

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## PCP 623 Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues

Jean Orr, Psy.D.  
Fri. 2:00-5:00pm & 6:00-10:00pm  
Sat. 9:00am-12:00noon & 1:00-5:00pm

Fall 2006  
865-2815 x8617  
home 833-1023  
[orrj@evangel.edu](mailto:orrj@evangel.edu)

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the ethical, legal, and professional issues involved in the practice of professional counseling and/or marital and family therapy.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

##### **General Objectives**

This course is intended to:

1. Familiarize students with relevant ethical, legal, and professional issues associated with the practice of counseling/therapy.
2. Familiarize students with the various codes of ethics for the helping professions, including ACA, APA, NASW, and AAMFT codes.
3. Familiarize students with the Missouri Code of State Regulations and Law for professional counselors.

##### **Specific Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify and apply the ethical decision making steps to use in resolving ethical dilemmas.
2. Identify major components of ethical codes for clinicians.
3. Communicate how personal values influence ethical posture.
4. Understand and discuss relevant ethical issues including confidentiality, privacy, competence, informed consent, and multiple relationships.
5. Understand and discuss relevant legal issues including duty to warn/report, privileged communication, informed consent, client rights, and malpractice liability.

6. Communicate an understanding of the Missouri Code of State Regulations and Law.
7. Identify the necessary prerequisites, including education, examination, supervision, and application process, to apply for licensure as a professional counselor **or** marriage and family therapist in this state.
8. Identify and integrate one's own values and Christian worldview with ethics and legalities of the counseling profession.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Caudill, O. B., Callahan, McCune, & Willis, LLP. *Twelve pitfalls for psychotherapists*. Department of Economic Development: State Committee of Psychologists.  
(Will be provided to students on Fri. 9/8/06)

Corey, G., Corey, M. S., & Callanan, P. (2007). *Issues and ethics in the helping professions* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

Division of Professional Registration: Committee for Professional Counselors. (2005). *Missouri committee for professional counselors code of state regulations and law*. Jefferson City, MO: Department of Economic Development.  
(Will be provided to students on Fri. 9/8/06)

### **RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK**

American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington DC: Author.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The format of the course will consist of lectures, class discussions, multi-media presentations, ethical dilemma role plays, in class assignments, homework assignments, and examinations.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Completion of all readings as assigned is expected.
2. Completion of all assignments on time is expected. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day.
3. Participation in class discussions is expected.
4. Professionalism and courtesy in regard to attendance is expected. No more than 1 excused absence allowed.
5. Three comprehensive examinations are scheduled (40 points each).

6. Two interviews (not email correspondence) of Professional Counselors/Psychologists (3 points each) will be due 10/6/06. See forms.
7. A 2 page typed (APA style) critique plus title page and oral presentation of one journal article on a particular area of ethics (15 points) will be due depending on topic assigned. Critique and presentation is to include thesis of article, main points, conclusion/summary, and implications for Christians providing counseling.
8. A 10 to 12 page position paper will be due on 11/10/06 by 5:00pm. You must first identify and describe five of your values. Then, following each value, you must discuss how your values and Christian worldview may create conflicts and dilemmas with the ethics and legalities of counseling/therapy. Provide at least 2 dilemmas for each value. How might you integrate your values and Christian worldview with ethics and law of counseling/therapy? How will you resolve these potential conflicts? The paper must be typed double-spaced, using Arial 12 font. The paper must use APA style (writing in first person will be permitted) and be organized by use of headings (each value will be a heading) (50 points). A listing of your five values will be due by 10/6/06. Examples of papers are on reserve in the library.

### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

This is a tentative schedule and subject to change if necessary. You will be notified of any changes.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapters in Corey, Corey, &amp; Callanan</b>
Fri. 9/8	1 Introduction to Professional Ethics 2 The Counselor as a Person and as a Professional
Sat. 9/9	3 Values and the Helping Relationship 8 Professional Competence and Training
Fri. 10/6	<b>Exam I</b> <b>List of Values Due</b> <b>2 Interviews Due</b> 8 Professional Competence and Training 5 Client Rights and Counselor Responsibilities
Sat. 10/7	6 Confidentiality 7 Managing Boundaries and Multiple Relationships
Fri. 11/3	<b>Exam II</b> 7 Managing Boundaries and Multiple Relationships 4 Multicultural Perspectives and Diversity Issues

Sat. 11/4      11 Ethical Issues in Couples and Family Therapy  
10 Issues in Theory, Practice, and Research  
**Exam III**

---

### **EVALUATION**

The final course grade will be determined based on the combined scores on all exams, in class assignments, homework assignments, and papers. Grades will be calculated by dividing the total number of points accumulated by the total possible points. Students are expected to attend all classes and take exams on scheduled days. If an emergency arises, the student must be responsible to notify the professor before class. Attendance and class participation will be considered in the cases of borderline grades. Late assignments will be deducted 10% per day late/one letter grade per day.

A+ = Publishable  
A = 94-100%  
A- = 90-93%  
B+ = 87-89%  
B = 84-86%  
B- = 80-83%  
C+ = 77-79%  
C = 74-76%  
C- = 70-73%  
D+ = 67-69%  
D = 64-66%  
D- = 60-63%  
F = 59% and below

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who cheats or plagiarizes earns a failing grade for the course.

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Available on student's request.

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Jean Orr, Psy.D., July 2006