

Professional Ethics in Counseling MF-530
Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary
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Summer Term 2008 - 2 credits
5/22, 5/23, 5/24, 6/5, 6/6, 6/7
Thursdays 6PM – 9:15PM
Fridays & Saturdays 8:30AM – 4:00PM

Course Description: This class is designed to examine the ethical principles of counseling and their application in a variety of settings. There will also be an examination of current statutory regulations and requirements that impact counseling practice.

Course Objectives:

1. Students should have an understanding of the moral and philosophical underpinnings of ethical discourse in general and its importance in professional development.
2. Students should have a working knowledge of the ethical principles in counseling and understand how these interface with their personal beliefs and values.
3. Students should be able to identify ethical and legal issues that may be imbedded in complex clinical/research/administrative situations and formulate a course of action which is consistent with the ethical guidelines.
4. Students should be able to recognize when professional consultation is necessary either from within the profession or from another discipline.

Related Degree Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate appropriate use of one's personal self in response to human need. (4.3)
2. Demonstrate practice consistent with the laws and ethics that apply to marriage, family, and child counseling. (4.4)
3. Demonstrate proactive understanding, awareness, and relational skills across cultures, religions, and special populations. (4.7)

Course Requirements

1. **Please make sure that you have read the readings assigned for each class before you come to that day's class.** Class discussions and lectures will assume that you have this background. This is a very intensive format and you will maximize your learning if you come prepared to think and discuss.
2. Thoughtful participation in class discussions on assigned readings and case materials.
3. There will be 2 tests. [**June 5 & June 7**] The first will be a technical one to make sure you know the relevant principles and statutes. In the second exam you will be presented with cases that you must critically analyze.
4. Class Presentation [**June 6 or June 7**]

This is a project that will be done with several other class members. Select a special client population or setting where you anticipate working in a counseling capacity. Research the special ethical problems that might arise. Make a presentation to class of the unique ethical challenges of that population or setting and how one might respond to those situations. Formulate a complex case example that highlights the problems likely in this special setting or special population. Be prepared to facilitate class discussion of the ethical and legal issues raised by your case.

Special settings might include: church counseling center; director of paraprofessionals; a non-denominational religious center; counseling in another culture or country; youth ministry; group home; schools; hospice; or rural community.

Special client populations might include: court referred clients, offenders, custody assessments; trauma survivors; substance abuse.

5. Classroom Ethics Review Committees. The class will be randomly divided into committees of 3 people. Each committee will be given a case to analyze on the spot. This may sound a little intimidating, but it's actually quite a good learning experience. You will be called upon to think out loud as members of such a committee would do in real life. The essential elements of a situation are not always apparent at first glance. In discussion with others we often see aspects of a case that went unnoticed before. The committee will discuss the various elements of the case, evaluate what was done or not done and make recommendations for how it should be handled.
6. Two Case Reports **Due May 31 [by email] & June 6.**
CASE REPORTS of ethical and/or legal problems in the counseling field with which you have some first hand knowledge. Include the following in your report:
 - Present a description of the relevant information about the case
 - Highlight any additional facts that were needed or assumptions made
 - Identify any relevant rights/responsibility/welfare issues of the concerned parties
 - Identify all the ethical and legal issues at stake
 - Based on your ethical assessment, evaluate the action taken and/or recommend a course of action.

These case descriptions will be the basis for some of our "Committee" discussions, so obscure identifying information. In addition to your report include an additional copy of the case itself, without the analysis or your name on it. If you do not want a case publicly discussed, indicate that in your report.

Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
F	< 70%

Late assignments will result in a loss of a letter grade.

Basis for Evaluation

Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	25%
Ethics Review Committee	10%
Class Presentation	15%
Case Reports	25%
Class Participation	10%

Seminary Academic Policies

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.

Course evaluations are to be completed online and are due one week after the completion of the course. Official grades will not be posted until the student's evaluation of the course is completed.

If a student wishes to have heightened confidentiality of assignment results, the student should submit the assignment in a self-addressed envelope. The assignment will be returned in the same envelope.

