

Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling
CPSY 580 Fall 2006

Wednesday Evenings 5:30-8:45
SCC Rm 101
October 11th-Dec 13th
2 semester hour credits

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Office hours by appointment:
Wednesdays 3:00 -5:00

Catalogue Description

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

Prerequisite: None.

Credit: 2 semester hours.

Textbooks required: (one book per student)

Required for Marriage and Family track students: (4th Ed 2007)

Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family
Wilcoxon, Remley, Gladding and Huber

Required for Community Mental Health track students: (2nd Ed Updated 2007)

Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues in Counseling
Remley and Herlihy

Bring a copy of Ethical Guidelines to all classes for reference (ACA or AAMFT)

Learning Environment

Students are expected to be active participants in their educational quests and invested learners both individually and in collaboration with classmates. The classroom learning environment will be an open space where the opportunity for dialectical learning experiences integrates the diversity of student members as we seek to inform and challenge each other to new perspectives. Through the study of ethics and laws that inform the best practices in the field of counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy we will not only gain knowledge but develop critical thinking skills and increase self awareness.

Course Objectives

This course will create a solid foundation of knowledge for the ongoing understanding and application of ethical guidelines, legal responsibilities and development of best practices throughout a student's course of study.

Course objectives are informed by competency standards set forth by American Association for Marriage and Family Therapist and Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

- ❖ Knowledge of state, federal, and provincial laws and regulations that apply to the practice of counseling and marriage & family therapy.
- ❖ Knowledge of professional ethics and standards of practice that apply to counseling and the practice of marriage & family therapy.
- ❖ Knowledge of policies and procedures of the practice setting.
- ❖ Understanding of the process of making an ethical decisions
- ❖ Ability to recognize ethical dilemmas in practice setting.
- ❖ Ability to recognize when a legal consultation is necessary
- ❖ Ability to recognize when clinical supervision or consultation is necessary.
- ❖ Ability to recognize issues related to ethics, laws, regulations, and professional standards.
- ❖ Understand the limitations to confidentiality and parameters of mandatory reporting.
- ❖ Understand the need and how to create a safety plan for clients who present with potential self-harm, suicide, abuse, or violence.
- ❖ Understand how to take action when ethical and legal dilemmas emerge.
- ❖ Know how to report information to appropriate authorities as required by law.
- ❖ Understand how to practice within defined scope of practice and competence and how to obtain knowledge of advances and theory regarding effective clinical practice.
- ❖ How to obtain license(s) and specialty credentials.

- ❖ Understand the necessity of monitoring personal issues and problems to insure they do not impact the therapy process adversely or create vulnerability for misconduct.
- ❖ Understand how to maintain client records with timely and accurate notes.
- ❖ When to (how to) consult with peers and/or supervisors if personal issues threaten to adversely impact clinical work.
- ❖ The importance of pursuing professional development through self supervision, collegial consultation, professional reading, and continuing educational activities.

Attendance:

Class attendance is expected and required. Any missed class time requires make-up assignments at the discretion of the Instructor. More than one missed class (3.25 hours) is failure to complete the class.

Please notify instructor of any special learning considerations that need to be taken into considerations as covered by the **American Disabilities Act**.

Late assignments:

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class and are considered late if handed in after collected. There is a 5 point deduction for each day an assignment is late.

Quizzes can not be made-up.

Grading:

Students are evaluated on their motivation and personal effort to excel as students and be collaborative class members. Participation in discussions and group work as well as quality of work will be considered when assigning point values. Quizzes, homework and other assignments will provide an opportunity to earn points. A scale of the point/grade system is provided under the assignments and grades section.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Quizzes: (7 x 10 points=70 points possible)

Seven quizzes will be given worth ten points each. The quizzes will be based on application of chapter readings and in class discussions. There are not make-up opportunities for quizzes.

Homework Assignments: (6 x 20 points=120 points)

Six assignments (see schedule) will be given out in the previous class of when its due. Work handed in will earn up to 20 points each.

One Group Presentations: (Worth 30 points) (MFT 2 smaller presentations)

The group members (consisting of CMH and MFT students) will present a summary of the readings, then highlight key issues, and raise at least four questions for leading the class in a discussion.

Each group member will take part in presenting a part of their group’s topic.

Each member will hand in their notes for their part of the presentation (no more than one page/one side.)

General class participation and work ethic: (Worth 20 points)

Final Exam: (Worth 60 points)

A final exam will be given on the last day of class. Students will choose 3 out of 4 case studies for responding. The format for the response will be given in a previous class.

A=200-180 points B=179-160 points C= 159-140 Below a C failure of class

Reading and Assignment Schedule

DATE	CMH	MFT				
	Read	Read	Quiz	Present	Class focus	Homework
Oct 11th	1&2	1&2			Orientation to the study of Law and Ethics Class intention for Course	
Oct 18th	3&4	3	#1 all readings to date	Class	Client's Rights Counselor responsibilities Values as Context for Therapy* Using Ethical Guidelines	Bring Copy Ethics
Oct 25th	10	4 & 5	#2	Group	Unique Ethical Considerations in MFT/Family Partner Violence* Counseling Families and Groups	Assign One Informed Consent Mandate Report ORS
Nov 1st	8 & 9	6& 7	#3	Group	Counseling Children Boundary Issues Comtemporary Issues MFT* Ethical Accountability*	Assign Two Mandate report ORS
Nov 8th	5 & 6	8	#4	Group	Confidentiality Records, Supeonas MFT roles & responsibilites within the legal system*	Assign Three Case notes ORS

Nov 15th	7	9 & 10	#5	Group	Competence & Malpractice Family Law* Legal Considerations*	Assign Four Licensure Info Degree program ORS
Nov 29th	11 & 12	11	#6	Group	Evaluaton, testing, diagnosis Professional Relationships Private Practice Professional Identity as MFT*	Assign Five Suicide Assesmnt Dutry to Warn ORS
Dec 6th	13, 14, 15, 16	12	#7	Group	MFT Comtemporry Issues* Resolving Legal & Ethical Issues Counselor Education, Research, & supervision	Assign Six Case Study
Dec 13th			Final Exam		Final exam 3 case studies choose two to respond to, format provided in previous class.	