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EMP 808: Ethics and the Law in Energy Medicine (3 Credits)

OVERVIEW OF COURSE

Students will gain an understanding about the ethical, legal, and regulatory issues that affect the therapeutic relationship, with a specific emphasis on energy medicine practitioners.

COURSE TOPICS

- I. Introduction to ethics in energy healing as a gateway to transformational consciousness. The place of energy-oriented modalities within complementary and alternative medicine. Ethical, legal, and regulatory issues in energy medicine.

- II. Introduction to the chakra system as a template for assessing potential ethical vulnerabilities. Ethical and legal considerations in introducing energy therapies to potential clients.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will gain a greater perspective regarding the current national movement towards the regulation of energy medicine and the integration of energy medicine into a new health care model identified as integrative/integral medicine.
- Students will understand the necessity of complying with federal, state, and local laws and regulations that may affect the energy medicine modality they use in their practice or would like to incorporate into their practice.
- Students will understand the history and development of ethics codes from related fields, such as medicine, psychology, and massage that offer guidelines and a foundation for ethics in energy medicine.

AUDIENCE

Open to all students in the PhD program.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore ethics in energy medicine as a gateway to transformational consciousness based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Students will gain an understanding about the place of energy-orientated modalities within complementary and alternative medicine and the new delivery system of healthcare in the U.S., identified as integrative/integral medicine. Students will learn ethical and legal principles for energy-oriented practices, the core psychological concepts in ethics, what is considered unethical behavior, and risk factors for potential legal liability. Students will learn the importance of self-accountability as the cornerstone of ethical actions. Students will learn a model for assessing potential ethical vulnerabilities based on the chakra system. Students will understand what ethical considerations need to be addressed in introducing innovative energy-based therapies in a clinical practice.

NEED STATEMENT

Students will:

- 1) Explain Maslow's hierarchy of needs as it applies to regulatory values, legal principles, and transformational consciousness.
- 2) Describe ethical principles and key terms, including ethics, values, principles, morals, laws, and professionalism and the importance of self-accountability.
- 3) Develop office policies and forms for operating an ethical and legally sound energy medicine practice.
- 4) Identify the core psychological concepts in ethics and understand why the traditional psychological framework needs to be expanded to include working with clients on an energetic level and in non-ordinary states of consciousness.
- 5) Describe legal issues in practicing energy medicine, such as scope of practice, standards of practice, informed consent, confidentiality, misrepresentation, and malpractice.
- 6) Identify their personal fears and longings and spiritual fears and longings that impact the therapeutic relationship based on a model of the chakra system.
- 7) Develop skills for introducing innovative energy-oriented therapies to clients.

FACULTY-STUDENT COMMUNICATION

Telephone Contacts

It is important that students arrange by email beforehand for all telephone communications. An initial telephone contact to clarify course objectives and develop a schedule should be made prior to beginning the course. Periodic telephone interactions, as required, at the student's expense, can most easily be arranged through email contact.

Communications

Reflection on and questions about the course assignments should be addressed via email weekly or as needed. The student should set up monthly telephone conversations, at their expense, to discuss problems, concerns, or determine the direction of their course work. Students are always encouraged to contact the instructor by e-mail, fax, or telephone whenever a major concern may arise. It should be understood that as mature students, it is the responsibility of the students to stay in contact with their instructors.

Students will normally send communications via email and submit reports and other paperwork as MSWORD format files attached to emails. Fax or US mail transmission may be used, at the discretion of and with the approval of the instructor.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1. “Creating Right Relationships: A Practical Guide to Ethics in Energy Therapies”, by Dorothea Hover-Kramer and Midge Murphy, 2005, Territorial Publishing Company, Eugene, OR.
2. “Future Medicine, Ethical Dilemmas, Regulatory Challenges, and Therapeutic Pathways to Health Care and Healing in Human Transformation”, by Michael H. Cohen, 2003, The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, MI.

COURSE DELIVERY STYLE

Distance Education - Coursework is completed at a location determined by the student utilizing a computer that has the ability to play audio and video clips, with Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Reader, along with a current web browser, internet connection and email address. Contact and communication with distance students is typically conducted by telephone, Internet, Skype, text chat, and email. Students are also encouraged to contact the University by facsimiles, and postal mail, and by personal visit to the University.

All lessons, coursework and papers must be copied to lessons@energymedicineuniversity.org from both the student and professor.

1. Read Assignments
2. Complete written assignments
3. Complete final examination

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1:

Read the following materials:

- A. Chapter One of *Creating Right Relationships* ‘Ethics in Energy Healing as the Gateway to Transformational Consciousness’.
- B. Introduction and Part One of *Future Medicine* “Implications for Clinical Care”.

Complete the following written assignments:

- A. Conduct research and write a paper, no longer than 8 pages in length, that explains the theory based historical perspective of the energy based modality that you use or would like to use in your practice.
- B. Write a paper, no longer than 8 pages in length, based on Cohen’s discussion in Part One of *Future Medicine*, explaining your understanding of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs and regulatory values, as it relates to transformational consciousness and its place in the health care system.

Assignment #2:

Read the following materials:

- A. Chapter 2 of *Creating Right Relationships* “The Place of Energy-Oriented Modalities within Complementary and Alternative Medicine”.
- B. Chapter 4 of *Future Medicine* “Energy Healing and the Biofield”.

