THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIECNES
Department of Psychology

COURSE OUTLINE (2026/2027, SEMESTER ONE)

1. Basic Course Information

Course Code	PSYC7314
Course Title	Professional Ethics and Issues in Psychology
Course Credits	6
Lecture Time & Venue	CPD-2.58 7:00pm – 9:50pm on Sep 2, 16, Oct 7, 21, 28, Nov 18, 25 (Wednesdays) 3:00pm – 5:50pm on Sep 5, 12, Oct 31, Nov 7 (Saturdays) CBA 7:00pm – 9:50pm on Dec 2

2. Course Instructor / Course Co-ordinator

Name	Office	Phone	E-mail	Consultation Hour (if any)
Dr. Amanda K Cheung	6.66, JCT	39175889	aksc@hku.hk	By appointment

3. Course Description

The purpose of the course is to provide a general ethical guidance to cover typical situations encountered by professional psychologists. Models of ethical decision making will be introduced, discussed, and applied. In addition to the Code of Professional Conduct published by local professional bodies (e.g., the Hong Kong Psychological Society), a number of ethical codes, guidelines, and standards of practice will be reviewed.

4. Course Learning Outcomes

On completing the course, students will be able to:

a. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of adhering to professional code of conduct.
b. To acquire knowledge of ethical codes, guidelines, and standards according to the Code of Professional Conduct published by The Hong Kong Psychological Society.

5. Course Contents and Topics

a. Introduction to Professional Qualifications/Certification/Licensure & Code of Ethics
b. Ethical Dilemmas & Ethical Decision Making
c. Informed Consent
d. Confidentiality
e. Competence

6. Assessment Methods and Weighting

Assessment methods	Weighting in final course grade (%)
Class Participation and Professionalism	20
Group Presentation	30
Test	50

Total	100

Assessment Ratio: 100 % Coursework and 0 % Examination

***Class Participation*:** Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Participation is graded on the content of sharing, attitude, and connection of sharing with that of classmates as well as topic(s) being discussed.

Group Presentation: In groups of six students, students are required to choose one area of ethical guidelines/regulations and demonstrate understanding of the topic via review of relevant content as well as assigned scenario(s). Students should approach these presentations as study groups, where presenters will first familiarize themselves with the assigned codes/guidelines for introducing these codes/guidelines to the class. Presenters will also illustrate the assigned scenario and then facilitate class discussion related to the scenario. Each student is expected to have a share of presenting in class. Presentation is graded on content and conceptualization presented (e.g., understanding of content and use of literature), analysis and synthesis of information, organization and logic in the transition and connection between major ideas, delivery and presentation (e.g., use of audio-visual aids, enthusiasm, professional appearance), and facilitation of discussion (e.g., engagement of classmates). Presentation aids (e.g., PowerPoint slides, if used) should be uploaded to Moodle by the beginning of class time on the day of presentation.

Test: Students are tested on their knowledge and understanding of materials shared in this course. Examinations may contain items such as multiple-choice, true/false, matching, ordering, labelling, listing, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short essay questions. Photo identification will be requested at the point of turn-in.

7. Course Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topics
1.	Sep 2	Ethical Principles and Guidelines
2.	Sep 5	Guest Seminar
3.	Sep 12	Theories of Ethics + Guest Seminar
4.	Sep 16	Practices of Ethics (with guest participation)
5.	Oct 7	Code of Ethics
6.	Oct 21	Code of Ethics + Risk Management in Ethical Practice
7.	Oct 28	Personal Values + Diversity
8.	Oct 31	Group Presentations
9.	Nov 7	Group Presentations
10.	Nov 18	Group Presentations
11.	Nov 25	Group Presentations
12.	Dec 2	Test + Reflection

8. Required/Recommended Readings & Online Materials

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*. American Psychological Association.

Corey, G., Corey, M. S., Corey, C. (2019). *Issues and ethics in the helping professions* (10th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Hong Kong Psychological Society. (2012). *Code of Professional Conduct*.

Knapp, S. J., & VandeCreek, L. D. (2006). *Practical ethics for psychologists: A positive approach* (2nd ed.). American Psychological Association.

Selected journal articles and readings are recommended for further understanding of specific topics. Citations/Articles will be posted on Moodle and links to the electronic copy of the references will also be provided when possible.

9. Feedback Policy

Students will receive immediate feedback from fellow classmates as well as the instructor at the end of the oral presentation. Quiz/test/examination paper will not be returned to students. However, students may consult the course instructor for feedback by making an appointment within the designated period for each assignment.

