CPSY 510 Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling
Fall 2010
Course Syllabus

I. General Information
Instructor: Susan Dale, Ph.D.
Office hours: Mondays at 12:30 (prior to class) and other times by appointment
Contact Information: Phone: 503-730-1319 or 503-293-1614
Email: sdale@lclark.edu

Credit hours: 2
Class Meeting Time: 1:00 – 4:15 PM, Monday October 18 – December 13
Class Location: TBD

II. Readings
Required text:

Required articles:
The articles required are listed at the end of this syllabus: they are brief articles and will inform each week’s discussion. All readings from professional journals may be found online through the Lewis and Clark library. Other readings may be found at the websites listed.

III. Catalog description
Consideration of the applicable ethical and legal issues for mental health and school settings. Students develop skills in ethical assessment and resolution.

IV. Course Description
Professional ethics provide critical guidance to the provision of all services as counselors. This course will offer an in depth focus on the relevant knowledge, awareness and skills necessary to practice safely and responsibly in counseling and school psychology. Students will engage in dialog throughout the course and work in peer consultation teams to identify and resolve ethical dilemmas and adopt sound ethical and professional practices. Considerations of diversity are extremely important in the context of counseling ethics. Sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, sex/gender, and people with disabilities is imperative in learning how to apply ethical standards in a positive and competent manner to all populations. Students will complete written and oral assignments designed to further awareness and mirror actual standards of the profession.

V. Course Goals and Objectives
Students will explore their personal values as they relate to a professional ethical code. Students will gain knowledge and awareness of the content, application and interrelationship of the ACA Code of Ethics, standards of professional practice, and state and federal mental health statutes.
Students will develop a framework for approaching ethics in counseling from a positive and preventative perspective, striving for the highest standards of the profession.
Students will have an appreciation of cultural influences to ethical reasoning and learn to consider how ACA ethical standards are perceived and applied across different groups of people.

Students will learn to identify and resolve ethical dilemmas using a formal decision making model.

Students will learn sound risk management practices.

Students will learn about the role of the licensing board and other professional organizations and the steps necessary to complete licensure.

Students and the instructor will share responsibility for creating and maintaining an effective learning environment.

510 – Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling Objectives

1. Knowledge of state, federal, and provincial laws and regulations that apply to the practice of counseling and marriage & family therapy. (CC: 1h, 5e)
2. Knowledge of professional ethics and standards of practice that apply to counseling and the practice of marriage & family therapy. (CC: 1h, 5e)
3. Knowledge of policies and procedures of the practice setting. (CC: 5g)
4. Understanding of the process of making an ethical decision. (CC: all areas)
5. Ability to recognize ethical dilemmas in practice setting. (CC: 5g)
6. Ability to recognize when a legal consultation is necessary (CC: all areas)
7. Ability to recognize when clinical supervision or legal consultation is necessary (CC: all areas)
8. Ability to recognize consultation (CC: 5e)
9. Ability to recognize issues related to ethics, laws, regulations, and professional standards. (CC: 1h)
10. Understand the limitations to confidentiality and parameters of mandatory reporting. (CC: all areas)
11. Understand the need and how to create a safety plan for clients who present with potential self-harm, suicide, abuse, or violence. (CC: 5g)
12. Understand how to take action when ethical and legal dilemmas emerge. (CC: all areas)
13. Know how to report information to appropriate authorities as required by law. (CC: all areas)
14. Understand how to practice within defined scope of practice and competence and how to obtain knowledge of advances and theory regarding effective clinical practice. (CC: 1h)
15. How to obtain license(s) and specialty credentials. (CC: 1e)
16. Understand the necessity of monitoring personal issues and problems to ensure they do not impact the therapy process adversely or create vulnerability for misconduct. (CC: 5g)
17. Understand how to maintain client records with timely and accurate notes. (CC: 5g)
18. When to (how to) consult with peers and/or supervisors if personal issues threaten to adversely impact clinical work. (CC: 5g)
19. The importance of pursuing professional development through self supervision, collegial consultation, professional reading, and continuing educational activities. (CC: all areas)

VI. Course Format

The class will include discussion, lecture, and class exercises. The latter will include role play, consultation groups, and other direct exposure to ethical problem solving. Students are required to complete the assigned reading and homework prior to each class and are expected to prepare questions and comments in anticipation of classroom discussion. Ethical practice is a critical competence in counseling psychology and is
advanced through ongoing dialog and consultation with colleagues. Classroom participation will establish and mirror this essential professional approach.