Complete the following research and written assignment:

Research on the internet to determine if the energy medicine modality you practice or would like to practice professionally has a national organization (example – the Association for Comprehensive Energy Psychology). If so, does the organization have an ethics code or ethical guidelines? In addition, does the organization have standards of practice and define a scope of practice for the applicable modality? If you do not have a specific energy medicine modality or if your energy medicine modality does not have a national organization, then choose an organization that is of special interest to you. Upon completing your research, prepare a written report to the instructor explaining why national organizations are crucial to the acceptance of energy modalities within the health care system. Also provide information detailing your findings about the organization, and attach to said report the applicable code of ethics, standards of practice, and scope of practice documentation.

Assignment #3:

Read the following materials:

- A. Chapter 3 of *Creating Right Relationships* “Ethical, Legal, and Regulatory Concerns for Energy Healing Practitioners”.
- B. Read Chapters 5 and 6 of *Future Medicine* “Touch, Privacy, and Intuitive Information” and “Fraud, Ego, and Abuse of Spiritual Power”.

Complete the following research and written assignment:

Research the laws and regulations in your state and within your county and city that could impact your right to operate an energy medicine practice (i.e. medical, psychology, and massage practice acts and other applicable statutes and regulations). Are there any laws or regulations that protect you as an energy medicine practitioner from being charged with practicing medicine without a license or psychology without a license? If you are a licensed health care professional, such as a social worker, psychotherapist, body worker, nurse, etc., obtain from your state licensing board the standards of practice, scope of practice, and ethics guidelines that you’re mandated to follow as a licensed practitioner. Write a paper reporting your findings. If you are a licensed professional and use an energy oriented modality in your practice, then also describe in your paper how you incorporate your energy oriented modality into your practice as it relates to your licensing statute and regulations. If you are not a licensed practitioner, then complete the assignment investigating the energy oriented modality that you are most interested in.

Assignment #4:

Read the following material:

A. Chapter 4 of *Creating Right Relationships* “Identities and Vulnerabilities in Relation to the Human Vibrational Matrix”

Complete the following written assignment:

A. Write a paper, based on the developmental energy centers chakra model presented in Chapter 4, in which you contemplate in each of your energy centers (chakras) the personal fears and personal longings and spiritual fears and spiritual longings that you most identify with that could lead to potential ethical and legal vulnerabilities in working with clients.

Assignment #5:

Read the following material:

A. Read Chapter 5 of *Creating Right Relationships* “Ethical and Legal Considerations for Introducing Innovative Therapies”.

Complete the following written assignment:

A. Write a paper describing your experiences with the 3 exercises set forth in Chapter 4 for centering. Also include how you “center” or set an intention when working with energy oriented therapies with clients. In addition, how do you facilitate “centering” a client for a session or treatment? How does centering or setting intention create an ethical framework for your practice? Explain in detail how you would introduce an innovative energy-based therapy to a client. What would be your criteria for assessing introducing such a therapy to a client?

Assignment #6:

Read the following material:

A. Finish *Future Medicine*

B. Write a review paper of the book, at least 8 pages in length, including your thoughts and opinions about the book and the future of medicine and specifically the place that energy medicine has within the health care industry.

Assignment #7: **Final Essay Examination**

A scholarly paper of approximately 20 double spaced pages. Papers will focus upon an Ethics Scenario having the most interest and relevance to the student.

COURSE EVALUATION

The course grade will be based on the student’s demonstrated comprehension of the topics covered, the quality of papers, other assignments or projects, and the final examination.

COURSE GRADING DETERMINANTS

Grades are based on the following elements of a student's participation and accomplishment. In determining a grade for this course, the following formula will be used:

Reading required texts	25%
Email and internet discussions	25%
Course Papers or Projects	30%
Essay Examination	20%

There will 100 points assigned to the course. Final semester grades will be calculated as follows:

92-100 points	= A range
86-91	= B
80-85	= C
70-80	= D
below 70	= F

COURSE COMPLETION TIMETABLE

Please note: all reports are to be double spaced papers. Preferably, they will be emailed to the instructor as MSWORD documents. Fax transmission or hard copy (mailed to meet the due date) is acceptable, if the instructor is notified and gives permission beforehand.

Week 3	Complete Assignment #1
Week 6	Complete Assignment #2
Week 8	Complete Assignment #3
Week 10	Complete Assignment #4
Week 12	Complete Assignment #5
Week 14	Complete Assignment #6
Week 16	Assignment #7, Essay Examination

SPECIAL NOTES AND INSTRUCTIONS:

All coursework must be completed in a timely fashion. Students are encouraged to phone or email the instructor whenever they need advice, comments, or instruction.

RECOMMENDED SOURCES

1. Benjamin, Ben, Sohen-Moe, Cherie, *The Ethics of Touch, the Hands-on Practitioner's Guide to Creating a Professional, Safe, and Nurturing Practice*, 2003, SMA, Inc. Tucson, AZ.
2. Cohen, Michael H., www.camlawblog.com

3. Cohen, Michael H. *Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Legal Boundaries and Regulatory Perspective*, 1998, the John Hopkins Press, Baltimore, MD.
4. Cohen, Michael H. *Beyond Complementary Medicine, Legal and Ethical Perspectives on Health Care and Human Evolution*", 2002, the University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, MI.
5. Myss, Caroline *Sacred Contracts, Awakening your Divine Potential*, 2001, Harmony Books, New York, NY.
6. Sohen-Moe, Cherie *Business Mastery*, 2000, SMA, Inc., Tucson, AZ.