

Menonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

**MF 530 (Unit 2): Professional Ethics**

(1 Credit)-Fall 2005

October 13-15, 8:30am-12:30pm

**Instructor: John W. Auxier, Ph.D.**

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*NOTE: This course requires some pre-course reading and assignments.*

**Course Description**

The course will review major ethical principles from the AAMFT and California ethics codes. It will also focus on the relationship of religious and personal values with ethical practice, and explore ethical questions in counseling that tend to arise in faith based settings. *This course is designed to contribute to meeting the California BBSE curricular requirements for essential knowledge about ethics in professional counseling.*

**Instructor Comments on the Relation between MF 530 Units 1 and 2**

This course is the last third of a three credit component on ethics in the MA-MFCC program. However, while some students will have had the first unit of MF 530 already, others will be taking this segment as their first exposure to professional ethics. In keeping with past practice in the program, *basic professional ethical issues/principles will be covered as part of the course.*

New students will experience this basic material as an introduction to ethical practice, preparing them for Unit 2. Students who have already taken Unit 1 will find parts of this course to be a helpful review. For all students, *the course will include substantial new material intentionally focused on theological/values issues in professional practice.*

**Learning Objectives**

As a result of this course, students will:

1. Be able to identify the basic elements of ethical decision making in accordance with the AAMFT and California Ethical codes.
2. Have deepened their understanding of the role of values and Christian beliefs in ethical decision making with clients.
3. Be able to articulate appropriate boundary setting principles for ethical practice by Christian therapists in professional and pastoral settings.

**Required Textbooks**

1. Corey, G., Corey, M. S. & Haynes, R. 2003. Ethics in Action C-D ROM, Version 1.2 (Stand-Alone Version), 2nd Edition.
2. Sanders, R. K. (Ed.) 1997. Christian Counseling Ethics: A handbook for therapists, pastors and counselors. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press.

**Course Requirements**

A. Pre-course Assignments

The course will require pre-course review of Corey, Corey & Haynes CD-ROM, Ethics in Action, version 1.2 (Second Edition) and completion of all exercises. Written answers to all exercises from the CD-ROM will be typed or printed and brought to class. Due first day of class.

Six selections in Sanders’ Christian Counseling Ethics will be required prior to the class, and a one page summary/response to each turned in on the first day of class. Include key ideas and questions you have in your response. These selections are: Chapters 1, 2, 7, 9, 18, and Appendix A.

B. During the class

Using a combination of lecture, discussion of Ethics in Action exercises, and exploration of case studies and video vignettes, the class will explore key ethical issues in clinical practice. Two additional articles will be assigned to be discussed during class. Personal interaction and exploration of one’s own values and ethical assumptions will be encouraged.

C. Post-class Research Paper

Students will pick an ethical principle from the AAMFT or California ethics code or an ethical scenario from the CD-ROM vignettes and write a 7-8 page paper on how Christian values and beliefs inform their interpretation of the ethical issues involved.

Attach to paper a Xerox copy of a quality article (with full citation) from an academic counseling journal or book, published in the last five years, which relates to the role of values and/or Christian faith and your ethical topic.

Due: November 21, at the MA-MFCC office

**Course Grading**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <u>Corey, Corey &amp; Haynes CD-ROM exercises.....</u>                    | 30        |
| Readings summaries from Sanders’ <u>Christian Counseling Ethics</u> ..... | 30        |
| Attendance and Participation in Class Exercises.....                      | 10        |
| Post-Class Research Paper.....  | <u>30</u> |
|   | 100       |

**Grading Scale**

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 98 - 100 = A+ | 73 - 76 = C  |
| 93 - 97 = A   | 70 - 72 = C- |
| 90 - 92 = A-  | 67 - 69 = D+ |
| 87 - 89 = B+  | 63 - 66 = D  |
| 83 - 86 = B   | 60 - 62 = D- |
| 80 - 82 = B-  | 0 - 59 = F   |
| 77 - 79 = C+  |              |

**Seminary Academic Policies:** MBBS academic policies are described in the *Academic Policies* on the MBBS website [www.mbseminary.edu](http://www.mbseminary.edu). These include policies on extensions for incomplete course work, academic integrity, non-discriminatory language, academic appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with MBBS academic policies and to follow them.

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**Tentative Course Outline, October 13-15**

| <b>Date</b>                | <b>Topics</b>  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Class 1<br/>Oct. 13</b> | <b>Ethical Decision Making and Christian Reflection</b><br>Ethical Decision Making.<br>Self-awareness.<br>Multicultural Issues.  |
| <b>Class 2<br/>Oct. 14</b> | <b>Personal Values, the Helping Relationship, and Biblical Teaching</b><br>Value Conflicts.<br>Value Conflicts.<br>Sexual Issues.<br>Relationship Issues.              |
| <b>Class 3<br/>Oct. 15</b> | <b>Boundaries, Multiple Relationships and Christian Community</b><br>Managing Boundaries<br>Social Relationships.<br>Sexual Attractions.<br>Bartering.<br>Gift Giving. |