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## PM 690 Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling

Asbury Theological Seminary

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# ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING (PM 690) COURSE SYLLABUS SUMMER JULY 2000

## **Class Schedule:**

We will meet July 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:30 – 5:00pm.

## **Course Description: (2hrs Credit)**

This course is designed to help students in the M.A. Counseling Program to identify and examine ethical and legal issues encountered in the counseling process and to explore ways to effectively deal with them. Students completing course the will develop a sensitivity to the ethical and legal aspects of counseling process, better appreciate ethical constrains under which a counselor works, and develop skills to critically examine how they conduct themselves as counselors.

## **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to name the elements of a professional code of ethics in counseling, give a sound rationale for conceptualizing the problem of ethics in counseling, expound on a framework for addressing ethical and legal issues in counseling. In addition, students will be able to define ethics from a variety of philosophical viewpoints, identify federal and state laws that apply to the practice of counseling, and apply various ethical legal standards to the counseling process.

## **Reading requirements:**

Herlihy, B. & Corey, G., (1996). ACA ethical standards casebook. American Counseling Association, Alexandria, VA.

Sanders, Randolph K. (1997). Christian counseling ethics: A handbook for therapists, pastors and counselors,

Kentucky Department for community based services, (1998). Reporting child abuse neglect and dependency. Kentucky. (*Instructor will provide the booklets unless if you already have a copy*)

## **Recommended readings**

Bennett, B. E., et. al., (1990). Professional liability and risk management. American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

Bond, T., (1993) Standards and ethics for counseling in action. Sage London

Assignments:

- You will be assigned to a topic at the beginning of the class. There are two days during the course that you will take time to research on your topic. You will then have an opportunity in class to present your major preliminary findings to your fellow students. From your findings and additional research you will write a 12 –15 page paper on the same topic. The paper opens with a vignette or a short case study on an ethical or legal issue in counseling. The main body of your paper will present findings from the research and recommendations for action to meet the needs of the initial ethical or legal counseling concern. You are required to do some internet search on the topic chosen for research. See the folder on library reserve for proper documentation of internet sources. Each paper will be graded according to the following criteria:

The Opening Vignette -	Is relevant to research topic Presents a feasible ethical or legal problem in counseling.
The Body of Research -	Flows naturally out of the opening vignette Is well integrated and thoroughly addresses the issues. Must use the Internet as a resource. Is written in a well-constructed writing style with minimal errors throughout.
The Closing -	Makes practical use of the research in responding to the initial problem. Brings closure to the team’s paper.
Grading:	Class attendance and participation                      15 points Class presentation -    40 points Final research paper -    45 points

Please prepare handouts/notes or (power points) for your classmates for your presentation. Please be prepared, don’t waste other students’ money and time by coming unprepared.

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July 11	1:30 – 2:45	Defining Ethics
	2:45 –2:55	Break
	2:55:3:55	Ethical Standards- What are they? Review ACA & AACC
	3:55- 4:00	Break
	4:00 –5:00	Ethical & Legal issues in counseling children /minors Child Abuse ( <i>Guest - Social Worker</i> )
July 12		<i>Work on assigned research project</i>

July 13	1:30-2:35	Client Record Management / Documentation
	2:35 –2:40	Break
	2:40 - 3:20	Client Record Management / Documentation
	3:20 –3:30	Break
	3:30-5:00	Legal and Ethical Issues ( <i>Guest – Lawyer</i> )
July 14	<i>Work on your assigned research project</i>	
July 18	1:30 –2:35	Dual relationships/ Sexual misconduct in counseling
	2:35 –2:40	Break
	2:40 –3:20	Dual relationships / Sexual misconduct in counseling
	3:20- 3:30	Break
	3:30-5:00	Confidentiality & Privileged Communication ( <i>Guest – Lawyer</i> )
July 20	Student Presentations / 4 – students (Cases and other findings)	
	1:30 –2:25	
	2:25 – 2:30	Break
	2:30 – 3:20	
	3:20 – 3:25	Break
	3:25- 4:15	
	4:15- 4:20	Break
	4:20- 5:10	
July 21	Student Presentations / 4 –students (Cases and other findings)	
	1:30 –2:25	
	2:25 – 2:30	Break
	2:30 – 3:20	
	3:20 – 3:25	Break
	3:25- 4:15	
	4:15- 4:20	Break
	4:20- 5:10	

***Your final research project is due Aug 21<sup>st</sup> by 4:30pm in SH413. If you anticipate problems in meeting this deadline, please talk to me ahead of time. I encourage every student to share a copy of their final paper with at least three people in the class.***

*Topics for research and group presentations*

Ethical issues in multi-cultural counseling

Values in counseling relationships.

Pastors who counsel

Competence

Working with suicidal clients

The relationship between law and ethics

Handling complaints of ethical violations

Ethical issues around working with abused women or homosexual persons