

Lewis & Clark College
Professional Mental Health Counseling & Professional Mental Health Counseling –
Specialization in Addictions
MHC 532
Ethical & Legal Issues in Professional Counseling
Syllabus Cover Sheet

Required Objectives:

Professional Counseling Identity (CACREP 2016 Standards)

1i. ethical standards of professional counseling organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling

Entry-Level Specialty: Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CACREP 2016 Standards)

C2l. legal and ethical considerations specific to clinical mental health counseling

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

Methods of Instruction for this Course

Instruction Method	Mark All That Apply
Lecture	Yes
Small Group Discussion	Yes
Large Group Discussion	Yes
Course Readings	Yes
Group Presentation	Yes
Individual Presentation	Yes
DVD/Video Presentation	
Supervised Small Group Work	Yes
Individual/Triadic Supervision	
Group Supervision	
Case Studies	Yes
Debate	
Class Visitor / Guest Lecturer	
Off-Campus / Field Visit	
Other:	
Weekly Discussion / Question cards	Yes

Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling

MHC 532-01

Fall, 2019

Instructors:

James Gurule, MA, LPC

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Sally Rasmussen, MA, LPC

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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 strong 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 as they apply to members of diverse cultural and class groups who seek Mental Health Services. The goals for this class are to increase your achievement of high levels of ethical awareness and help develop strong ethical performance in your professional counseling.

Readings:

Most of our class discussions and assignments will be from readings in our textbook. The assigned chapters offer a wide scope and understanding with many illustrations of ethical challenges. As new counselors entering a very complex professional field, it is critically important to recognize and understand the ethical dimensions of counseling. 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 the safety of your future clients. In this course, you are expected to keep up with the assigned readings and to actively contribute in each and every class session.

Class assignments:

Participation in weekly class discussions: In this class, our expectations are that every student will share questions and ideas in each class session. We want you to find your voice and express yourself. Since we rely heavily on student participation in class discussions, **missing** a class means earning **no** discussion question points for that evening.

Discussion questions: For each class, you will write two (2) discussion questions. These questions, written on 3 X 5 inch index cards, will come from your assigned chapters. Your questions and their answers will form the foundation of our class discussions. Due at the **beginning** of each class, your 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.

Quizzes I, II, and III: We will have three quizzes, one in week 4 (**15 points**), one in week 7 (**15 points**), and one in week 9 (**15 points**), covering material in that semester segment.

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 important influences on your professional ethics. For this individual presentation, students will select the week for your brief presentations. More information will follow. (**10 points**)

Ethics article assignment: Each student will make a 10-minute presentation of their selected ethics article during the semester. Plan to provide a written outline that summarizes your article (**2** points). Identify at least two ideas that are important for professional counselors to consider as helpful to that population (**3** points). Present your information in class (**2** points). Provide your instructor with copies of your article (**2** points = **9 total points**). Please select your ethics article and plan a presentation from the following topics: 1.) Confidentiality and Informed Consent; 2.) Multiple Relationships and Boundaries; 3.) Family, Couples, or Group therapy; 4.) Supervision.

Your ethics article should address power, privilege, and/or equity concerns as they apply to a specific client population. Please choose an article that allows your presentation to explore an ethics topic from the perspective of your selected population.

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. Please inform your instructor(s) as soon as possible if you anticipate missing any class. Missing a class means no discussion card points for that evening.

As a professional expectation, any **non-class-related** or disruptive use of electronic devices in our classroom is prohibited. Your instructors can make exceptions if you have informed us of a pending critical incoming communication. Otherwise, please demonstrate appropriate phone courtesies.

If you have a disability that may impact your academic performance, you may request accommodations by submitting documentation to the Student Support Services Office in Albany Quadrangle (503-768-7192). After you have submitted documentation and filled out paperwork there for the current semester requesting accommodations, staff in that office will notify your instructor(s) of the accommodations for which you are eligible.

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MHC 532-01: Fall, 2019

Date	Topic	Readings	Pages	Assignments & Expectations
September 5, 2019	Introduction to Ethics	Chapter 1 and Chapter 2	Pages 2 to 26 Pages 27 to 56	Attendance and Participation*
Sept. 12, 2019	Ethical practice in a multicultural society	Chapter 3	Pages 57 to 83	Discussion cards* Important influences
Sept. 19, 2019	Confidentiality	Chapter 5	Pages 111 to 158	Discussion cards* Important influences
Sept. 26, 2019	Informed Consent	Chapter 6	Pages 159 - 182	Discussion cards* Articles group 1 Quiz I
October 3, 2019	Sexualized Relationships	Chapter 7	Pages 183 to 213	Discussion cards* Important influences
Oct. 10, 2019	Nonsexual Multiple Relationships	Chapter 8	Pages 214 to 242	Discussion cards* Articles group 2
Oct. 17, 2019	Competence and Preventing misconduct	Chapter 4 and Chapter 11	Pages 86 to 110 Pages 296 to 318	Discussion cards* Important influences Quiz II
Oct. 24, 2019	Groups, couples and families	Chapter 9	Pages 243 to 265	Discussion cards* Articles group 3
Oct. 31, 2019	The Ethics of supervision	Chapter 14	Pages 385 to 414	Discussion cards* Articles group 4 Quiz III
Nov. 7, 2019	Self-care; Electronics and social media	Selected readings	To be assigned	Discussion cards* Important influences

*Each class

Two Discussion cards, up to 2 points each, total = 4 points class;

Important influences exercise, up to 10 points per student;

Ethics articles presentations, up to 9 points per student.