the material and provide additional insight to the issue beginning presented.

## Consulting proposal 20%

Students will prepare a consulting proposal that outlines how your consulting firm would approach a specific project. The written proposal will outline approach to the project, major tasks, ethical considerations and timeline. Each person will be competing to win the consulting contract, which has been put out to tender through a request for proposals process. Everyone has reached the shortlist phase and has been invited to give an oral presentation outlining their approach to the project. Students will be assessed on quality of the written document and approach to project delivery.

**Proposal due March 27th and presentation on April 3rd**

## Ethics take home assignment 25%

At the end of the course students will be given a take home assignment to complete within a short timeframe. The assignments will be based on the information covered in Ethics section of the course. The take home will consist of a series of ethical dilemmas, which students will need to identify the key issues and propose the most appropriate way forward.

**This assignment can be started any time between April 5th and April 12th**

### In compliance with university policy test marks will not be posted, instead marks will be given back in class.