



**LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY**  
**Faculty of Social and Management Sciences**  
**Department of Sociology and Psychology**

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### **COURSE PARTICULARS**

**Course Code:** PSY 215  
**Course Title:** Ethics in Psychology  
**No. of Units:** 2  
**Status:** Elective

### **LECTURER DETAILS**

**Name:** Dr. Adepeju Olaide OTI  
**Qualifications:** B.A. Hons French, M. Ed Sociology, PhD. Sociology of Education  
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**Area of Specialization:** Gender & Education

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#### **Course Description:**

This is a general ethics course designed to sensitize the students to ethical decision making, including an awareness of ethical issues, knowledge about what constitutes an ethical dilemma, and an understanding of the steps to take when one encounters an ethical dilemma. Ethics will be explored broadly with respect to psychology including research, practice, as well as more focused topic areas/issues. The learning outcomes will be achieved through assigned readings/tutorials of key ethical standards in the field of psychology (the APA Code of Ethics for Psychologists) and supplemented by articles that explore particular issues in depth

#### **Objectives:**

- To raise the consciousness of ethical and moral principles in students
- To use as a template to guide the use of ethics in their research
- To encourage global thinking about ethics, while also encouraging action that is sensitive and responsive to local needs and values.
- Overall objective is for students to apply ethical principles in the conduct of their studies.

#### **Course Assessment: Grand Total = 100%**

- Attendance: 5 marks
  - Test(s) and Assignments: 25 marks
  - Final Examination: 70%
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### **LECTURE PLAN**

Week	Topic
Week 1	The Ethical standards and general principles of the APA
Week 2	Purpose of the Ethics Code
Week 3	An overview of Ethical guidelines in psychological research
Week 4	Institutional approval
Week 5	Avoiding harm - Risk/Benefit ratio

Week 6	Informed consent
Week 7	Privacy and confidentiality
Week 8	Deception and Debriefing
Week 9	Reporting Research Results
Week 10	Plagiarism and duplicating publication of data
Week 11	Ethical guidelines in psychological practice
Week 12	Common Ethical Dilemmas in research and practice
Week 13	Wrap up

### READING LIST

- Association of American Colleges and Universities. (1998). Statement on liberal learning. Retrieved July 20, 2008, from [http://www.aacu.org/About/statements/liberal\\_learning.cfm](http://www.aacu.org/About/statements/liberal_learning.cfm)
- American Psychological Association (2002). The ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. Retrieved July, 2008, from <http://www.apa.org/ethics/American>
- Psychological Association. (2007). Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. Retrieved July, 2008, from <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualization.html>.
- Balogh, D.W. (2004). Teaching ethics across the psychology curriculum. In B. Perlman, L.I. McCann, & S.H. McFadden (Eds.), *Lessons learned: Vol. 2* (pp. 231-240). Washington, DC: Association for Psychological Science.
- Behnke, S. (2006). Beyond mere compliance: Three metaphors to teach the APA Ethics Code. *Monitor on Psychology*, 37, 11.
- Green, R.J. (2004). Teaching psychology through film and video. In B. Perlman, L.I. McCann, & S.H. McFadden (Eds.), *Lessons learned: Vol. 2* (pp. 103-110). Washington, DC: Association for Psychological Science

### TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1.
  - (a) Define Ethics. (b) Differentiate between the aspirational principles and the mandatory standards of the APA ethics code (c) Highlight the general principles of the APA ethics code.
- 2 Discuss the reason behind establishment of the APA ethics code.
- 3 Enumerate on the ethical guidelines for conducting psychological research.
- 4 (a) What is an IRB (b) Discuss the composition and purpose of the IRB.
- 5 (a) Discuss the risk/benefit ration in psychological research? (b) What are the categories of risk that can be inflicted on participants in a psychological research study? Give examples in each categories.
- 6 (a) Give an overview of the elements of informed consent (b) Highlight the different ways informed consent is documented. (c) Under what conditions can an investigator get a waiver of the requirement of informed consent?

- 7 (a) What's the difference between anonymity, privacy and confidentiality in psychological research? (b) Differentiate between deliberate, accidental and deductive disclosure of research information (c) Discuss the different methods for protecting confidentiality in psychological research.
- 8 (a) Citing the relevant research explain deception in psychological research (b) Certain principles guide the use of deception in psychological research: Expatiate. (c) Explain the different types of deception in psychological research. (c) What are the ethical obligations of a researcher who makes use of deception
- 9 (a) Why is research reported? (b) Expatiate on the components of a research report.
- 10 (a) Discuss the issue of plagiarism in psychological research. Differentiate between duplicate publication and partial publication © enumerate the ways in which a researcher can avoid the pitfall of plagiarism.
- 11 Discuss the ethical guidelines in psychological practice

Discuss the common ethical dilemmas encountered in psychological research and practice and how they are resolved.