

Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling

CPSY 580 - 02

Summer Semester, 2007

Instructor:

James Gurule, MA, LPC
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We meet:

Mondays and Wednesdays
5:30 to 8:45 pm

Catalogue Description:

“Consideration of the applicable ethical and legal issues for mental health and school settings. Students develop skills in writing reports, assignments, and treatment plans.”

Course credit:

2 semester hours

Textbook required:

Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues in Counseling,
Remley and Herlihy
(2nd Edition Updated 2007)

Overview:

This course is designed to develop your ethical thinking and decision-making skills in the professional practice of community mental health. In our class, you will be encouraged to learn about specific ethical and legal issues, and to increase your skills of critical analysis. You will be challenged to increase not only your understanding of the ethical principles of counseling, but to become adept at knowing when and how to seek consultation and supervision in your work. This class will hopefully instill both a desire and diligence on your part as professional counselors to develop a high degree of ethical performance in the coming years.

Readings:

As noted above, our class discussions and assignments will be drawn from readings in your textbook. It is my hope that our book will offer the entire class a wide scope and broad understanding of ethical thinking as illustrated in the assigned chapters. As soon-to-be professionals entering practice in a complex, multi-disciplinary field, understanding and recognizing the ethical dimensions of your work will help develop your overall skills and enhance the competence and safety of your professional practice. Of course, you are expected to keep up with the assigned readings in order to helpfully contribute to our class discussions.

Assignments:

In addition to the chapter readings, you will have assignments that develop an appreciation of the complexities of ethics in our chosen professional field. The class assignments will consist of the following:

Question / Discussion Cards: Throughout the semester, you will have the opportunity to write three (3) discussion questions (and the answers) for each class. These three (3) questions, written on 3 X 5 inch index cards, will be due at the beginning of each designated class period. These questions will come from your assigned chapter readings. Your discussion questions (and their answers) will be evaluated on their accuracy, insight, brevity and creativity. Although subjective in development, these cards will form the foundation of our class discussions on specific topics, and will eventually help create our Final exam. At the discretion of your instructor, you may not receive credit for late cards. These three (3) cards will be worth up to five (5) points per class, for a maximum total of **40 points** during the semester.

Informed Consent Forms: These documents, to be discussed in detail before your assignment, will be evaluated on their inclusion of the required elements, readability, and informative content. Your forms are expected to be **original** creations, not a copy of a previously existing form, and developed as if you were to present them to clients in a counseling setting. These forms will be due as instructed in class and will be eligible for a maximum of **25 points**.

Class presentations: You will be given the chance to develop a brief (1 - 2 typed pages) report on an assigned ethical issue or topic. Each of you will then give a brief (15 minute) presentation of your topic during a class. Your papers and presentations will be eligible for up to **10 points**.

Final examination: During our last class meeting, you will complete our class Final exam. Some of this exam will be drawn from the question / discussion cards you've written throughout the semester. This exam will evaluate not only your recall, but also your active participation in earlier discussions. This Final will be worth up to **25 points**.

Grading:

These assignments will offer you the chance for a total of up to **100 points** toward your final grade. Class grading will proceed as follows:

A = 100 to 93 points A - = 92 to 90 points

B + = 89 to 87 points B = 86 to 83 points B - = 82 to 80 points

C + = 79 to 77 points C = 76 to 73 points C - = 72 to 70 points

A grade of C minus (69 points or below) is considered failure for our class.

Attendance and courtesy:

Attendance in class will be expected and required. If you are going to miss a class, you will be given a make-up assignment at the discretion of this instructor. Please inform me as soon as possible if you anticipate missing any classes. More than one missed class (3.25 hours) will be considered a failure to complete our course.

Of course, as a courtesy to your classmates and instructor, **all** cell phones, pagers, or electronic communication devices are to be rendered non-disruptive, unless you've informed me of a pending critical incoming communication. During class, all laptop computers are to be utilized for class-related purposes only.

**Summer 2007 CPSY 580-02
Ethics Course Syllabus**

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Date	Class topic	Assignment
Monday June 25, 2007	Introductions and listening skills exercises (SOLER model and basic listening skills)	Attendance and participation *(every class!) Pretest (up to 5 points)
Wednesday June 27, 2007	Confidentiality	Chapter 5 Discussion cards (5 points)
Monday July 2, 2007	Informed Consent	Chapter 4 Discussion cards (5 points)
Wednesday July 4, 2007	No Class	Have fun
Monday July 9, 2007	Boundaries and Multiple relationships	Chapter 8 Discussion cards (5 points) Informed Consent forms due (25 points)
Wednesday July 11, 2007	Competence and Malpractice	Chapter 7 Discussion cards (5 points)
Monday July 16, 2007	Children and vulnerable adults	Chapter 9 Discussion cards (5 points)
Wednesday July 18, 2007	Supervision and consultation	Chapter 14 Discussion cards (5 points)
Monday July 23, 2007	Families and Groups Termination issues Self care	Chapter 10 Discussion cards (5 points) Final exam (25 points) Attendance and Food