Texts

Required

Bernstein, B.E. & Hartsell, T. L. (2004) *The portable lawyer for mental health professionals*. New York: Wiley. ISBN: 0471465518

Corey, G. Corey, M. S., & Callanan, P. (2006) *Issues and ethics in the helping professions*. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole Publishing. ISBN: 0534614434

Companion Website: http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&flag=student&product_isbn_issn=9780534614430&disciplinenum=7

Readings

At this time the plan is to have copies of these readings available from the bookstore in a packet designed for this class. If this is not possible, other arrangements will be made.

- Frame, M. W. (2000) Spiritual and religious issues in counseling: Ethical considerations. *Family Journal*, 8 (1). Pp 72-74.
- Griffin, M. (2006) Revisiting informed consent. *The Therapist*, 18 (5): 35 – 48.
- Jensen, D. G. (2006) The fundamentals of reporting elder & dependent adult abuse. *The Therapist*, 18 (2) 11-17.
- Knapp, S. & VandeCreek, L. (2007) When values of different cultures conflict: ethical decision making in a multicultural context. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 38, 660-666.
- Leslie, R.S. (2007) Use of a “no secrets” policy in couple and family therapy. *The Therapist*, 19 (5) 32-35.
- Meara, N. M., Schmidt, L.D. Day, J.D. (2003) Principles and virtues: A foundation for ethical decisions, policies and character in D. B. Bersoff (Ed.) *Ethical Conflicts in Psychology*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. [140-144].
- Oordt, M. (1997) The ethical behavior of Christian therapists. In R.K. Sanders (Ed) *Christian Counseling Ethics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. 326-331.
- Schank, J. & Skovholt, T.M. (2006) Ethical practice in small communities. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. pp. 75-115.
- Tan, S.Y. (2003) Integrating spiritual direction into psychotherapy: Ethical issues and guidelines. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, 31, 14-23.
- Taylor, L. & Adelman, H. (2003) Reframing the confidentiality dilemma to work in children’s best interest in D. B. Bersoff (Ed.) (2003) *Ethical Conflicts in Psychology*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. [195-197].
- Truscott, D., Evans, J. & Mansell, S. (1995) Outpatient psychotherapy with dangerous clients: A model for clinical decision-making. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 26, 484-490.
- Younggren, J.N. & Gottlieb, M.C. (2004) Managing risk when contemplating multiple relationships. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 35, 255-260.

Additional Materials

AAMFT [American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy] Code of Ethics.
Available at the following web site.

<http://www.aamft.org/resources/LRMPlan/Ethics/ethicscode2001.asp>

CAMFT [California Association for Marriage & Family Therapy] <http://www.camft.org/>

Case Notes for Kip Kinkel:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/kinkel/trial/hnotes.html>

Licensing Law

Laws and Regulations Relating to the Practice of Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling, Licensed Clinical Social Work, and Licensed Educational Psychology

Available from the Board of Behavioral Sciences, State of California
at their web site: <http://www.bbs.ca.gov>

- Click on the link for “Statutes & Regulations”
 - We will use the regulations for 2008 [regulations are updated yearly]
 - Regulations for 2008 are usually available in January.
 - The regulations usually don’t change much from year to year & the first page for that year’s revision, lists the changes from the previous year.

- This document is divided into 2 parts, the first is the law itself, the second part is the regulations that have been developed to implement the law. You need to read the sections listed below.
 - Business and Professional Code of California – Chapter 13 Articles 1-4 & 6
 - California Code of Regulations Articles 1, 4, 8-10

Additional documents related to California laws

- Professional Therapy Never Includes Sex – pamphlet given to clients, if previous therapy has had inappropriate relationship with them
<http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/publications/proftherapy.pdf>
- Frequently asked Questions about MFT Interns & Trainees
 - http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/publications/mft_faq.pdf

