

Syllabus

MF 530 II Professional Ethics

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

Summer 2008 1 Unit

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Dates: August 4, 6, and 8, 2008

Instructor: David Bruce Rose, Ph.D.

Office: 559/452-1767

FAX: 559/452-1752

Email: drose@mbseminary.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays 9:00 am to 12 noon and by appointment

Course Description:

Real life is complex. Too often, ministers and counselors find themselves caught in situations where it appears that in order to comply with a valid professional ethical principle, they must violate another principle they 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.

Therefore, **MF 530 I Professional Ethics is a prerequisite for this course.** *Students who did not complete MF 530 I may attend only with permission of the instructor and will be expected to complete all of the exercises in Corey, Corey, and Haynes (2003) or similar professional ethics program 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 within their personal ethics and 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 (4.1)
2. Demonstrate the use of one's personal self in response to human need. (4.3)
3. Demonstrate practice consistent with the laws and ethics that apply to marriage, family, and child counseling. (4.4)
4. Demonstrate proactive commitment to a community of witness, justice, and peace. (4.7)

Resources:

Required textbooks for students preparing for licensure as marriage and family therapists include:

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.

Recommended textbooks include:

Bennett, B. E., Bricklin, P. M., Harris, E., Knapp, S. VandeCreek, L., & Younggren, J. N. (2006). *Assessing and managing risk in psychological practice: An individualized approach*. Rockville, MD: The Trust.

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

Students who are preparing for ministry **and are not intending to pursue licensure as a counselor** may substitute the following textbooks for the required textbooks above:

Lynch, G. (2002). *Pastoral care and counseling*. London: Sage.

Trull, J. E., & Carter, J. E. (2004). *Ministerial ethics: Moral formation for church leaders*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

Course Format:

MF-530 II will meet in an intensive format, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday August 4, 6, and 8, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm. 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.

Assignments:

Grades will be based on the following:

I. Class Participation – 5%

II. Reading Outlines – 6% Due at beginning of each class

A summary of the content of the required reading assigned for that class, not more than one page long, due at the beginning of each class session. Extra credit will be awarded for additional reading from the recommended readings listed below. **If a student has read an assignment previously, they are expected to substitute other appropriate reading from the bibliography below.**

III. Participation in online discussion of “Therapist Movie” – 5%

To be completed by 8:00 am August 13, 2008

On August 4, students will divide into groups. Each group will watch a film where a therapist is a significant character. On the Forum section of the class web page the group will discuss the film. In the discussion, using one thread each task, and separate threads for each group, identify the (a) Legal Issues, (b) Professional Ethical Issues, and (c) Personal Ethical Issues faced by the therapist character in the film, (d) describe conflicts between the issues, and the (e) philosophical system the therapist character used to address these conflicts. Finally (f) discuss what you think the therapist character should have done and why. (Hint: screen writers appear to be afraid of therapy and so usually describe therapists as unethical and dangerous. Therefore, the therapist character probably should have done something differently.)

Ethics Paper – 30%

Due 8:00 am Friday August 22, 2008

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 review of the literature regarding 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.

This assignment is expected in the format of the American Psychological Association publication Manual, 5th 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 Vanguard University and can be found at:
http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/index.aspx?doc_id=796

Final Examination – 54%
 Due 8:00 am Monday August 18, 2008

Students will be provided several vignettes showing ethical and legal dilemmas in counseling. For each vignette the students will list the (a) Legal Issues, (b) Professional Ethical Issues, and (c) Personal Ethical Issues, identify any conflicts between the issues listed, and write a chart note describing what should be done in this case.

GRADING SCALE:

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

Course Outline:

| Date | Topic | Assignments |
|----------|--|--|
| August 4 | Ethical Dilemmas: An Oversimplified Construct | Knapp & VandeCreek Cpt 1* Sanders Cpt 1* Bersoff pp 1-29, 44-45* Haug |
| | Foundations of Ethical Behavior | Knapp & VandeCreek Cpt 2* Sanders Cpt 8* Bersoff Cpt 3* Dueck |
| | Charting and Record Keeping | Moline et al. Cpt. 3 |
| August 6 | Application of Ethical Theories to Professional Standards of Conduct | Knapp & VandeCreek Cpt 3* Sanders Cpt 19, Appendix A* Bersoff Cpt 2 |

August 8 Ethics of Integrating Religion in Counseling

Miller*
Richards et. al
Sanders Cpts 2* & 4

Ethical Decision Making

Knapp & VandeCreek Cpt 4*
Sanders Cpt 18
Forester-Miller et al.

