

Wurzweiler School of Social Work
Yeshiva University

SWK 8822
Ideology II
Spring Semester, 2003

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Course Outline

Having studied ideology and values in the fall semester, we move to the study of ethics and ethical decision making this semester. Models of ethical justification and decision making are applied to concrete issues and cases, thus combining theory with practice in ethics. Students learn how to discern value conflicts and ethical dilemmas that arise in their work with clients, in social policy and social welfare, and the process of making ethical decisions and justifying them.

The study of ethics in the doctoral program reinforces the school's commitment to prepare scholarly social work practitioners, regardless of ethnic and religious persuasion, to learn how to reason and deal with the complexities of moral and ethical issues in practice, policy, and society. Ethical dilemmas arise when there are conflicts in values when working with culturally diverse groups, populations at risk, clients of different ages, genders or pathologies. Appreciating the pervasiveness of value and ethical conflicts in social policy and practice and learning how to resolve and justify them are the prime learning achievements in this course.

I. Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will demonstrate knowledge and skills related to:

1. Understanding the relationship between values and ethics.
2. Identifying an ethical dilemma
3. Taking the steps necessary to resolving the dilemma and justifying the decision.
4. Understanding the use of rules, principles and theory in the process.
5. Applying the models of decision making and justification to various ethical dilemmas

II. Books

There are two required books for this course.

Beauchamp, T. L. and Childress, J.F. (2001). *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. (5th ed.) New York: Oxford.

Linzer, N. (1999). *Resolving Ethical Dilemmas in Social Work Practice*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Recommended Books

- Congress, E. (1999). *Social work values and ethics*. Chicago: Nelson Hall.
- Loewenberg, F.M. and Dolgoff, R. (2000) *Ethical decisions for social work practice*. 6th ed. Itasca, IL: F.E. Peacock.
- Reamer, F. G. (1995). *Values and ethics*. New York: Columbia University Press.

III. Course Structure

This course is divided into two parts: 1) a theoretical analysis of the relationship between values and ethics, the nature of ethics, professional ethics, models of ethical decision-making and justification and 2) their application to social problems and conflict situations with clients.

IV. Plagiarism

Students should remember that the school does 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 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 one's 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 the assignment in this course will FAIL the course, and will be referred to the director of the doctoral program automatically for disciplinary action that may include expulsion.

V. Instructional Methods

Learning will occur mainly through questions and answers - seminar style.

VI. Course Expectations and Grading

Students are expected to attend all classes and to be on time. Class participation is essential for learning and testing one's ideas. Students are expected to do the required readings. Grades will be based primarily on written assignments and class participation. Attendance will also be considered. Students are evaluated through 1) the first paper (15%); 2) the second paper (15%); the final paper on applying the Levy model of values classification, the Reamer model of the decision making process, and the Beauchamp and Childress' model of ethical justification to an ethical dilemma (40%); and 3) participation in class discussion (30%).

VII. Course Topics

I. Relationship between values and ethics (Sessions 1,2,3)

Covers learning objective 1

Learning Themes

1. Review the nature and functions of values.
2. The transition from values to ethics.
3. Definition of ethics
4. Morals and ethics
5. Practice and ethics
6. General ethics and professional ethics

Readings

Caplan, A. (1986). Professional ethics: Virtue or vice? *The Jewish Social Work Forum*. 22.

Code of ethics (1996). Washington, DC: National Association of Social Workers.

Levy, C.S. (1976) *Social work ethics*. New York: Human Sciences Press, Chapter 2.

Levy, C.S. (1982) *Guide to ethical decisions and action for social service administrators*. New York: Haworth. Chapter 1.

Linzer, Chapter 4.

Reamer, F.G. (1995) Ethics and values. In R.L. Edwards (Ed.-in-Chief) *Encyclopedia of social work* 19th ed., (pp. 893-902). Washington, DC: NASW Press.

Witkin, S. (2000). Ethics-r-us. *Social Work* 45 (3), 197-200.

Assignment 1 - The difference between practice and ethics

In a few pages, 1) explain the difference between practice and ethics; 2) describe a case where different outcomes ensue from practice and ethical viewpoints; 3) explain the difference.

II. Identifying an ethical dilemma (Sessions 4,5,6)

Covers learning objectives 2, 4

Learning Themes

1. identifying an ethical dilemma
2. rules and principles

3. specification and balancing
4. philosophical theories:
 - a) utilitarianism
 - b) deontology
 - c) ethics of care

Readings

Beauchamp, T. & Childress, J. (2001). *Principles of biomedical ethics*. (5th ed.) Oxford. Chapters 1,8.

Gilligan, C. (1992) *In a different voice: Psychological theory and women's development*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Chapter 1.

Levy, C.S. (1976). *Social work ethics*. New York: Human Sciences Press. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4

Linzer, N. (1999). *Resolving ethical dilemmas in social work practice*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, chapter 4.

Reamer, F. (1993). *The philosophical foundations of social work*. New York: Columbia. Chapter 2.

