

ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING  
2PSY551  
R.T.S. 08/28/2009 TO 10/09/2009  
FRIDAYS 8:00 AM B 3:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Larry E. Shyers, Ph.D., ACS., L.M.H.C.  
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PURPOSE: To explore the often complex and multifaceted issues involved in ethical and legal decision making and to reflect upon the values held by the professional in the process of this exploration.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this course, each student will:

1. be able to apply ethical decision making processes in the practice of mental health professions;
2. know how to become credentialed as a mental health professional from registration to licensure;
3. understand the significance of state statutes as they apply to the practice of mental health professions;
4. understand the significance of ethical codes and how to apply them to mental health practice
5. be able to act as an advocate for his/her profession at the local, state, and national level;

FORMAT: This course will be taught by use of lecture; role play; group discussion; and power-point display

TEXTS: Corey, G.; Corey, M.S.; and Callanan, P. (2007). Issues and ethics in the helping professions. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Chapter 491, Florida Statutes. Download a copy at:

[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/491/soc\\_statutes.html#Related](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/491/soc_statutes.html#Related)

Chapter 64B4, Florida Administrative Code. (will be included in the download listed above)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

### PRIOR TO FIRST CLASS MEETING

1. Each student will write a brief (2 to 5 pages) self evaluative paper regarding your personal view of ethics, i.e. how your values may figure into your counseling style, what types of clients you may find difficult to work with, issues you might find troubling to you, etc.
2. Complete readings in texts assigned for first class meeting.

### DURING CLASS

3. Each student will review at least 6 articles in **professional counseling journals** (e.g. Journals published by CAPS; AMHCA; ACA; AAMFT; or AAPC) dealing with professional issues. List the professional citations for all articles reviewed and write a brief synopsis on **two**. Make sure you include your opinion regarding the articles you review. **How will the article impact** your counseling (or not). Your **opinion is vital** to the grade you receive.
4. Each student will actively participate in group discussions and/or role play.
5. Each student will write a research paper regarding a single ethical issue. In this paper the student will explore why the issue is an ethical dilemma, what qualified professional suggest be done about the ethical dilemma, and conclude with a definitive statement about what the student will or would do if faced with that ethical dilemma. Paper should be written using APA style. Paper should be long enough to adequately cover the three areas listed above.
6. Each student will complete 2 cumulative quizzes/examinations during the term of the course with a passing grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Aug 28	course overview Definition of ethics v law Definition of a profession v job Ethical decision making process The counselor as a person  Introduction of Vignettes  <b><u>Self Evaluation Paper due</u></b>	Corey: Chps. 1, 2, 3
Sept 4	Values and counseling codes of ethics Certification v licensure Informed consent Confidentiality Records and Reports  Vignettes	S. 491.005, F.S S. 491.0147, F.S. : C. 64B4-9, F.A.C. Codes: AMHCA; AAMFT ASGW, NBCC  Corey: Chps. 5, 6, 8
Sept 11	Duty to warn mandatory reporting requirements Involuntary Referral for evaluation and/or Treatment Mental Health Treatment  Vignettes  <b><u>QUIZ</u></b>	Corey: Chps. 10
Sept 18	Dual relationships Sexual misconduct Managing Boundaries Supervision  Vignettes	Corey: Chps. 7, 9, 11
Sept 25	Malpractice Subpoena Court Orders  Vignettes <b><u>Article synopsis Due</u></b> <b><u>Research Paper Due</u></b>	
Oct 2	ethical considerations of: Pastoral counseling Marriage counseling Family counseling	Corey: Chps: 4, 12, 13
Oct 9	Application of Ethical Decision Making Process Right to die Termination of pregnancy Same sex couples Religious differences  Vignettes <b><u>FINAL EXAM</u></b>	

## GRADING SCALE:

Grades will be assigned on a points earned basis following the guidelines below:

Class Participation	=	20 pts.
Articles synopsis	=	30 pts.
Self-evaluative paper	=	10 pts.
Research Paper	=	50 pts.
Quiz #1	=	50 pts.
Final Exam	=	50 pts.

Total possible points = 210

A	=	189 - 210
B	=	168 - 188
C	=	147 - 167
D	=	126 - 146
F	=	< 126

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS:

1. Each student will be expected to attend all class meetings. If you can not attend a scheduled meeting, please make arrangements for make-up.
2. All assignments will be due on the date specified in the syllabus. For each day a paper is late, **2 points** will be deducted from the final score.
3. Plagiarism/cheating will result in a failure of the course.
4. All papers will be completed using APA style, 5<sup>th</sup> edition.