

Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling

CPSY 580 - 01

Spring Semester, 2008

Instructor:

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We meet:

Mondays, 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 knowledge base, critical thinking and decision-making skills for your professional practice in counseling. In our class, you will learn about specific ethical and legal issues, and ways to increase your skills of critical analysis. You will be challenged to increase your understanding of the ethical principles of counseling, and to become adept at knowing when and how to seek consultation and supervision. 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:

Our class discussions and assignments will be drawn from readings in your textbook. I hope that the text will offer our class a wide scope and broad understanding of ethical thinking as illustrated in the assigned chapters. As soon-to-be professionals entering a complex, multi-disciplinary field, understanding and recognizing the ethical dimensions of your work is important. This class will help develop your professional ethics and thereby enhance the competence and safety of your counseling work. Of course, you are expected to keep up with the assigned readings in order to actively contribute to our class discussions.

Assignments:

In addition to the chapter readings, you will have class assignments consisting of the following:

Question / Discussion Cards: Throughout the semester, you will write two (2) discussion questions for each weekly class. These two questions, written on 3 X 5 inch index cards, will be due at the beginning of each class period, and will come from your assigned chapter readings. Your discussion questions and their answers will be evaluated on their accuracy, insight, thoughtfulness and creativity. These cards will be the foundation of our class discussions, and will eventually help create our Final exam. You will not receive credit for late cards. These two cards will be worth up to two points each (a total of four (4) points per class), with a maximum total of **15** cards equaling **30 points** during the semester.

Informed Consent Forms: These documents will be discussed in detail before your assignment and 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 going to present them to actual clients. These forms are due one week from assignment and will be eligible for a maximum of **25 points**.

Class presentations: You will be part of a small group and will develop a brief (3 to 4 typed pages) report on an assigned ethical issue or topic. Each of you will take part in presenting part of the group's topic during one of our later classes. Each group member will turn in your notes (no more than one typed page) for your part of the presentation. Your individual and group papers and presentations will be worth up to **20 points**.

Final examination: During our last class meeting, you will complete our class Final exam. This exam will be drawn from the question / discussion cards you've written throughout the semester. This exam will evaluate your recall and understanding of our class discussions. This Final will be worth up to **25 points**.

Grading:

These assignments will offer you the chance for a possible total of **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 is 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 by the Counseling Psychology Department as a failure to complete our class.

Of course, as a courtesy to your classmates and instructor, all computers, cell phones, or other electronic communication devices are to be rendered non-disruptive, unless you've informed me of a pending critical incoming communication, or if you require an educational accommodation based on ADA standards and approved by the Counseling Psychology Department.

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Date	Topic	Readings	Pages	Assignments Points (up to #)
February 18, 2007	Class overview	Chapter 1	pages 1 to 20	Attendance
February 25, 2007	Confidentiality	Chapter 5	pages 88 to 116	Discussion cards (4)
March 3, 2006	Informed Consent	Chapter 4	pages 65 to 87	Discussion cards (4) Informed consent forms assigned
March 10, 2007	Boundary issues and Multiple relationships	Chapter 8	pages 179 to 202	Discussion cards (4) Informed consent forms due (25)
March 17, 2007	Competence and Malpractice	Chapter 7	pages 150 to 178	Discussion cards (4)
March 24, 2007	Spring Break	No class	None	Have fun
March 31, 2007	Children and vulnerable adults	Chapter 9	pages 203 to 225	Discussion cards (4)
April 7, 2007	Families and groups	Chapter 10	pages 226 to 246	Discussion cards (4)
April 14, 2007	Supervision and consultation	Chapter 14	pages 318 to 337	Discussion cards (4)
April 21, 2007	Diagnosis Resolving legal and ethical issues	Chapter 16	pages 260 to 267 pages 356 to 367	Discussion cards (2) Final (25)

Textbook:
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