

Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling

CPSY 580 - 02

Fall Semester, 2006

Instructor:

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We meet:

Thursdays, 5:30 to 8:45 pm
Rogers Hall, room 121
October 12 through December 14, 2006

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

Textbooks required:

Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) students:

Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy
Wilcoxon, Remley, Gladding and Huber
(4th Edition 2007)

Community Mental Health (CMH) students:

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 processes in the professional practice of community mental health and marriage and family therapy. In our class, you will be encouraged to learn specific ethical and legal issues regarding our profession, and to increase your skills of critical analysis. You will be challenged to increase not only your understanding of the ethical principles of counseling work, 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 two different textbooks, assigned to you based on your specialized track here at Lewis & Clark. It is my hope that these different texts will offer the entire class a wider scope and broader understanding of ethical thinking as illustrated in your specialty areas. There are certainly areas of overlap, yet distinct differences in the presentation and discussion within these two texts. As soon-to-be professionals entering practice in a multi-disciplinary field, developing an understanding and recognition of differing ethical perspectives and levels of detail will likely enhance your overall skills and appreciation of variations on the presented themes. 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 be given assignments that will 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 be given the opportunity to write 25 different questions to be discussed in some of our classes. These questions, written on 3 X 5 inch index cards, will be due at the beginning of each designated class period. These questions will be derived from your assigned chapter readings. Your discussion questions and their answers will be evaluated on their accuracy, insight, brevity and creativity. Although subjective in their development, these cards will be part of the foundation of our class discussions on specific topics, and will eventually become the basis of the class Final exam. You will not be given credit for late cards. These cards will be worth one point each, for a possible total of 25 points.

Professional Disclosure Statements and Informed Consent Forms: Assigned on October 19th and due on October 26th, these documents, to be discussed in detail before assignment, will be evaluated on their completeness, 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. The Community Mental Health (CMH) students will develop Informed Consent forms, and the Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) students will create Professional Disclosure Statements. These forms will be eligible for a total of 25 points.

Confidentiality and Reporting Issue presentations: On November 2nd, you will be assigned to a small multi-disciplinary team and be given the opportunity to develop a brief (one or two typed pages) report on a specific aspect of one of the above topics. Your group will discuss both topics, and each of you will then follow up this discussion with writing your own brief paper. Your individual papers will be presented during our November 9th class. Your papers and presentations will be eligible for up to 25 points.

Final examination: During our last class meeting, you will complete our class Final exam. This exam will be created by listing 25 question / discussion cards from earlier in the semester. This exam will evaluate not only your memory, but your participation in earlier discussions as well. The Final will hopefully be relatively easy, given that you will have written the exam questions yourselves! This Final will be worth 25 points.

Grading:

These assignments will offer you the chance for a possible total 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 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, all cell phones, pagers, or electrical communication devices are to be rendered non-disruptive, unless you've informed me of a pending critical incoming communication. Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling
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Date	Topic	Reading: CMH	Reading MFT	Assignment
October 12, 2006	Class overview Ethical decision making	Ch. 1 and Ch. 2	Ch. 1 and Ch. 2	Question / Discussion Cards* (1 point X 5 cards)
October 19, 2006	Client rights Foundational principles	Ch. 4	Ch. 3	*(5 points) Professional disclosure statements (MFT)** Informed Consent (CMH)**
October 26, 2006	Groups and couples counseling Violence issues	Ch. 10	Ch. 4 and Ch. 5	**Assignments due (25 points)
November 2, 2006	Boundaries Children / Vulnerable adults Contemporary issues	Ch. 8 and Ch. 9	Ch. 6	*(5 points)
November 9, 2006	Confidentiality	Ch. 5	Ch. 8	Confidentiality and Reporting Issue Presentations (25 points)
November 16, 2006	Counselor Competence Legal Issues	Ch. 7	Ch. 9	*(5 points)
November 23, 2006	Thanksgiving	No Class tonight	Have fun	
November 30, 2006	Diagnostics Professional issues Counselor Identity	Ch. 11 and Ch. 12	Ch. 11	*(5 points)
December 7, 2006	Supervision and Consultation Professional issues	Ch. 14	Ch. 12	*(5 points)
December 14, 2006	Review and Wrap up of class			Final (25 points)

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