References that may be of interest

- American Psychological Association (2006) Strategies for private practitioners coping with subpoenas or compelled testimony for client records or test data. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 37, 215-222.
- Anfang, S.A., & Appelbaum, P.S. (1996) Twenty years after Tarasoff: Reviewing the duty to protect. *Harvard Review of Psychiatry*. 4 (2) 67-76.
- Blackburn, B. (1997) Pastors who counsel. In R.K. Sanders (Ed) *Christian Counseling Ethics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. 75-85.
- Chappelle, W. (2000) A series of progressive legal and ethical decision-making steps for using Christian spiritual interventions in psychotherapy. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*. 28, 45-53.
- Johnson, W. B., Ridley, C. R. and Nielsen, S.L. (2000) Religiously sensitive rational emotive behavior therapy: Elegant solutions and ethical risks. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 31, 14-20.
- McRay, B.W.; McMinn, M.R.; Meek, K.R. (1998) Questioning the “slippery slope”: Ethical beliefs and behaviors of private office-based and church-based therapists. *Counseling and Values*. 42 (2): 142-152.
- Pettifor, J.L. (2004) Professional ethics across national boundaries. *European Psychologist*, 9, 264-272.
- Sanders, R.K. (1998) Integrity in the age of managed care. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*. 17 (2): 101-109.
- Strom-Gottfried, K. (1998) Is “ethical managed care” an oxymoron? *Families in Society*. 79 (3): 297 – 307.

Date		Topic <i>This is the order in which topics will be covered; class date for the topics may vary slightly based on needs & size of the class.</i>	Assignment Due Relevant Readings [by 1st author] [Reference list attached]
5/22 ↓	1.	Introduction Values, Principles, Virtues & Ethics	Meara, N. M. or Jordon,A. & Meara
	2.	Ethical Decision Making	Corey et al [Ch. 1]
	3.	Ethical Codes	AAMFT Ethical Code Oordt
	4.	The Therapist as a Person; Beliefs, Attitudes, Needs; Impaired Clinician	Corey et al [Ch 2 & 3]
5/23 ↓	5.	Counseling, Client Rights Counselor Responsibilities	Corey et al [Ch 5]
	6.	Competence & Integrity	Corey et al [Ch 8]
	7.	California Licensing	Licensing Law
	8.	Confidentiality & Privilege	Bernstein & Hartsell [Ch 9-11] Corey et al [Ch 6]
	9.	Record Keeping Releasing Records or Information HIPAA	Corey et al [Ch 4] Bernstein & Hartsell [Ch 1-8, 37-46] Griffin
5/24 ↓	10.	Boundaries & Multiple Relationships Sexual Misconduct	Corey et al [Ch 7] Younggren Schank
	11.	Spiritual Issues & Ethics	Frame Tan
	12.	Multicultural Issues	Corey et al [Ch 4] Knapp
	13.	Child, Marital, Family Issues	Corey et al [Ch 12] Bernstein & Hartsell [Ch 17] Taylor Leslie
	14.	Abuse: Child, Elder, Dependent Adult & Spousal	Bernstein & Hartsell [Ch 16] Jensen
		Dangerousness Tarasoff Suicide	Bernstein & Hartsell [Ch 21& 22] Truscott Case Notes for Kip Kinkel
5/31			Case Report #1 is due
6/5 ↓	15.	Supervision	Corey et al [Ch. 9] Bernstein & Hartsell [Ch 32, 33]
	16.	Advertising & Financial Arrangements	Bernstein & Hartsell [Ch 14,15,16]
	17.	Exam	
6/6	18.		Case Report #2 is due
6/6 ↓	19.	Malpractice Malpractice for Church Groups	Bernstein & Hartsell [Ch 27, 28, 29]
	20.	Managed Care	Bernstein & Hartsell [Ch 12,13,30,31]
	21.	Group Therapy Work in Schools Community Work	Corey [Ch 12 &13]
	22.	Ethics “Committees”	
	23.	Class Presentations	
6/7 ↓	24.	Ethics “Committees”	
	25.	Class Presentations	
	26.	Exam	