

Portland State University
Counseling 570
Ethical & Legal Issues
Spring 2011

Time: Wednesdays 6:40-9:20

Place: ED 414

Instructor: Will Meek, PhD

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Course Description

This course examines the ethical principles, laws, and legal issues that influence the practice of counselors in a variety of settings. This course will include an overview of systems which influence legal and ethical issues, guidelines for testifying, and an examination of the most common ethical dilemmas the counselor may encounter. Methods of instruction include lecture, small group work, individual assignments, and whole class discussion.

Required Materials

Remley, T.P. & Herlihy, B. (2010). Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Counseling (Updated 3rd edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill Prentice-Hall.

Department Policy Statement

The counseling profession requires a high level of personal integrity, self-awareness, and personal maturity. Demonstrating professionalism in classroom behavior, as well as being present and engaged in classroom activities is expected at all times as a graduate student in Counselor Education.

Students are expected to attend all class meetings; however, one absence is not considered excessive. Students whose beliefs, religious practices, or lifestyles may conflict with class attendance from time to time should discuss such issues with the course instructor at the beginning of the term. If possible, arrangement should be made to make up missed attendance related assignments and experiences. It is up to the student and instructor to negotiate a satisfactory solution with respect to absences.

Students and faculty are expected to maintain an atmosphere in which controversial issues, germane to the subject matter, can be examined and discussed. In exercising this freedom of expression, faculty and students are expected to exercise appropriate restraint and show respect for the opinions of others.

The Counselor Education program seeks to balance providing care and support, high expectations, and opportunities for participation in meaningful activities. All students are expected to participate in constructing a respectful learning environment in the classroom. Arrive to class on time, stay for the entire class, come back from breaks on time, turn off cell phones, etc. Be mindful of what might detract from the learning experience of students and faculty alike (e.g. talking to fellow students during the lecture).

All students in the program must demonstrate behavior that is consistent with the Ethical Standards put forth by the American Counseling Association. Failure to do so will result in termination from the program.

Demonstrating effective ethical and professional conduct is extremely important and will be monitored and reviewed by the faculty throughout your time in the program in order to assess your development as a professional counselor. Formal occasions for feedback in this regard occur following First Year Student Reviews (May of each year) and during Practicum and Internship. Concerns and deficiencies will be brought to your attention and used by faculty in assessing your overall academic/professional progress in the program. Deficiencies which are not corrected will be cause for disciplinary action which may include termination from the program.

Course Objectives

1. Sensitize students to the ethical and legal issues in the profession and the consequences of their own actions in practice
2. Improve students' ability to reason about ethical issues
3. Describe a model for ethical decision-making
4. Apply ethical and legal principles to liability risk management
5. Explore the resolution of ethical dilemmas in experiential practice groups

Additional Class Information

Assistance/Accommodations: PSU is committed to providing equal access to its learning environment. If you are an individual with a specific hearing, sight, physical, psychiatric, learning or other disability, you may be eligible for support services. Please contact the Disability Resources Center for more information (<http://www.drc.pdx.edu>). Students who anticipate they will need any special assistance or accommodations due to a disability should contact me prior to the second class meeting so we can make those arrangements.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is essential for the intellectual life of the University. Students have an obligation to adhere to the standards in the student Code of Conduct (<http://www.pdx.edu/dos/conductcode>).

Course Requirements

Attendance: Attendance, preparation, and participation in class discussions are required. Missing one class will not result in a penalty, but each additional class will result in a *5pt deduction from the final grade*. If you know in advance that you are going to miss a class, please contact me as soon as possible. For all other attendance policies, particularly regarding illness, please follow standard university protocol.

Readings: Students are expected to come to class prepared to fully participate in discussions. In order to do so, students are expected to have read the required reading assignments prior to class attendance. The readings for each class session are noted in the course outline.

Journal (20pt): You will complete one journal entry for every class. Ideally these entries will be your personal reactions to, and learning from, the class material. Each entry must be a minimum of 200 words, and each is worth 2pt. A fully complete journal of 9 entries will get another 2pt added (total of 20pt). Note that the journal will only be graded for length and number of entries, not for content, and will be read in more detail only after final grades are submitted. This is to allow you full freedom to your writing. The final journal must be emailed to willmeek@gmail.com by 11:59:59pm on June 8, and be sent in .doc or .odt format. I will send a confirmation email when I receive your journal.

Quizzes (40pt): There will be four quizzes in the class (see calendar for dates). The quizzes are 10pt each (total of 40pt) and be on TK20. See TK20 for exact time each is due.

Paper (40pt): You will develop a disclosure statement as your final paper. The full details of this assignment will be provided at a later time. The final paper must be emailed to willmeek@gmail.com by 11:59:59pm on June 8, and be sent in .doc or .odt format. I will send a confirmation email when I receive your paper. Late papers will be penalized 10pt each day.

Extra Credit: No extra credit will be given in the class.

Grading: Students' course grades will be determined by scores on the grades on assignments and considerations from attendance and participation, and will be calculated on the following scale.

Grade	Points	Percent
A	94	94 - 100
A-	90 – 93	90 – 93.9
B+	87 – 89	87 – 89.9
B	84 – 86	84 – 86.9
B-	80 – 83	80 – 83.9
C	79.9 and lower	79.9 and below

Calendar		
Date	Subject	Reading / Quiz Available
03/30/11	Overview & Introduction	Ch 1
04/06/11	Identity & Multicultural Context	Ch 2 & 3 – Quiz 1 (ch 1-3)
04/13/11	Client Rights & Confidentiality	Ch 4 & 5
04/20/11	Records & Competence	Ch 6 & 7 – Quiz 2 (ch 4-7)
04/27/11	Boundaries & Child Issues	Ch 8 & 9
05/04/11	Families & Testing	Ch 10 & 11 – Quiz 3 (ch 8-11)
05/11/11	Business & Counselor Education	Ch 12 & 13
05/18/11	Supervision & Research	Ch 14 & 15 – Quiz 4 (ch 12-15)
05/25/11	Resolving Dilemmas	Ch 16
06/01/11	Special Ethical Topics	ACA Code
06/08/11	NO CLASS – FINALS WEEK	Paper & Journal Due

