1-1-2009

CO 610 Ethical/Legal Issues in Counseling

Javier Sierra

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Course: CO610 O1 (JA 2009)  
Title: Ethical/Legal Issues in Couns  
Hours: 3.00  
Published: Yes, on 12/17/2008  
Prerequisites:  
CO601  

Department: Counseling  
Faculty: Dr. Javier Sierra  

Email: javier.sierra@asburyseminary.edu  
Office: FC  
SPO:  

Meetings:  
During 01/07/2009 to 01/09/2009 on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30a to 4:30p in FC228.  
During 01/12/2009 to 01/13/2009 on Monday and Tuesday from 8:30a to 4:30p in FC228.  

Maximum Registration: 30  
Catalog Description: Identifies and discusses the ethical aspects and legal issues related to the counseling profession. Confidentiality, recordkeeping, and counselor-client behavior are some of the topics covered.  

Objectives:  
Course Description:  
This course is designed to help students in the MA/MAP Counseling programs to identify and examine ethical and legal issues encountered in the counseling process and to explore ways to effectively deal with them. As an intensive course, students are expected to read the two main texts (Sanders' and Wheeler's) before the first day of class, submit one assignment during the week of class and another ten days after the
last day of class. Students completing the course will develop a sensitivity to the ethical and legal aspects of the 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:
At the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. name the elements of a professional code of ethics in counseling;
2. give a sound rationale for conceptualizing the problem of ethics in counseling;
3. 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.

Required Texts:
This text has to be fully read by the first day of class.


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Recommended Texts:

Recommended Texts:

Course Requirements:

1. Participation. [15%]
You are expected to attend all classes and actively participate in all class related activities and discussions. Discussion is the primary instructional method used for this course. If you miss 1 or more class sessions, you will not receive a passing grade. Poor participation will hurt your grade.

2. Personal Ethical Paper. [25%] Due Jan. 9
This paper can become a part of your Christian Formation Portfolio. It relates specifically to one of the Foundations for Christian Formation, that being Believers and Humanity. You will write this paper on some of the ethics and standards, (such as mandatory, aspirational, autonomy, non-malficience, beneficence, justice, fidelity and veracity) and how you would incorporate these in your Christian moral and/or cultural values as you act, practice and work in the secular world as a Christian counselor (6-8 pages). Do not just make general claims such as "I will do no harm." You need to support how this claim is part of your value system and ethical standards for practice. Is this a value that is supported by Scriptures, cultural values and/or by the general ethical standards of counselors' codes of practice? Your claims must be sup-ported by ethical standards or codes or Scripture verses (please make sure you cite the Scripture & the code or standard). The first paper is mostly about you and how you would work in the secular world taking into consideration, some of the ethical standards. Due on Jan 9, 2009, therefore you need to start writing this paper before the first day of class.

[25%] Due Jan. 13
You will be assigned to a topic at the beginning of the class. You and other classmates 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 individually 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 your research and recommendations for action to meet the needs of the initial ethical or legal counseling concern. You are re-quired to do some internet search from credible websites on the topic chosen for research. This paper is about serving "the other" taking into account the ethical and legal ramifications involved. The research paper is due Fri, Jan 25, 2008. Your paper will be written according to the following format:
The Opening Vignette - It should be 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 some Internet sources
Makes practical use of the research in responding to the initial problem
Is written in a well-constructed style with no errors throughout.
The Closing - Brings closure to the paper.

About your presentation: Please prepare with handouts/notes. You may use a power point to present to your classmates. Be prepared; don't waste other students' money and time by coming unprepared. You can also use video clips or any other appropriate material.

Suggested topics for research and presentations

- Ethical issues in multi-cultural counseling
- Values in counseling relationships.
- Pastors who counsel
- Working with HIV infected clients
- The relationship between law and ethics
- Handling complaints of ethical violations or responding to a law suit
- Ethical issues around working with abused women
- Ethical issues in working with homosexual persons
- Abuse of power and sexual misconduct in counseling
- Professional Training and competence

**Evaluation:**

Course Policies:
Attendance is required and essential for understanding and processing the material. Because of the intensive nature of this course, no absence or missed work due will be accepted. Arriving more than one-half hour after class begins or leaving more than one-half hour before the class ends will significantly affect your final grade. This is a challenging course with a significant amount of material to cover in a short period of time. Each student is expected to complete the reading assignments as outlined in the class schedule. Students are also responsible for any and all additional assignments. Informed participation is expected and considered in your final grade.

