

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: ASL 133

Title: ETHICS FOR INTERPRETERS

Full Title: Ethics and Decision Making for Interpreters

Last Reviewed: 12/18/2006

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	4.00	Lecture Scheduled	4.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	70.00
Minimum	4.00	Lab Scheduled	0	17.5	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	4.00		Contact Total	70.00
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 140.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 210.00

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

Catalog Description:
This course provides a theoretical foundation and a broad range of practical exercises and activities that explore the various dimensions of ethical decision-making as it applies to sign language interpreting. It is designed to guide aspiring and practicing interpreters toward a clear and effective strategy for ethical decision-making in future interpreting assignments.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Completion of ASL 131 and 132 or the equivalent.

Recommended Preparation:
Completion of ASL 130 or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: This course provides a theoretical foundation and a broad range of practical exercises and activities that explore the various dimensions of ethical decision-making as it applies to sign language interpreting. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites: Completion of ASL 131 and 132 or the equivalent.
Recommended: Completion of ASL 130 or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit:

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU GE:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
IGETC:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU Transfer:		Effective:	Inactive:
UC Transfer:		Effective:	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Both Certificate and Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe their values based on individual and group ethics originating in Ancient Greece and Rome.
2. Evaluate and describe the cultural implications of their own cultural norms, behaviors and values and the impact of these "filters" on the ethical decision-making process.
3. Analyze the interpreter's role in the ethical decision-making process and apply ethical standards and decision-making processes to specific case studies and interpreting situations.
4. Describe the guiding principles of the code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), compare them with ethical codes of conduct of other related professions, and participate in selected interpreting situations which illustrate these principles.
5. Document the role of cultural competence, personal values, and roles and identities as tools for resolving ethical dilemmas as future interpreters.
6. Describe various issues and aspects of audism in the context of oppression of cultural and linguistic minorities.
7. Demonstrate the principles and applications of ethical decision-making in a variety of situations involving interpretation or translation between American Sign Language and English, including interpreting scenarios, role-playing, translations, case studies, and other types of demonstrations.

Topics and Scope:

- I. Philosophical basis of ethics and morality

- A. Ancient Greece - Ethical ideas and philosophies of Aristotle, Socrates and Plato
- B. Ancient Rome - Stoicism, natural law and ethical thinking
- II. Elements of a "tool box" for decision-making
 - A. Identification of personal cultural norms, behaviors and values through discussion and journaling
 - B. Examining multiple perspectives of an issue and the impact of an individual's specific perspectives on ethical decision-making
 - C. Looking at settings and situations where the exploration of value differences is beneficial, e.g. workplaces, classrooms, business environments, medical situations, conflict management situations and other contexts
 - D. Analyzing lexical choices and linguistic/cultural decisions by working from ASL to English and vice versa
 - E. Practical applications through selected interpreting role-playing situations
- III. An examination of the interpreter's role in ethical decision-making
 - A. The interpreter as a linguistic and cultural mediator
 - B. Interpreter as advocate
 - C. Practical applications through selected interpreting role-playing situations
- IV. Professionalization of the field
 - A. Applying a principle-centered approach for solving personal and professional problems and examining how to live with fairness, integrity, honesty, and human dignity as essential principles for professional working interpreters
 - B. The concept and meaning of professional boundaries and the application of those boundaries on the job
- V. Codes of Ethics and Codes of Conduct
 - A. Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct of the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf (Hereafter RID)
 - B. Analysis and comparison of RID's codes with codes of other professions
 - C. An examination of medical and legal codes of conduct as a basis for ethical decision-making in medical and legal fields
 - D. Practical applications through selected interpreting role-playing situations
- VI. Analyzing and resolving ethical dilemmas
 - A. Exploring and developing practical guidelines for a mindful approach to analyzing and resolving ethical dilemmas
 - B. Applying practical tools for developing awareness and resolving dilemmas associated with working outside an individual's own culture and language
- VII. Audism
 - A. How an interpreter's experience of being able to hear has a profound impact of his/her world experience
 - B. How interpreters unknowingly contribute to inadvertent oppression
- VIII. Practice translation and interpreting exercises to apply ethical decision-making to specific interpreter situations
 - A. Translation
 - B. Voice to sign

- C. Sing to voice
- D. Role-playing ethical decision making
- E. Demonstrating certain case scenarios

Assignment:

1. Reading 15-20 pages of textbook - involves in-depth analysis of one case study per class with follow-up written homework. Other homework activities include interpreter interviews, journal writing, internet research plus one supplementary article (5-15 pages) per class with accompanying essay questions.
2. Application of self-assessment tools (already taught in 131) in 2-3 class presentations and in-class discussions to encourage self-reflection in the decision-making process.
3. Development and presentation of two-three in-class presentations on individual case studies taken from a variety of articles and the class textbook.
4. Development and presentation of two-three case studies that explore the meaning of "professionalism" as it relates to Sign Language Interpreters and applies a professional code of ethics to individual interpreting situations.
5. Two-three written exams on presented materials and readings.

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Journal writing and written reports

Writing
15 - 20%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Case studies, applying self-assessment tools

Problem solving
20 - 25%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class presentations, paraphrasing, translations

Skill Demonstrations
20 - 25%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Written exams

Exams
25 - 30%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance, Class participation

Other Category 5 - 15%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Students will purchase one textbook and read an assortment of articles.

ETHICS AND DECISION MAKING: ETHICAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICE WITHIN
PRE-SERVICE AND IN-SERVICE INTERPRETER EDUCATION PROGRAMS, Stewart,
K.L., Witter-Merithew, A., Teaching Sign Media: 2000.

Instructor prepared materials