

PC 380

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR PRACTICES

January Term 2008

Monday through Friday, 8:30 – 11:30 am – Gault Hall #140

Class Dates: January 2 – 4, 7- 11, 14 – 18, and 22;

No class on January 21 (Martin L. King, Jr. Day)

INSTRUCTOR: Vergel L. Lattimore, Ph.D.

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January Term Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 pm.; Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.;
and by appointment

TEXT

Corey, G., Corey, M., and Callahan, P. (2007). Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions. (7th Edition) Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole. ISBN: 0495164356.

(See RESERVE LIST for supplementary reading and study)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an intense orientation to professional issues in the counseling profession. The course addresses counselor needs and values; professional behavior and ethics; the art of ethical decision-making; the legal implications of counseling; licensure requirements; the implications of diagnosis; and the purpose of professional organizations. Students will apply models for analyzing personal and professional responsibility for maintaining ethical standards, as well as review codes and standards of major professional organizations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will enable students to:

- Understand the key ethical, legal, clinical, and professional standards and practices in the counseling profession
- Know at least one ethical decision making model
- Examine the role of ethics and values in the counseling process
- Recognize various counselor roles and potential for the development of ethical dilemmas
- Develop their ability to think critically and creatively about cases and to articulate how they might deal with ethical issues involved in specific case vignettes

- Enhance the development of their professional identity and its associated responsibilities
- Examine the ethical decision-making process and its role in the counseling process
- Examine, critique, and articulate her or his own ethical posture

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

The student will be able to:

- Respond to ethical dilemmas by a decision-making process
- Communicate his or her value system, with emphasis on how these values are likely to impact counseling practice
- Identify the different major components of ethical codes for professional counselors
- Communicate how her/his personal values influence her/his ethical posture
- Identify the professional organizations for counselors

TEACHING METHODOLOGY/FOCUS

The format for conducting class will vary. In general, each class will provide opportunity for a brief highlight discussion of core chapter themes. While some brief lectures will be given, the focus is upon discussion, interaction, role-playing, exploring issues, and carrying out in class (and small groups) the activities and exercises at the end of each chapter. *Please come to class prepared!! Read, think, and be willing to state your views, exchange ideas!!*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Regular class attendance is essential. A student who misses a class is responsible for securing class notes, class activities, or syllabus changes from a classmate. Students are provided one absence for personal and/or emergency reasons. A five (5) point grade deduction will be made for each class missed beyond one session.

Class participation is expected. Students also learn from each other. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions, small group work, and experiential exercises. Students must be ready to learn, ask questions, and to explain what they do not understand. Class participation is defined as active involvement in class discussions, including constructive comments, criticisms, and questions. **Class participation counts for up to 5% of the total grade.**

Assignments:

1. Essay Series Paper (ESP)

Students will select **five questions** (from the topics explored up to the date this paper is due). For this paper, write a **two-page essay on each of the following topics:**

- a. Take an ethical dilemma and show how you would resolve this dilemma by using one of the ethical decision-making models.
- b. A Value Issue: How Your Values May Affect Your Counseling
- c. A Clients Rights Issue
- d. Some Dimension of Confidentiality
- e. Some topic from Chapters 1 to 6 (Other than any of the topics specified above)

LENGTH: MAXIMUM ten (10) pages, doubled-spaced

DUE: Friday, January 11th

Some Writing Tips: *Narrow down your questions so that your focus is clear. Take a definite position and develop it fully and cogently, and give logical reasons for your perspectives. An outstanding paper reflects evidence of engaging relevant material. Select topics that you have struggled with or have experienced. We want to challenge you to develop your own positions and the ability to support these views. THOUGHT PAPERS are not merely summarized information papers. Take a SPECIFIC position, show **why** you take such a position, and then develop your viewpoints by giving **reasons** for the statements you make.*

2. Self-Reflection Papers (SRP)

Students will write a **ONE PAGE reflection essay on each specified topic.** Begin each new reflection on a separate page. Number the issue and use the title given in bold print. Use a title page (with your name only on this cover sheet). Staple the essays together, but use no folder.

LENGTH: MAXIMUM five (5) pages, single-spaced

DUE: Tuesday, January 22nd

- a. **My Guidelines for Establishing Boundaries.** Write your own guidelines for how you will go about establishing clear and appropriate boundaries with clients.
- b. **The Friendship.** Assume that one of your clients are terminating and he or she lets you know that he or she would like to begin some form of social relationship. What issues would you explore with your client? Explain how you would proceed.
- c. **Gift Giving.** Create a BRIEF case where your client offers you a gift. What issues would you like to explore with your client? What are your thoughts about accepting gifts from clients?
- d. **Sexual Attraction.** Assume that one of your clients informs you that he or she finds you sexually attractive. Show how you would deal with this situation. What issues would you explore? What if

you also found the client attractive? And what if you did not find this person attractive?