***Indicates Required Reading for Outlines**

Bibliography:

- Campbell, D. M. (1982). *Doctors, lawyers, ministers: Christian ethics in professional practice*. Nashville: Abingdon.
- Corey, G. Corey, M.S. (2003). *Ethics in action C-D ROM, Version 1.2 (stand-alone version), 2nd Ed.* Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth.
- Cottone, R. R. (2005). Detrimental therapist-client relationships - beyond thinking of “dual” or “multiple” roles: Reflections on the 2001 AAMFT code of ethics. *The American Journal of Family Therapy, 33:1*. pp1-17.
- Cottne, R. R. (2007). *Counseling ethics and decision making, 3rd Ed.* Alexandria, VA: ACA.
- Dueck, A. C. (1995). *Between Jerusalem and Athens: Ethical perspectives on culture, religion, and psychotherapy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.
- 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.
- Harris, J. C. (1977). *Stress, power, and ministry*. Washington, D.C.: Alban Institute.
- Harvey, N. P. (2000). Christian morality and pastoral theology in J. Woodward & S. Pattison (Eds.) *The Blackwell reader in pastoral and practical theology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Hays, R. (1996) *The moral vision of the New Testament*. New York: HarperCollins.
- Haug, I. E. (1999). Boundaries and the use and misuse of power and authority: Ethical complexities for clergy psychotherapists. *Journal of Counseling and Development, 17*. 411-417.
- Huber, J. T. (1961). *Report writing in psychology and psychiatry*. New York: Harper.
- Markkula Center for Applied Ethics. (2007). A framework for thinking ethically. Accessed at <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/framework.html> accessed on March 15, 2007.
- Mitchel, R. (2007). *Documentation in counseling records: An overview of ethical, legal, and clinical issues, 3rd Ed.* Alexandria, VA: ACA.
- Miller, G. (2003). Ethical issues. In G. Miller. *Incorporating spirituality in counseling and psychotherapy: Theory and technique*. Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley.

- Moline, M. E., Williams, G. T., & Austin, K. M. (1998). *Documenting psychotherapy: Essentials for mental health practitioners*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Nagy, T. F. (2005). *Ethics in plain English: An illustrative casebook for psychologists, 2nd Ed.* Washington, D.C., APA.
- Noyce, 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.
- Richards, F. S., & Bergan, A. E. (1997). Ethical issues and guidelines. In F.S. Richards & A. E. Bergin *A spiritual strategy for counseling and psychotherapy*. Washington, D.C. APA.
- Risnerersma, M. (September/October 2000). What about record keeping. *The Therapist*.
- Rogers, J. (1988). *Medical ethics, human choices*. Scottsdale, PA: Hearld Press.
- Rosenstand, N. (2003). *The moral of the story: An introduction to ethics, 4th Ed.* Boston: McGraw-Hill.
- 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.
- Strom-Gottfried, K. (2007). *Straight talk about professional ethics*. Chicago: Lyceum.
- Wheeler, A. M., & Bertram, B. (2008). *The counselor and the law: A guide to legal and ethical practice, 5th Ed.* Alexandria, VA: ACA.
- Wiest, W. E., & Smith, E. A. (1990). *Ethics in ministry: A guide for the professional*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress.

Willimon, W. H. (2002). The pastor as character: Clergy ethics. In W. H. Willimon *Pastor: The theory and practice of ordained ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon.

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

An extremely detailed, although dated, bibliography regarding “Ethics and Issues in Counseling” by Dr. Wayne Lanning, Oklahoma State University is available at <http://home.okstate.edu/homepages.nsf/toc/ethicbiblist.html>.

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.