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# CO 610 Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling

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**ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING (CO-610)**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS JANUARY TERM 2006**

**Class Meeting Time**

Classes will meet from **8:00 a.m. till 11:45** on Monday thru Friday for two consecutive weeks.

**Course Description**

This **three (3) credit hour** course is designed to help students in the M.A. Counseling Program and the M.Div. 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 the course will develop sensitivity to the ethical and legal aspects of counseling process, better appreciate the ethical constraints under which a counselor works, and develop skills to critically examine how they conduct themselves as counselors.

**Welcome**

It is indeed a privilege to welcome you to **Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling**. During the next several weeks we will be examining how counseling ethics and federal and state laws impact your conduct as a counselor. While you interact with the course material, other students enrolled, and with me, your professor, I encourage you to keep in mind four questions:

----- Why do I need to complete a course that focuses on the ethical and legal issues in counseling?

----- In order to become a competent counselor, what specifics do I need to know about ethical and legal issues in counseling?

----- What does it mean to think ethically about the counseling process?

----- What outcomes can I expect from completing this course on ethical and legal issues in counseling?

**Prerequisites**

None

**Maximum Course Enrollment**

30

## **Required Readings**

Herlihy, B. & Corey, G., (1996). ACA ethical standards casebook. American Counseling Association, Alexandria, VA. **(326 pages)**

Sanders, Randolph K., (1997). Christian counseling ethics: A handbook for therapists, pastors and counselors, Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL. **(404 pages)**

Moline, M.E., Williams, G.T., & Austin, K.M., (1998). Documenting psychotherapy: Essentials for mental health practitioners. Sage, London. **(189 pages)**

\_\_\_\_\_, (1998). AACC Christian counseling code of ethics. American Association of Christian Counseling, Forest, VA. **(20 pages) available to download at [www.AACC.net](http://www.AACC.net)**

Bennett, B.E., et. al., (1990). Professional liability and risk management. American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.. **(128 pages)**

Nagy, T.E., (2000). Ethics in plain English: An illustrative textbook for psychologists. American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.. **(260 pages)**

-----, (2005) Reading Packet, available from the bookstore **(100 pages)**

## **Collateral Readings**

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

Ohlschlager, G. & Mosgofian, P., (1992). Law for the Christian counselor, Word, Irving, TX.

\_\_\_\_\_, (1996). Reporting child abuse, neglect, and dependency. Kentucky Department for Social Services.

## **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: **(1) list** the elements of a professional code of counseling ethics, **(2) explain** a sound rationale for conceptualizing the problem of ethics in counseling, **(3) depict** a framework for addressing ethical and legal issues in counseling, **(4) define** ethics from a variety of philosophical viewpoints, **(5) identify** pertinent federal and state laws that apply to the practice of counseling, and **(6) apply** various ethical and legal standards to the counseling process.

## **Course Outline**

Class One: **Defining Ethics**

Class Two: **Christian Ethics**

Class Three: **Psychology, Theology, and Spirituality and the Counseling Process**

Class Four: **Models of Ethical Decision Making**

Class Five: **Confidentiality & Privileged Communication  
Documentation & Counseling Records, HIPAA**

Class Six: **Homosexuality and Other Tough Calls**

Class Seven: **Application of White's Model**

Class Eight: **Application of White's Model**

Class Nine: **Domestic Violence and Other Issues of Abuse**

Class Ten: **Course Evaluation & Final Examination**

### **Course Requirements**

1. Daily attendance
2. Examinations: Final
3. Class participation
4. Homework assignments and required readings **It is recommended that you read each of the required text prior to the beginning of classes on January X or by the end of the first week of class. Books should be available at the campus bookstore.**

### **Evaluation Procedures**

Attendance & class participation	20%
Homework assignments	50%
Final Examination	30%

### **Grading Scale**

95-100 = A	90-94 = A-
85-89 = B+	80- 84 = B-
75- 79 = C+	70-74 = C-
65- 69 = D+	60- 64 = D-

### **Instructor Expectations**

You are expected to **attend every class** session. The concepts and ideas being taught are highly integrated and interrelated. Missing class will adversely impact your ability to develop the skills being taught in this course. **Prompt arrival in class prepared to work** is also expected. This is a challenging course and we have a lot of material to cover in a short period of time. In addition, your **active participation** in class is required for you to maximally benefit from this course. Passive learning will not be helpful in this class. Finally, your **honest and timely feedback** regarding the content and presentation of this course is essential. I invite you to join me and your classmates in making this course an **enjoyable and rewarding experience**.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

**Plagiarism** is the act of presenting the ideas or work of another person as your own. It does not matter if you use the work of another that is printed in a journal or book, or simply resubmit the work of another student. If it is not properly referenced and displayed as a quote or idea of another, it is plagiarism. **Academic dishonesty** refers to all other questionable actions that may occur related to tests and other class activities. **Plagiarism and academic dishonesty** will not be tolerated and Seminary policies will be followed. This means course failure and the possibility of additional Seminary disciplinary action.

### **Copies of Assignments and Make Up Examinations**

It is recommended that students submit copies of assignments rather than original works. Use of duplicates are (1) for the student's protection, assuring that work will not be lost and (2) preserves original work for possible job interviews. Make-up examinations will not be offered, unless unusual or non preventable circumstances preclude a student from taking a test at the designated time (e.g. death of a parent).

### **About Your Instructor**

Dr. Ross has completed training in reality therapy with William Glasser, M.D., and in rational behavioral therapy with Maxie C. Maultsby, Jr., M.D.. Dr. Ross is a licensed psychologist, a certified chemical dependency counselor, and a recent recipient of a master in divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. He is also author of the book, **Treating Adolescent Substance Abuse: Understanding the Fundamental Elements**, recently released by Allyn & Bacon publishers. Dr. Ross is nationally recognized as a leader in the field of teenage substance abuse. Since 1978, he has worked with nearly one thousand chemically dependent youth and their families. He has given several workshops on this topic, appeared on a national radio program, Focus on the Family, with noted psychologist, Dr. James C. Dobson, and was an invited participant at the White house Conference For A Drug Free America.

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Collins, G., (1991). Excellence and ethics in counseling. Word, Irving, Texas.

Dobson, J. (1993, May). Newsletter. Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family.

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Jones, W. T., Sontag, F., Beckner, M. O., & Foegelin, R. J. (1977). Approaches to ethics (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Jordan, C.E., Quinn, K., & Walker, R., (1996). Mental health intervention in cases of domestic violence. Governor's Office of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Services, Frankfort, KY.

McGovern, T. F. (1994). Being good and doing good: An ethical reflection around alcoholism and drug abuse counseling. The Counselor, 12(3), 14-18. (May-June)

Meyer, R. G., Landis, E. R., & Hays, J. R. (1988). Law for the psychotherapist. New York: W. W. Norton.

Miller, T., Anton, W. D., & Cloak, N. L. (1993). Professional progress notes--revised. Professional Manual. Odessa, FL: Psychological Assessment Resources.

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Stadler, H. A. (1985). *Confidentiality: The counselor's dilemma (Videotape)*. Alexandria, VA: American Counseling Association.

Van Hoose, W. H., & Kottler, J. A. (1985). *Ethical and legal issues in counseling and psychotherapy*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

White, W. L. (1994). A commitment to ethical action. *The Counselor*, 12(3), 10-13. (May-June)

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