

Course Syllabus  
MF 530 II Professional Ethics  
1 Unit - Spring 2007

Fridays, March 2, 16, 30, April 20, April 27, 2007, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**Instructor:** David Bruce Rose, Ph.D.  
Phone: 452-1767  
E-mail: drose@mbseminary.edu

Fax: 452-1752

**Course Description:**

Real life is complex. Too often counselors find themselves caught in situations where it appears that in order to comply with a good and valid ethical principle they must violate another principle they also support. At other times, our personal values appear to conflict with legal or societal requirements of our profession. Professional Ethics II focuses on the application of major ethical principles found in the codes of ethics of major professional mental health organizations (AAMFT, CAMFT, APA, ACA, CAPS). While this course is designed to contribute to meeting the California BBS curricular requirements for essential knowledge about ethics in professional counseling, general knowledge of professional ethics is assumed. Students who did not complete MF 530 I previously should complete all of the exercises to Corey, Corey, and Haynes (2003) before the course begins. This course will focus on identifying and resolving ethical dilemmas, the relationship of religious and personal values with ethical practice, and the philosophical and theological foundations of ethical practice.

**Learning Objectives:**

As a result of this course, students will:

1. Identify the philosophical and theological assumptions involved in their personal values and in professional codes of ethics.
2. Describe appropriate strategies to address ethical dilemmas in professional counseling, including sources for consultation and resources for additional information.
3. Demonstrate competence in professional counseling ethics by responding in clinically and ethically appropriate ways to specific vignettes presenting common ethical dilemmas and providing a rationale for their responses based on commonly accepted professional codes of ethics.

**Related Degree Objectives:**

As a result of this course, students will:

1. Articulate integrative views of humanity, theology, and counseling
2. Demonstrate appropriate use of self in response to human need
3. Demonstrate practice consistent with the laws and ethics that apply to marriage, family, and child counseling
4. Demonstrate proactive commitment to a community of witness, justice, and peace

**Resources:**

Required textbooks include:

Bersoff, D. N. (2003). *Ethical conflicts in psychology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Washington, D.C.: APA.

Knapp, S. J., and VandeCreek, L. D. (2006). *Practical ethics for psychologists: A positive approach*. Washington, D. C.: APA.

Sanders, R. K. (Ed.) (1997). *Christian counseling ethics: A handbook for therapists, pastors, and counselors*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity.

Course Packet: A collection of required articles and chapters will be distributed the first class session. Students will be billed for the cost of copies and copyright fees.

**Course Format:**

MF-530 II will meet on Fridays, March 2, 16, 30, April 13, April 27, 2007, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings before each class. Students will be expected to participate in class exercises and complete any written assignments. This course is designed around an interactive learning environment that includes case studies, discussion, and guest presentations. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. As noted in the Student Handbook, class participation is one of the most significant parts of the shared learning experience at MBBS. Any student who misses more than 25% of the class time in a course may have their grade reduced by a full letter grade and may be at risk for failing the course. Exceptions to this policy may be considered because of medical or family emergencies must be approved by both the faculty member and the Academic Dean.

**Assignments:**

Grades will be based on the following:

Class Participation – 15%

Ethics Paper – 30%

Students will write a six to ten page paper regarding an issue of interest to them in professional ethics. The paper should show a graduate level literature review of the issue and appropriate application of Christian ethical thought. Possible topics might include: What is mental health? Ethical behavior for Christian Counseling working in a secular agency. When Christians disagree, ways to address ethical conflicts in the church. Consequences of boundary violations among pastoral counselors or pastors. Or a discussion of a particular ethical conflict from a professional and Christian ethical position.

**All written assignment is expected in the format of the American Psychological Association publication Manual, 5<sup>th</sup> edition.** The APA publication manual can be found on reserve at the Hiebert Library. Another option is to purchase an APA template for MS Word entitled APA Style Helper 3.0. Many summaries of APA format are available on the internet. One example is published by The Owl at Purdue at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

Oral Examination – 55%

Students will participate in an individual oral examination on April 27, 2006. In that examination the student will be presented with a vignette containing at least one professional ethical conflict. The student will need to identify the ethical issues in the vignette and then suggest a way to resolve that conflict. The student is expected to demonstrate the use of ethical decision making strategies discussed in class and in the reading assignments.

### **GRADING SCALE:**

A =	90-100%	Excellent
B =	80-89%	Expected
C =	70-79%	Below Expectation
F =	< 69%	Unacceptable

### **Course Outline:**

Date	Topic	Assignments
March 2	Ethical Dilemmas, an oversimplified construct	Knapp & VandeCreek Chpt 1 Sanders Chpt 1 Bersoff pp 1-45
March 16	Foundations of Ethical Behavior	Knapp & VandeCreek Chpt 2 Sanders Chpt 2 Bersoff Chpt 3
March 30	Application of Ethical Theories to Professional Standards of Conduct	Knapp & VandeCreek Chpt 3 Sanders Chpt 19, Appendix A Bersoff Chpt 2
April 13	Ethical Decision Making	Knapp & VanderCreek Cpt 4 Sanders Chpt 18
April 27	Final Examination	

### **Bibliography:**

Corey, G. Corey, M.S. (2003). *Ethics in action C-D ROM, Version 1.2 (stand-alone version)*, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ed. Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth

Hays, R. (1996) *The moral vision of the New Testament*. New York: HarperCollins.

Forester-Miller, H., & Davis, T. A. (1996). Practitioner's guide to ethical decision making. Accessed at <http://www.counseling.org/Counselors/PractitionersGuide.aspx?> on October 24, 2006.

Nagy, T. F. (2005). *Ethics in plain English: An illustrative casebook for psychologists, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* Washington, D.C., APA.

Noice, G. (1988). *Pastoral ethics: Professional responsibilities of the clergy*. Nashville: Abingdon.

Pope, K. S., & Bouhoustos, J. C. (1986). When laws and values conflict: A dilemma for psychologists. *American Psychologist*, 43, 828-289.

Pope, K. S., tabachnick, B. G., & Keith-Spiegel, P. (1987). Ethics of practice: The beliefs and behaviors of psychologists as therapists. *American Psychologist*, 42, 993-1006.

Schank, J. A., & Skovhold, T. M. (2006). *Ethical practice in small communities: Challenges and rewards for psychologists*. Washington, D.C.: APA.

Shafranske, E. P. (Ed.). (1996). *Religion and the clinical practice of psychology*. Washington, D.C.: APA.

Sileo, F., & Kopala, M. (1993). An A-B-C-D-E worksheet for promoting beneficence when considering ethical issues. *Counseling and values*, 37, 89-95.

Stadler, H. A. (1986). Making hard choices: Clarifying controversial ethical issues. *Counseling & Human Development* 13(1), 1-12.

Worthing, E. L. Jr. (Ed.) (1993). *Psychology and religious values*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

Academic Policies. MBBS academic policies (as well as other school policies) are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies/>. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, accommodation for disabilities, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the professor or consult the Registrar.