



# HENDRIX

COLLEGE

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## Counseling Theories & Practice

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### PSYC 243

*Start*

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## CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

### 2.0.1 Managing Your Personal Values

Personal therapy contributes to the therapist's professional work in 3 ways:

1. As part of the therapist's training, personal therapy offers a model of therapeutic practice in which the trainee observes a more experienced therapist.
  2. A beneficial experience in personal therapy can further enhance a therapist's interpersonal skills, which are essential to skillful practicing therapy.
  3. Successful personal therapy can contribute to a therapist's ability to deal with the ongoing stresses associated with clinical work.
- Therapists have a responsibility to be aware of their own values and set aside personal beliefs, so they do not "contaminate the counseling process" (aka, Bracketing).

### 2.0.2 Becoming an Effective Multicultural Counselor

- Acquiring Competencies in Multicultural Counseling
  - Diversity-competent practitioners
    - \* Beliefs and attitudes
    - \* Knowledge
    - \* Flexibility with Intervention Strategies

## 2.1 Maintaining Your Vitality as a Person and as a Professional or "Burnout Prevention"

- Therapeutic lifestyle changes (TLCs)
  - Physical activity
  - Diet and nutrition
  - Time in nature
  - Relationships
  - Recreation
  - Religious/spiritual involvement
  - Providing service to others

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## 3.1 Codes Versus Laws

### 3.1.1 Mandatory Codes

- Ethical functioning at the minimum level.

### 3.1.2 Aspirational Ethics

- Doing what is in the best interest of the clients.
- Going above and beyond the minimum requirements.
- Understanding the spirit of the code and the principles on which the code is based.

### 3.1.3 Steps for Ethical Decision-Making

- Identify the problem.
- Look at the relevant ethics codes and laws.
- Seek consultation.
- Brainstorm various possible courses of action.
- List consequences.
- Decide and document the reasons for your actions.
- To a degree, include the client in all phases of your ethical decision-making process.
- When clinicians are unsure of what action to take, they may contact their liability insurers to discuss the best plan of action to ensure ethical decision-making.

## 3.2 Informed Consent

- Clients must consent to treatment.
  - Uninformed consent –what problems could arise from this?
    - Patients could be under the impression that their treatment would be one way, but is actually another.
  - Informed consent are conditions that you disclose to the patient about the treatment they are about to receive.



- These conditions include:
  - The purpose of the treatment.
  - Potential risks and benefits.
  - Alternatives to the treatment.
  - Disclosure about the right to refuse treatment.
  - Any other information that the client may need to make an informed decision.

### 3.3 Confidentiality

Situations in which your therapist can legally break confidentiality:

- If the client is at risk of:
  - Harming themselves.
  - Harming others.
  - Being harmed by others.
- If there is child or elder abuse or neglect.
- If the client has a lawsuit against them (and the therapist is subpoenaed).
- The client can also sign a release of information form.
- Involuntary hospitalization.

### 3.4 Evidence-Based Practice

- Ethical treatment is effective treatment.
- How do you know that what you're doing is helping your clients?
  - You can use evidence-based practice.
    - Balancing treatment and relationship.
  - Outcome tracking.
  - Problems with relying on intuition.

### 3.5 Multiple Relationships

- These occur when the therapist has a relationship with the client outside the therapeutic relationship.
- Can be sexual or non-sexual.
- How could these cause ethical concerns for your clients?
- Prevention is key. Set healthy boundaries from the start.