INTR 401-900 Professional Decision-Making
Spring Semester 2019

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Office Hours: TBA - will be posted in Canvas class

This class is conducted online via Canvas: January 7 – May 3, 2019.

Canvas: We will be using Canvas for this class. You can access it at this address http://canvas.unco.edu. Your log in is the same as you use for BearMail. Be sure to check both regularly. All of your homework assignments, quizzes, and tests are submitted in Canvas.

Course Description: This course engages students in an exploration of professional identity and becoming part of a profession, focusing on the application of ethical standards and practices to the profession.

Course Purpose: This course provides you with the opportunity to explore the dimensions that guide discretion and ethical decision-making. Much of your learning will result from your participation in a variety of case study discussions and in discussions designed to foster greater degrees of ethical fitness. The goal of the course is to foster a collegial investigation of ethics and ethical decision-making as the cornerstone that can contribute to the professionalization of the field of Sign Language Interpreting.

Pre-Requisites: Prerequisite knowledge in the discipline includes INTR 211: Critical Thinking and Analysis Skills for Interpreters, INTR 330: Observation-Supervision for Interpreters I, and INTR 320: Introduction to Simultaneous Interpreting.

Course Objectives: Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Explore the meaning of core values and examine his or her personal belief system.
- Identify factors contributing to his or her identity.
- Gain awareness in interpersonal relations.
- Explore the role of power in relationships and when power imbalances exist.
- Explore the role of feedback in gaining self-awareness and the role of reflective analysis in on-going personal and professional development.
- Identify his or her own stage of ethical maturity and ethical fitness.
- Explore a roadmap for ethical decision-making.

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• Discuss ethical fitness and how it relates to interpreting.
• Develop strategies for addressing and resolving conflict.
• Apply conflict resolution to ethical decision-making.
• Identify the core values and guiding principles that underwrite professional codes of conduct.
• Discuss the similarities and differences that exist between the NAD-RID Code of Ethics and the codes of other professions, and gaps that may exist.
• Apply ethical standards of practice and consider resolution of case studies related to interpreting.
• Identify and discuss ethical conflicts that arise in the “business” of interpreting.
• Identify the core values and guiding principles that underwrite your own personal philosophy of interpreting.
• Identify the professional development priorities you want to address upon completion of this course.

Entry-to-Practice Competencies:

1.6 Discuss professional and ethical decision-making in a manner consistent with theoretical models and standard professional practice.

2.5 Collaborate with participants and team members in a manner that reflects appropriate cultural norms and professional standards during all phases of assignments and implement changes where appropriate and feasible.

2.6 Demonstrate an understanding of professional boundaries by following generally accepted practices as defined by the code of ethical conduct.

5.1 Demonstrate a commitment to career-long learning and critical self-assessment by creating an on-going professional action plan.

5.4 Demonstrate professional integrity by avoiding conflicts of interest, adhering to the code of ethical conduct, and applying standard professional business practices.

5.8 Discuss state and national interpreter certification and/or licensure and the implications of these systems on the employment of interpreters.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbook

Workbook

Readings (eReserves)


**Readings Available Online**  
[All links worked as of September 2017]


Schick, B. (2007). EIPA Guidelines for Professional Conduct. [www.naiedu.org](http://www.naiedu.org)  That address is to the National Association of Interpreters in Education. The original site URL is [www.classroominterpreting.org](http://www.classroominterpreting.org)

An additional series of brief articles from Santa Clara University, by various authors, are found at: [https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/](https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/)

- What are Ethics?
- A Framework for Ethical Decision Making (sources of approaches)
- Common Good
- Can Ethics Be Taught?
- Thinking Ethically (approaches to values for dealing with moral issues)
- Justice and Fairness

**Course Requirements**: This is a brief overview; full instructions are posted in the online class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Tentatively Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignment 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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| Post your introduction (required, 1 point).  
Post responses to a Discussion Questions/Activity Responses throughout the course. | 23     | On-going        |
| **Assignment 2**                         |        |                 |
| Online Journal                           |        |                 |
| In Canvas the way to have private “journal” is inside a Private Group Discussion. Your personal Private Group will include you and the instructor. Post responses to the specific question or questions in your online journal. There will be a total of six entries throughout the course—each worth two points. | 12     | On-going        |
| **Assignment 3**                         |        |                 |
| Analysis of a Workbook Case: Collaborate with a group to choose a case from Workbook cases #5–#9 and analyze it. Especially identify:  
  - the source of the conflict  
  - what makes it an ethical issue?  
  - What makes it a dilemma?  
  - the values paradigm involved  
  - the ethical tenets to guide professional decision-making | 15     | 3/3             |
**Assignment 4**  
**Codes of Ethics**  
Compare and contrast the NAD-RID Code of Ethics with the code of ethics from another profession, identifying similarities, differences, and gaps.  

| 15 | 3/21 |

**Assignment 5**  
**Create a Case and Analyze a Case**  
1. Collaborate with a group to create a case study that reflects a potential ethical dilemma, or real-life ethical conflict, in interpreting.  
2. Submit a draft for feedback, then post final version.  
3. Work with your group to analyze a case developed by another group, and post the analysis.  

| 25 | Draft case due: 3/29  
| | Final case due: 4/2  
| | Analysis due: 4/9 |

**Assignment 6**  
**Professional Development Plan**  
Prepare an outline of your Professional Development Plan.  

| 10 | 5/2 |

**Total score:** 100 points

**Evaluation Method:** The points for all the assignments in a course will add up to 100 points and letter grades are assigned as follows for UNDERGRADUATE classes:

- **A** = 91 - 100 superior achievement of course objectives
- **B** = 81 - 90 above average achievement of objectives  
  (Reminder: you must maintain at least a “B” per class to meet graduation requirements)
- **C/D** = 61 - 80 below average achievement of course objectives
- 60 or below is considered not passing.

**University Policies**

**Student Code of Conduct:** You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course. Make sure you know and understand the pillars of the UNC Honor Code: Honesty, Trust, Responsibility, Respect, and Fairness. Become familiar with the Student Code of Conduct, especially the section on acts of dishonesty. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to grading consequences with regard to this course and/or university disciplinary procedures through the office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. If you have any questions, please refer to the Student Code of Conduct found at [Student Conduct Code](#).

**Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Statement:** The University of Northern Colorado prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct or gender-based discrimination of any kind. UNC is legally obligated to investigate sexual misconduct (including, but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence). If you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a faculty member, they have an obligation to report it to UNC’s Title IX Coordinator. “Disclosure” may include communication in-person, via email/phone/text message, or through in/out of class assignments. If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact the UNC Counseling Center (970-351-2496) or the Assault Survivors Advocacy Program (970-351-4040).

If you would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, please visit [www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct](http://www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct).

**Equity and Inclusion Statement:** The University of Northern Colorado embraces the diversity of students, faculty, and staff, honors the inherent dignity of each individual, and welcomes their unique perspectives, behaviors, and
worldviews. In this course, people of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, military or veteran statuses, size and/or shapes are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. Course content and campus discussions will heighten your awareness to each other’s individual and intersecting identities.

The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities (located in Decker Hall) serves as resource to anyone seeking support or with questions about equity and inclusion at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). If you are a witness to or experience acts of bias at UNC and would like to learn more about bias response or report a bias incident, please visit https://www.unco.edu/dean-of-students/share-concern/.

**Accommodations Statement:** Disability Resources - It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion or to an accurate assessment of your achievement (e.g. time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), please communicate this with your professor and contact Disability Support Services (DSS) to request accommodations. Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80. Students can learn more about the accommodation process at http://www.unco.edu/disability-support-services/.