Written Papers should follow the following guidelines:
All papers should have your name and your SPO number on them.
All written material should follow APA style. Use the Publication Manual for the American
Psychological Association, 5th ed. for details. The basic standards of all written material include a standard 12-point font, typed, double-spaced with a one-inch margin. As expected in any graduate-level course, quality of writing, clarity of thought, and logical development of the papers would be significantly considered for grading. Written materials should be submitted electronically and posted on Moodle by the due date. Although late papers will be accepted, they will not receive written comments and will receive lower grades (by 1/3 of the total grade).

Because of the nature of this course some self-disclosure and personal examination should be expected. This information is confidential and must be treated as such.

Regarding incomplete work, a grade of "I" denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as "F."

In order to promote a respectful learning environment, the use of laptop computers is limited to matters related to the course, such as taking notes or reading materials for the class. Activities like reading e-mail messages, chatting, browsing the net or alike, during class time, are not allowed.

Gender Inclusive Language Gender inclusive language is required for all papers when referring to humanity (i.e., humanity sinned, not just man; Jesus died for humankind, not just mankind.). Refer to the 5th edition of the APA Publication Manual for guidance on gender inclusive language for humanity. Papers that fail to use gender-inclusive language will incur an automatic 1/3 grade reduction.

Feedback on assignments will be timely and substantive:
Timely: For assessments of student work during the course of the academic term, the expectation of "timely" feedback is met when students have their work marked, graded, and returned within one week of its submission; in the case of classes enrolling more than 40 students, two weeks. Moreover, when assignment "B" builds on assignment "A," assignment "A" should be returned before assignment "B" falls due. Longer assignments are often due at the end of term, and are not subject to this definition.
Substantive: For assessments of student work during the course of the academic term, the expectation of "substantive" feedback is met when students receive responses that alert them to what they have done well and how they might improve their performance in subsequent work.

Students are expected to follow college policy with regards to issues of academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) and proper conduct in the classroom. Any confirmed incident of cheating is grounds for failure in this course. Cheating includes passing off someone else's written work as one's own as well as looking at someone else's test answers to formulate one's own test answer(s).

Exchange of papers, questions and all other written information related to the course would be managed through the course's webpage in Moodle. The following information can help you find support for any technical questions you may have related to the use
Virtual Support Contact Information:
For technical support, library research support, library loans, and Virtual media contact:
Information Commons: Info_Commons@asburyseminary.edu Phone: (859) 858-2233;
Toll-free: (866) 454-2733
For general questions and administrative assistance regarding the Virtual program, contact Dale Hale: ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu Phone: (859) 858-2393

Accessing Information Commons Materials
1. General Questions:
   a. The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here: http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/hours.htm
2. Materials Requests:
   a. To search the library catalog for available materials, click here: http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm
   b. Virtual Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.
   c. Virtual students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50-mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.
3. Research Questions:
   a. Virtual students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.
4. Online Databases:
   a. To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

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Grading Rubrics:
If you review the rubric carefully before you begin your assignment then you will know the standards that I am setting to evaluate your work. Rubrics will be uploaded into the Course Center.

Course grading:
I will adhere to the grading criteria on page 30 of the 2006-2008 catalog. Asbury Seminary defines grades using the following criteria:
A= Exceptional work: outstanding or surpassing achievement of course objectives B= Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives C= Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives D= Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives F= Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives  A plus (+) or minus (-) indicates positions between categories (for example, B+ = very good; C- = slightly below acceptable, etc.). When all is said and done and all the grades are averaged together, here is the final scale of measurement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class Schedule:

Jan 7 Wed
8:30 - 11:30  Defining Ethics/ Ethical Standards What are they? ACA
11:30 -12:30  Lunch Break
12:30 -2:00   Values/Ethical dilemma /Decision making
2:00 - 2:15   Break
2:15 - 5:00   Values/ Ethical dilemma /Decision making

Jan 8 Thur
8:30 - 11:30  Confidentiality & Privileged communication
11:30 -12:30  Lunch Break
12:30 - 5:00  Informed Consent/Client Record Management/ Documentation

Jan 9 Fri
8:30 - 9:30  (Video - Interviewing for Child Sexual Abuse)
9:35 - 11:30 Ethical & Legal issues in working with children/older adults
11:30 -12:30  Lunch Break
12:30 - 5:00  Dual relationships

Jan 12 Mon
8:30 -11:30  Competence/Malpractice /law suit
11:30 -12:30  Lunch Break
12:30 - 5:00  Research on your presentations

Jan 13 Tues
9:00 - 10:15  Student Presentations /
10:15 -10:30  Break
10:30 -11:45
11:45 -12:45  Lunch break
1:45 -  2:00
2: 00 - 2:15  Break
2:15 -  3:30
3:30 -  3:40  Break
3:45 -  5:00