**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK**

**Course Outline**

**HS 231 - Ethics, Policy and Law C-3, Cr-3**

**Course Description:**

This course introduces the field of social services with emphasis on ethical and policy considerations faced by human service practitioners, chemical dependency counselors, and educators. Ethical decision making, professional competence, self-disclosure, confidentiality, and related topics are covered as they apply to working in counseling and educational settings. It examines legislation affecting the role of the practitioner and the economic security of the client.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

The student will be able to:

1. apply ethical principles of the counseling/educational field to client/student situations.
2. analyze what qualities make a relationship a professional one rather than a personal one.
3. apply the steps involved in handling transference and countertransference.
4. explain when self-disclosure is appropriate when working with others.
5. explain when confidentiality should be violated.
6. analyze the impact of teacher/counselor personal experiences in working with diverse student/client populations.
7. write behaviorally specific policy statements that address current issues in the social service field.
8. explain different approaches to the issue of poverty from Biblical times to the present.
9. identify eligibility for and benefits from governmental income transfer and health programs.
10. evaluate service to others from logical, critical, and ethical perspectives.

**MAJOR TOPICS:**

I. Terminology

A. Ethics

B. Values

C. Professionalism

D. Policy

II. Issues and Ethics for the Practitioner

A. Professional competence

B. Professional values

C. Professional relationship

D. Self-disclosure

E. Transference/countertransference

F. Confidentiality

III. Economic security - eligibility and operation

A. Value framework

B. Views of poverty and the poor

C. Historical approaches for providing economic needs

D. Current policy - eligibility for

1. Social Security

2. Supplemental Security Income

3. Public Assistance

4. Medicare

5. Medicaid

6. Food Stamps