VII. Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites for this course.

VIII. Evaluation and Assessment
The final course grade will be based upon the following assignments:

**Attendance and participation (25%)**: The objectives of this course are achieved primarily through active discussion of the concepts presented in the weekly readings; therefore it is essential that students attend all sessions and are prepared to participate actively. Students will be graded on their contributions to classroom discussion and presentation of concepts from the readings.

**Ethics Written Assignment (25%)**: Students will complete a written autobiographical ethics assignment. More information regarding this assignment, including a grading criteria form, will be given out during the first week of class. Due Week 4.

**Exam (25%)**: Students will complete a final written exam covering the assigned material and class room content. The exam will be short answer essay and multiple choice. Administered Week 7. More information regarding this exam will be given out weeks prior to the actual exam.

**Final Ethics Exam Presentation (25%)**: Peer consultation teams will receive a clinical vignette involving a complex ethical situation. Each team will be given a brief consultation time period during class and then will present the case, their decision-making process, and their action plan to the class. More information regarding this assignment, including a grading criteria form, will be provided during the semester. Presentations will be during the Final Class period, Week 9.

Grading system:
A = 90-100
B = 80-89
F = < 80

*Missing one class session will require an extra activity; missing more than 1 or not completing the extra assignment will result in a full grade reduction. More than 2 will result in a failure to complete the course.*
## IX. Proposed Content and Course Calendar

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Content</th>
<th>Reading Materials</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10/18/10</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Course Overview</td>
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<td>10/25/10</td>
<td>ACA Code of Ethics</td>
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<td>Oregon Legal Statutes</td>
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<td>Ethical Decision Making Models</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>11/1/10</td>
<td>Competence</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 5, 6, 8</td>
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<td>Confidentiality</td>
<td>Required articles</td>
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<td>Informed Consent</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>11/8/10</td>
<td>Legal Issues</td>
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<td>Ethics Autobiography due</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>11/15/10</td>
<td>Multiple relationships</td>
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<td>Professional Boundaries</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>11/22/10</td>
<td>Clinical Supervision</td>
<td>Text: 4, 9 Required articles</td>
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<td>Diversity</td>
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<td>Practice: Ethical Decision Making</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>11/29/10</td>
<td>Written Exam</td>
<td>Articles: TBD</td>
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<td>Ethical Issues in Specialty areas</td>
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<td>Practice: Ethical Decision Making</td>
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<td>12/6/10</td>
<td>High Risk/Endangering Clients</td>
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<td>Special Topics</td>
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<td>Risk Management</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>12/13/10</td>
<td>Final Ethical Dilemma Presentations</td>
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<td>Ongoing Ethical Practice</td>
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## X. Required articles: Bibliography

**Week 2: Ethical Guidelines and Legal Statutes**

1. ACA Code of Ethics (2005).*

* Bring these 2 documents to class each week.

**Week 3: Competence, Confidentiality and Informed Consent**


**Week 4: Legal Mandates**


**Week 5: Multiple Relationships and Professional Boundaries**


**Week 6: Diversity; Clinical Supervision**


**Practice: Ethical Decision Making Presentations**

**Week 7: Written Exam**

**Practice: Ethical Decision Making Presentations**

**Discussion/Lecture**

Possible topics: Confidentiality and Ethics in Internet Age; Military Ethics; Subpoenas and Court Testimony; Forensic Roles; Termination vs Abandonment; Others of Participants’ Interest

**Week 8: High Risk Populations and Special Topics**


**Week 9: Final Presentations: Ethical Decision Making Presentations**


**Additional Optional Reading:**


