

Lewis & Clark College
Professional Mental Health Counseling Program
MHC 532 / MHCA 525
Ethical & Legal Issues in Professional Counseling / Ethical & Legal Issues in
PMHC-A
Syllabus Cover Sheet

Required Objectives:

Professional Identity Standards (CACREP 2009 Standards)

- 1j. ethical standards of professional organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling
- 2e. counselors' roles in developing cultural self-awareness, promoting cultural social justice, advocacy and conflict resolution, and other culturally supported behaviors that promote optimal wellness and growth of the human spirit, mind, or body; and
- 7g. ethical strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment and evaluation instruments and techniques in counseling.

Clinical Mental Health Standards (CACREP 2009 Standards)

- A2. Understands ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of clinical mental health counseling. (2001-A4)
- B1. Demonstrates the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards in clinical mental health counseling.
 - Knowledge of policies and procedures of the practice setting.
 - Understanding of the process of making ethical decisions.
 - Ability to recognize ethical dilemmas in practice settings.
 - Ability to recognize when a legal consultation is necessary.
 - Ability to recognize when clinical supervision or legal consultation is necessary.
 - Ability to recognize when and how to effectively utilize consultation.
 - Understand the limitations to confidentiality and parameters of mandatory reporting.
 - Understanding the need for 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.

C9. Understands professional issues relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.

- Understand how to practice within your 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 self-care, and 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 (and 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.

Key Required Assignments/Student Learning Outcomes

These assignments are required for the course, but **will not be the only requirements/expectations.** The chart below lists the assignment, method of submission, and benchmark score/grade. These assignments are set up for upload to Taskstream and/or instructor provides rating for assignment. See syllabus for details.

Ethical Practice		Proficient (A)	Benchmark (B)	Emerging (C)	Inadequate /Fail	As evidenced by:	Review and Remediation
Goal 1 of 1							
Understands, and follows ethical standards	Early Program	90-100% cumulative quiz score	80-89% cumulative quiz score	70- 80% cumulative quiz score	Below 70% cumulative quiz score	MHC 532/MHCA 525 Ethics: Passes ethics quizzes with 80% minimum	First Year Portfolio Review/Advisor: Referral to Benchmark Review Committee

Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling

MHC 532-01

Summer Semester, 2016

Instructors:

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Course credit: 2 semester hours

Textbook required:

Ethics in Counseling and Psychotherapy; Standards, Research, and Emerging Issues, 6th Edition,
Elizabeth Reynolds Welfel
(2016)

Overview:

This course will help you develop a wide knowledge base, critical thinking and ethical decision making skills in all aspects of your counseling work. In our class, you will learn about specific ethical and legal issues and develop ways of thinking that enhance your professionalism. You will be challenged to increase your level of awareness, sensitivity, and understanding of ethical principles in counseling. The goals for this class are to increase your desire and diligence for a high level of ethical awareness and ethical performance in your future professional counseling.

Readings:

Most of our class discussions and assignments will be from readings in our textbook. The assigned chapters offer a wide scope, broad understanding and many illustrations of ethical challenges. As new counselors entering a very complex and highly ambiguous field, it is critically important to recognize and understand ethical dimensions in our profession. As you will see, strong ethics are the foundation for competent counseling services. This class will help develop your professional ethics, and enhance your skills and competence with the primary goal being safety for your future clients. In this course, you are expected to keep up with the assigned readings and to contribute actively in each and every class session.

Class assignments:

Participation in weekly class discussions: Learning Ethics is participatory in nature. Our expectation is that every student will discuss a question or an idea in each class session. We want you to find your voice and express your ideas. Students may earn **1 point** per class up to a total of **9 points**.

Discussion questions: For each week, you will write two (**2**) discussion questions. These questions, written on 3 X 5 inch index cards (provided by your instructors), will come from your assigned chapters. Your questions and their answers will form the foundation of our class discussions. Due at the beginning of class, you may (or may not) receive credit for late cards at the discretion of the instructors. These cards will be worth up to **2 points** each (maximum of **4 points** per class), for a total of **18 cards (36 points)** during the semester.

Class Project: Ethics and special populations: This small group project will explore cultural, ethical, & legal considerations with specific populations. You and your peers will create and deliver a 20 minute class presentation, selecting some dilemmas that a clinician & client may face during treatment. Explore ethical, legal, cultural, age or other factors through concepts such as informed consent, confidentiality, boundaries. Give the class ideas about how to manage ethics in these treatment situations, a list of resources for classmates specific to this population, and a one-page outline of your presentation (**up to 15 points**).

Important influences exercise: Ethics are inspired and influenced by many events, places and people in our lives. You will create a 10 minute class presentation, selecting from a variety of options, illustrating some of the most important influences on your professional ethics. Students can earn up to **10 points** for the construction and presentation of this individual exercise.

Mid-term and final: We will have a Mid-term exam (**15 points**) in week 6 of our class, covering class material up to that point. We will have a Final examination during our last class session (**15 points**), covering the remaining class material.

Grading: For a total of up to **100 points** on your final grade, scoring 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

Please note: A score of 69 points or below is registered as a failing grade for this class.

Attendance and courtesy: Class attendance is expected and required. If you are going to miss any class, you will be given a make-up assignment. Please inform your instructor(s) as soon as possible if you anticipate missing a class. More than one missed class (3.5 hours) will be considered by the Counseling Psychology Department as a failure to complete our course. (See CPSY Department Attendance Policy for further details.)

As a professional courtesy to your classmates and instructors, please avoid any non-class-related or disruptive use of electronic devices in our class. We can make exceptions if you have informed us of a pending critical incoming communication. If you require any educational accommodation based on ADA standards, please provide your instructors with

evidence of written approval by the Counseling Psychology Department as early in the semester as possible.

Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling

MHC 532-01

Summer Semester, 2016

Date	Topic	Readings	Pages	Assignments & expectations
May 12, 2016	Introduction to Ethics	Chapter 1 and Chapter 2	Pages 2 to 26 and Pages 27 to 56	Attendance and participation*
May 19, 2016	Ethical Practice in a Multicultural Society	Chapter 3	Pages 57 to 83	Discussion cards (4)
May 26, 2016	Confidentiality	Chapter 5	Pages 111 to 158	Discussion cards (4)
June 2, 2016	Informed Consent	Chapter 6	Pages 159 to 182	Discussion cards (4)
June 9, 2016	Sexualized Relationships with clients	Chapter 7	Pages 183 to 213	Discussion cards (4)
June 16, 2016	Nonsexual Multiple Relationships	Chapter 8	Pages 214 to 242	Discussion cards (4) Midterm (15 points)
June 23, 2016	Ethical Issues in Special Settings	Chapter 12	Pages 320 to 355	Discussion cards (4) Class Projects (15) Important others: Group 1 (10 points)
June 30, 2016	Groups, Couples and Families	Chapter 9	Pages 243 to 265	Discussion cards (4) Important others: Group 2 (10 points)
July 7, 2016	Competence and Preventing Misconduct	Chapter 4 and Chapter 11	Pages 86 to 110 and Pages 296 to 318	Discussion cards (4) Important others: Group 3 (10 points)
July 14, 2015	The Ethics of Supervision	Chapter 14	Pages 385 to 414	Discussion cards (4) Important others: Group 4 (10 points) Final (15 points)

*Each class

Textbook: Ethics in Counseling and Psychotherapy: Standards, Research and Emerging Issues, 6th Edition, Welfel, 2016.