

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PCP 623 Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues

Jean Orr, Psy.D.
Fri. 1:30-5:00pm & 6:00-9:30pm
Sat. 9:00am-12:00noon & 1:00-5:00pm
Sept. 19-20/Oct. 17-18/Nov. 14-15

Fall 2008
865-2815 x8617
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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. 9/19)

Corey, G., Corey, M. S., & Callanan, P. (2007). *Issues and ethics in the helping professions* (7th 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. 9/19)

Hermann, M. A., & Herlihy, B. R. (2006). *Legal and ethical implications of refusing to counsel homosexual clients*. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 84, 414-418.
(Will be provided to students on Fri. 9/19)

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. If there is an emergency, talk to the instructor and with instructor approval, 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 (5 points each) will be due 10/17. See forms.
7. A 2 page typed (APA style) critique plus title page (15 points) and oral presentation (5 points; time permitting) of one journal article on a particular area of ethics 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. Articles must be chosen by 9/20.
8. An 6 to 8 page position paper will be due on 11/15 by 5:00pm. You must first identify and describe three 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. For each value, discuss at least 2 conflicts/dilemmas and their resolutions. 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 three values will be due by 9/20. Examples of papers are on reserve in the library.
9. A 2 page typed (APA style) critique plus title page (15 points) of the journal article, "Legal and Ethical Implications of Refusing to Counsel Homosexual Clients," will be due by 9/11. Critique is to include thesis of article, main points, conclusion/summary, and implications for Christians providing counseling.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapters in Corey, Corey, & Callanan</u>
Fri. 9/19	1 Introduction to Professional Ethics 2 The Counselor as a Person and as a Professional
Sat. 9/20	3 Values and the Helping Relationship 8 Professional Competence and Training List of Values Due
Fri. 10/17	Exam I 2 Interviews Due Critique of Hermann & Herlihy Due 8 Professional Competences and Training 5 Client Rights and Counselor Responsibilities
Sat. 10/18	6 Confidentiality
Fri. 11/14	Exam II 7 Managing Boundaries and Multiple Relationships
Sat. 11/15	4 Multicultural Perspectives and Diversity Issues 11 Ethical Issues in Couples and Family Therapy Position Paper Due Exam III (to be taken during business hours 11/17 -11/25; schedule with faculty secretary)

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. With instructor permission, (due an emergency only) 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., September 2008.