10. Important Notes

Late Submissions

Please finish and submit your assignments by the corresponding deadlines. Late submissions will be penalized by a 10% deduction per 12-hour period of lateness. For example, if an assignment weighing 10 points is due Monday at 23:59, 1 point will be deducted for work submitted on Tuesday 00:00-11:59 and 2 points will be deducted from work submitted on Tuesday 12:00-23:59. Please note that medical conditions do not warrant an extension of a deadline. For group presentations, all members of the group will receive the penalty.

Marks Appeal

Any dispute on marks you received on a written assignment/examination must be made within seven calendar days after the marks become available. Another member of the teaching team will re-grade the materials independently (i.e., blinded from the comments and marks given by the original grader). The average of the two marks will be final (i.e., the final mark can be lower than the original mark).

Absence Policy

Approved absences from lectures require formal documentation such as a doctor's note and are considered on a case-by-case basis. No make-up examinations will be given unless a medical certificate is provided and the absence is approved; in this case, make-up examinations will take place within two calendar weeks of the original examination date and no re-arrangement is allowed. Written requests for make-up examinations should be made by email to the teaching team within 24 hours of the original starting time of the corresponding examination. Late requests will not be catered.

Use and Disclosure of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) Tools

In line with the university policy, use of generative artificial intelligence tools is allowed in this course. However, sufficient student input must be evident and students bear the responsibility to prove their input beyond using generative artificial intelligence tools. Usage of such tools should be explicitly and appropriately acknowledged or cited. Failure to do so counts as improper referencing or even plagiarism.

For all written assignments, submissions will be automatically checked through Turnitin's built-in AI detection tool. Students are required to maintain documentation demonstrating the development of their work. This includes both:

- Work history, including drafts, showing the evolution of the work. Students may use any versioning method but may find Word versioning or Google docs helpful.
- If any Generative AI tools are used, complete records of AI interactions must be retained. This includes all prompts, outputs, and relevant timestamps (i.e., full chat history).

If a submission is identified as potentially substantially AI-generated, students will be contacted and expected to produce the above documentation. Evaluation of potential AI-related academic misconduct will be conducted holistically by the course instructor/teaching team, taking into account Turnitin's results and the supporting materials provided. Failure to provide the requested information is grounds for failure, notation in student records, and/or alternative penalties, at the discretion of the instructors.

Academic Honesty

The University highly values honesty in the academic work submitted by students and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating in examinations and plagiarism in any work submitted for assessment. Any student who commits such an academic offence is liable to be considered by the University's Disciplinary Committee for possible disciplinary action which can result in serious consequences – including expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism

Students are strongly advised to carefully go through the website "What is Plagiarism" (https://tl.hku.hk/plagiarism/), including the subpages using links on the right-side navigation panel. Students should also read the Policy on Student Plagiarism in Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Curricula, which can be accessed using your HKU Portal log-in information (https://intraweb.hku.hk/reserved_1/tlearn/plagiarism/Policy-on-Student-Plagiarism-in-UG-and-TPG.pdf). Students are also advised to familiarise themselves with issues in relation to copyright as publicized in the section on "Copyright and Plagiarism" in the Student Handbook (http://handbook.hku.hk/tpg/2023/policies/policies.html).

A lack of understanding of what constitutes plagiarism will not be considered as an acceptable excuse for the offence. No credit will be given for an assignment that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties may also be applied. Plagiarism will also be reported to the Faculty for consideration of possible disciplinary action.

Support Services

The Center of Applied English Studies (CAES) Writing Centre regularly offers "How to Avoid Plagiarism Workshops." These workshops will be particularly useful for students who might not be completely confident about how to avoid plagiarism in their written assignments. The workshops will focus on basic citation, referencing skills, paraphrasing and synthesizing skills. The CAES consultants are also keen to help you at any stage of the writing process, particularly the planning stages to provide feedback that will put you on a trajectory toward success. To find out what you can do with a consultant at different points in the process, please watch the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4J3gjLho6k4. To book a 1:1 consultation, workshop, or discussion spot, please visit https://www.caescss.hku.hk/writing-centre.

Some students may persistently or regularly experience academic difficulty because of trouble managing time effectively, anxiety associated with test-taking, or other stressful circumstances. Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) offers programs to enhance study effectiveness and stress management. Students experiencing difficulties due to sensory, physical, or mental conditions are encouraged to contact CEDARS for supportive services and

notify the instructor as well as the tutorial coordinator. Students requesting accommodations for special learning needs must submit their requests via CEDARS and are encouraged to do so as early as possible. An attempt will be made to accommodate the special learning needs per recommendations by CEDARS.

Please also see CEDARS announcement regarding support service for special educational needs: https://hkuesd.hku.hk:8000/enotice/notice/22308/_notice.html?timestamp%3D1705654048055&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1706340116181322&usg=AOvVaw0gOBuOaabAlW1ExfCBFhUC