- e. **Your Theoretical Stance.** Write what you would most want to say to your clients, perhaps as part of the informed consent process, about your theoretical stance and how your theoretical orientation influences the manner in which you practice counseling and psychotherapy.

Some General Guidelines: *Write papers in a personal style. Papers should reflect the end result of your study/research and review/thought on a given ethical and professional issue. Write rough drafts of your position papers. Select a topic weekly and write a rough draft while your thoughts are fresh. Do critiques on respective chapters. You are not graded on your viewpoints and thoughts as such. Instead, your grade is a function of your ability to clearly and fully express your ideas. We are looking for depth of thinking, originality, critical evaluation, the ability to apply theories to practical situations, independent judgement, organization and insight into issues. Papers should demonstrate that students are doing the reading and reflecting necessary to produce a quality paper.*

3. Final Examination

This exam consists of **Fifty (50) items based on chapters 1 through 9** of the text.

LENGTH: One and one-half hours, closed book

DATE: Tuesday, January 18th

Evaluation and Grading:

Class participation	5 points
Essay Series Papers	40 points
Self-Reflection Papers	40 points
Final Examination	15 points

Suggestions for Writing and Criteria for Grading:

1. **Quality writing skills.** Write directly and informally. When appropriate, use personal examples to support your point. Ask someone to proofread your paper. Keep strictly within established length parameters.
2. **Development of a theme.** Look for a central theme or central message in each essay. Make an outline, and check to see that each point in your outline pertains to your central message.

3. ***Creativity and Depth of thinking.*** Write a paper that reflects your own uniqueness and ideas—rather than merely giving a summary of the material in the text.

4. ***Integration and application.*** Your papers should emphasize an integration of perspectives and application of theory/principles to practice.

A =93-100

A- =90-92

B+=87-89

B =83-86

B- =80-82

C+=77-79

C =73-76

C- =70-72

D+=66-69

D =63-66

D- =60-62

TOPICS AND READINGS

DATE SESSION DISCUSSION/FOCUS/ASSIGNMENT

NOTE: Starred (*) readings are assigned; others are optional.

R = Library Reserve shelf

01/02 1 Course Introduction: Overview, expectations, requirements, and tasks

Introduction to Professional Ethics

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 1: Self –Inventory (Discuss answers in class)

The Ethical Decision-Making Manual, Chapter 1: “Ethical Traps” (R)

Manual, Chapters 2: “Ethical Questionnaire” (R)

01/03 2 The Counselor as a Person and as a Professional

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 2

01/04 3 Values and the Helping Relationship

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 3.

Manual, Chapter 3: “Ethical Decision-Making Processes” (R)

01/07 4 Multicultural Perspectives and Diversity Issues

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 4

01/08 5 Client Rights and Counselor Responsibilities

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 5

Manual, Chapters 4: “Personal Responsibilities” and Chapter 5: “Client Welfare and Client Relationships” (R)

01/09 6 Confidentiality: Ethical and Legal Issues

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 6.

Manual, Chapter 6: “Confidentiality”(R)

01/10 7 Managing Boundaries and Multiple Relationships

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 7.

Manual, Chapter 9: “Teaching and Training” (R)

01/11 8 Professional Competence and Training

NOTE: Essay Series Paper Due!

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 8.

Manual, Chapter 10: “Consulting and Private Practice” (R)

01/14 9 Issues in Supervision and Consultation

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 9.

Manual, Chapter 11: “Ethics for Supervisors” (R)

01/15 10 Issues in Theory, Practice and Research

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 10.

Manual, Chapter 7: “Research and Publication”; Chapter 8: Measurement, Evaluation and Testing” (R)

01/16 11 Ethical Issues in Couples and Family Therapy

*Issues and Ethics, Chapter 11.

01/17 12 Ethics in Group Work

***Issues and Ethics, Chapter 12.**

01/18 13 Ethical Issues in Community Work

NOTE: FINAL EXAMINATION

***Issue and Ethics, Chapter 13**

01/21 NO CLASS - Dr. Martin L. King Observance

01/22 Evaluation and Review

NOTE: Self-Reflection Papers Due!

PC 380 - Professional Counselor Practices

RESERVE LIST

Initial Bibliography

January Term 2008

Vergil L. Lattimore, Ph.D.

TEXTS

Steinman, S.O., Richardson, N.F., and McEnroe, T. (1998). The Ethical Decision-Making Manual for the Helping Professions. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole. ISBN: 0-534-34939-0

Herlihy, B. and Corey, G. (1996). ACA Ethical Standards Casebook. ACA Publishers.

Herlihy, B. and Corey, G. (1997). Boundary Issues in Counseling: Multiple Roles and Responsibilities.

Hatherleigh Guide to Ethics in Therapy (1997). Hatherleigh Publishing Company.