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

Toulmin, S. (1981). The tyranny of principles. *Hastings Center Report* 11 (6), 31-39 .

III. Ethical decision making (Sessions 7, 8)

Covers learning objectives 3, 4.

Learning Themes

1. the process of ethical decision making
2. justifying ethical decisions

Readings

Linzer, Chapters 4, 5 10.

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

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

Reamer, F. (1995). *Values and ethics*. New York: Columbia. 64-81.

Assignment 2 - Ethical decision-making and justification

Select an ethical dilemma from your practice or in social policy. Apply Reamer's model of ethical decision making in making the decision, and Beauchamp and Childress' model of ethical justification in justifying it.

IV. Applying Ethical Principles and Dilemmas to Social Work Practice

Covers learning objectives 2,3,4,5

Learning Themes

A variety of ethical principles and theories will be applied to ethical dilemmas in social work practice and policy.

A. Respect for Autonomy (Session 9)

Abramson, M. (1985). The autonomy-paternalism dilemma in social work practice.

Social Casework, 66 (7), 387-393.

Beauchamp & Childress, chapter 3.

Linzer, chapters 11-13.

Wesley, C.A. (1992). Social work and end-of-life decisions: Self-determination and the common good. *Health and Social Work*, 21 (2), 115-121.

B. Beneficence and Paternalism (Session 10)

Beauchamp & Childress, chapter 5

Reamer, pp.93-98

C. Justice: Allocating Scarce Resources (Session 11)

Beauchamp & Childress, chapter 6

Linzer, N. (1996). *Ethical dilemmas in Jewish communal service*. Hoboken, NJ:KTAV, Chapter 11.

Linzer, Chapter 10

D. Confidentiality (Session 12)

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.

Davidson, T. and Davidson, J. (1995). Cost-containment, computers and confidentiality. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 23 (4), 453-463.

Gelman, S., Pollack, D., and Weiner, A. (1999). Confidentiality of social work records in the

computer age. *Social Work*, 44 (3), 243-252.

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

Linzer, chapter 5.

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

Rock, B. and Congress, E. (1999). The new confidentiality for the 21 century in a managed care environment. *Social Work*, 44 (3), 253-262.

O'Neill, J.V. (2001). Online therapy on verge of major launch. *NASW News*, 46 (1), 5.

E. The Code of Ethics - guest speaker (Session 13)

F. Managed Care

Galambos, C. (1999). Resolving ethical conflicts in a managed care environment. *Health and Social Work*, 24 (3), 191-197.

Linzer, chapter 9.

Reamer, F.G. (1997). Managing ethics under managed care. *Families in Society*, 78 (1), 96-101.

Strom-Gottfried, K. (1998). Informed consent meets managed care. *Health and Social Work*, 23 (1), 25-33.

Wineburgh, M. (1998). Ethics, managed care, and out-patient psychotherapy. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 26 (4), 433-443.

G. Research

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

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

V. Summary - Social Work Ethics in Practice

Learning Themes

1. ethical and practice dilemmas
2. ethics of ambiguity
3. ethics and character

Readings

Beauchamp & Childress, Chapter 1.
Linzer, epilogue.

Final Paper

“An Ethical Dilemma”

The final paper is designed to achieve the objectives of the course. It should include the following:

1. In one paragraph, describe the agency or setting.
2. Describe the conflict situation.
3. Summarize it in one sentence.
4. Use appropriate literature pertaining to the topic of this conflict.
5. Analyze the underlying value positions of the conflicting parties, using Levy’s values classification model descriptively, without a chart.
6. Discuss what makes this conflict an ethical dilemma for the social worker.
7. Apply Reamer's model of ethical decision making to the dilemma:
 - I. Identify the ethical issues, including the social work values and duties that conflict.
 - II. Identify the individuals, groups, and organizations who are likely to be affected by the ethical decision.
 - III. Tentatively identify all possible courses of action and the participants involved in each, along with the possible benefits and risks for each.
 - IV. Thoroughly examine the reasons in favor of, and opposed to, each possible course of action, considering relevant:
 - a. ethical theories, principles, and guidelines (for example, deontological and teleological-utilitarian perspectives and ethical guidelines based on them);
 - b. codes of ethics and legal principles;
 - c. social work practice theory and principles;

- d. personal values (including religion, cultural and ethnic values and political ideology), particularly those that conflict with one's own.
- V. Consult with colleagues and appropriate experts (such as agency staff, supervisors, agency administrators, attorneys, ethics scholars);
- V. Make the decision
- VI. Monitor, evaluate, and document the decision.
- 8. Having made the decision, justify it by applying Beauchamp & Childress' model of ethical justification in the form of a chart.
- 9. Explain the reasons for your decision by explaining the chart.
- 10. Apply the concept of moral traces.

Paper should be 10-12 pages long, written according to APA style. Proofread and use spell and grammar check before submitting.

In writing this paper, you are expected to follow this outline. No deviations will be accepted.