

LA 247

Law & Ethics of Animal Assisted Interventions

3 Credits

Instructor: TBA

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Alternate Delivery: Yes

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LA 247 Version: 2



Law & Ethics of Animal Assisted Interventions

Calendar Description

This course provides an in-depth understanding of the current laws and ethics of Animal Assisted Interventions (AAIs) necessary for best practices in AAI. Animal assisted practitioners require a thorough understanding of the laws, ethical standards and requirements necessary to ensure safe and ethical human-animal therapeutic interactions.

Rationale

This is a required course for the Animal Assisted Wellness certificate.

This course provides an overview of important professional and ethical concerns of therapeutic practitioners who are partnering with animals to deliver professional helping services. Guidelines for ethical considerations necessary in AAI's to protect and ensure the safety of clients, animals, practitioners and the general public are presented and illustrated. This course highlights the many ethical layers involved in AAI and covers ethical considerations for our clients/students, the animals and the practitioner. Ethics for integrating animals into therapeutic, education or wellness settings are covered as part of the Integration of Animals into Therapeutic Settings course. The main goal of this course is to describe the complexity of incorporating animals into professional practices and to increase awareness of the many facets of ethical considerations involved in the process.

Prerequisites

YC218

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. state the current laws governing the field of AAI.
2. explain the recommended standards and ethical guidelines in the field of AAI.

3. identify and support the many intricate ethical considerations in the field of AAI as they pertain to themselves as practitioners.
4. examine the ethics to be aware of concerning the people they may serve in AAI.
5. discuss and apply the ethics concerning the animals they may partner with in AAI.

Resource Materials

Required Textbook(s):

Fine, A. H. (2019). *Handbook on animal-assisted therapy: Foundations and guidelines for animal-assisted interventions* (5th ed.). Academic Press.

Other Resources Recommended:

Pet Partners. (1996). *Standards of practice for animal-assisted activities and animal-assisted therapy*. Delta Society. ***All parts needed for the course are found in the handouts.***

Chandler, C. K. (2012). *Animal assisted therapy in counseling*. Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.

Conduct of Course

This course includes online lecture, discussions via discussion boards, videos, and PowerPoint presentations with embedded audio clips, videos and assignments to deliver the course content. Self-study using referenced texts and articles is recommended. Participation is necessary.

Evaluation Procedures

The requirement for marks in this course consists of assignments, a midterm exam, a final exam and participation.

A. Midterm exam	30%
B. Assignments	30%
C. Final exam	35%
D. Participation	5%
Total	100%

“Lakeland College is committed to the highest academic standards. Students are expected to be familiar with Lakeland College policies related to academic conduct and academic honesty and to abide by these policies. Violations of these policies are considered to be serious and may result in suspension or expulsion from the College”.

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.

Attendance

Because this course is on-line, attendance is demonstrated by keeping up with readings and assignments, participation in dialogue on the discussion board and completing course work and assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor.

In cases where illness impedes participation, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate.

Course Units/Topics

- A. Current Laws governing AAI
- B. Standards and Ethical codes in AAI
- C. Broad scope of ethical issues in AAIs
- D. Specific ethics for professionals in AAIs:
 - Professional and AAI qualifications
 - Animal handling qualifications
 - Professional protections and evaluations

E. Specific ethics to consider regarding our clients/students in AAIs:

- Our scope of practice
- Determining if AAI appropriate
- Informed consents
- Matching clients and animals
- AAI plans
- Ratios
- Discontinuance
- Understanding how clients can be impacted in AAIs
- Informed consents and other necessary paperwork for client/student safety and ethical approaches to AAI

F. Specific ethics to consider regarding our animals in AAIs:

- Ethical Considerations of Animals in Interventions
- Care and Welfare Considerations
- Safety and Risk Management
- Debriefing
- Winter programs and animal welfare
- Ethics of wildlife and non-domesticated animal programs
- Environmental overload/ Death / Retirement / Discontinuance



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