

**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

Preparing professionals to meet our diverse community's life-long educational needs

COUN 570: Legal & Ethical Issues in Counseling

Instructor: Will Meek, PhD
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Term: Spring 2013
Location: TBD
Time: 6:40-9-20pm
Office hours: N/A

DEPARTMENT POLICY STATEMENT:

The counseling profession requires a high level of personal integrity, self-awareness, and personal maturity. Demonstrating professionalism in classroom behavior, as well as being present and engaged in classroom activities, is expected at all times as a graduate student in Counselor Education.

Students are expected to attend all class meetings; however, one absence is not considered excessive. Students whose beliefs, religious practices, or lifestyles may conflict with class attendance from time to time should discuss such issues with the course instructor at the beginning of the term. If possible, arrangements should be made to make up missed attendance-related assignments and experiences. It is up to the student and instructor to negotiate a satisfactory solution with respect to absences.

Students and faculty are expected to maintain an atmosphere in which controversial issues, germane to the subject matter, can be examined and discussed. In exercising this freedom of expression, faculty and students are expected to exercise appropriate restraint and show respect for the opinion of others.

The Counselor Education Department seeks to balance providing care and support, high expectations, and opportunities for participation in meaningful activities. All students are expected to participate in constructing a respectful learning environment in the classroom. Arrive to class on time, stay for the entire class, come back from breaks on time, turn off cell phones, etc. Be mindful of what might detract from the learning experience of students and faculty alike (e.g., talking to fellow students during lecture).

All students in the Department must demonstrate behavior that is consistent with the Ethical Standards put forth in 2005 by the American Counseling Association:

<http://www.counseling.org/resources/ethics.htm>

Failure to do so can result in termination from the program.

Demonstrating effective ethical and professional conduct is extremely important and will be monitored and reviewed by the faculty throughout your time in the program in order to assess your development as a professional counselor. Formal occasions for feedback in this regard occur following First Year Student Reviews (May of each year) and during Practicum and Internship. Concerns and deficiencies will be brought to your attention and used by faculty in assessing your overall academic/ professional progress in the Department. Deficiencies which are not corrected will be cause for disciplinary action which may include termination from the Department.

If you require special accommodations, due to a disability, during the duration of the course (such as note takers, interpreters) or the final exams week (such as extra time, use of a computer) please notify the instructor at your earliest convenience. The instructor will coordinate with you and the Disability Resource Center to facilitate getting any needed supports

Course Description

This course examines the ethical principles, laws, and legal issues that influence the practice of counselors in a variety of settings. This course will include an overview of systems which influence

legal and ethical issues, guidelines for testifying, and an examination of the most common ethical dilemmas the counselor may encounter. Methods of instruction include lecture, small group work, individual assignments, and whole class discussion.

Required Materials

Remley, T.P. & Herlihy, B. (2012). *Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Counseling* (4th edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill Prentice-Hall

Course Objectives

1. Sensitize students to the ethical and legal issues in the profession and the consequences of their own actions in practice
2. Improve students' ability to reason about ethical issues
3. Describe a model for ethical decision-making
4. Apply ethical and legal principles to liability risk management
5. Explore the resolution of ethical dilemmas in experiential practice groups

Additional Class Information

Assistance/Accommodations: PSU is committed to providing equal access to its learning environment. If you are an individual with a specific hearing, sight, physical, psychiatric, learning or other disability, you may be eligible for support services. Please contact the Disability Resources Center for more information (<http://www.drc.pdx.edu>). Students who anticipate they will need any special assistance or accommodations due to a disability should contact me prior to the second class meeting so we can make those arrangements.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is essential for the intellectual life of the University. Students have an obligation to adhere to the standards in the student Code of Conduct (<http://www.pdx.edu/dos/conductcode>).

Course Requirements

Attendance: Attendance, preparation, and participation in class discussions are required. Missing one class will not result in a penalty, but each additional class will result in a *5pt deduction from the final grade*. If you know in advance that you are going to miss a class, please contact me as soon as possible. For all other attendance policies, particularly regarding illness, please follow standard university protocol.

Readings: Students are expected to come to class prepared to fully participate in discussions. In order to do so, students are expected to have read the required reading assignments prior to class attendance. The readings for each class session are noted in the course outline.

Journal (20pt): You will complete one journal entry for every class, for a total of ten entries. Ideally these entries will be your personal reactions to the class material and reading. Each entry must be a minimum of 200 words, and each is worth 2pt. Note that the journal will only be graded for length and number of entries, not for content, and will be read in more detail only after final grades are submitted. This is to allow you full freedom to your writing. The final journal must be emailed all at once in one document to willmeekphd@gmail.com by 11:59:59am on June 6th, and be sent in .doc, .docx, .odt, or .rtf. No other formats will be accepted (including PDF). I will send a confirmation email when I receive your journal. If you do not receive a confirmation email within 24 hours, it could be an indication that I did not receive the journal. It is the student's responsibility to assure that the journal was received.

Final Exam (40pt): There will be an open-book final exam give in two parts. The test will consist of

questions that mirror the state law and ethics exam for LPCs. After this test is graded, it will be returned to the student for revisions, which can be done at home. Questions that are missed should be corrected, a reference for the correction sited, and re-submitted. The points on the test will be awarded based on the *grading of the revision*. The resubmitted exam is due by 11:59:59am on June 12th and be sent in .doc, .docx, .odt, or .rtf. No other formats will be accepted (including PDF). I will send a confirmation email when I receive your journal. If you do not receive a confirmation email within 24 hours, it could be an indication that I did not receive the journal. It is the student's responsibility to assure that the journal was received. Late resubmissions will be penalized 11pt for each 12hr increment.

Disclosure Statement Paper (40pt): You will develop a disclosure statement that is ready to be used in practice for yourself. The paper should be no more than two pages single spaced, and formatted in a way that is readable to the public. The assignment must be uploaded to TK20 by 11:59:59am on May 15th. Late assignments will be penalized 11pt for each 12hr increment.

The paper will be graded on

1. Inclusion of essential elements of the disclosure statement
2. Writing, grammar, length, and readability

The best statements will:

1. Cite parts of Oregon state law where appropriate (2 citations minimum)
2. Be ready to be used in real life
3. Be completely free of grammar and spelling mistakes
4. Be written based on your status being post-degree but pre-license.
5. You can make up a fantasy practice address and supervisor if applicable.

Extra Credit: No extra credit will be given in the class.

Grading: Students' course grades will be determined by scores on the grades on assignments and considerations from attendance and participation, and will be calculated on the following scale.

Grade	Points	Percent
A	94	94 – 100
A-	90 – 93	90 – 93.9
B+	87 – 89	87 – 89.9
B	84 – 86	84 – 86.9
B-	80 – 83	80 – 83.9
C	79.9 and lower	79.9 and below

Calendar

Date	Subject	Reading	Assignments
04/03/12	Overview & Introduction	Ch 1	
04/10/12	Identity & Multicultural Context	Ch 2 & 3	
04/17/12	Client Rights & Confidentiality	Ch 4 & 5	
04/24/12	Records & Competence	Ch 6 & 7	
05/01/12	Boundaries & Child Issues	Ch 8 & 9	
05/08/12	Families & Testing	Ch 10 & 11	
05/15/12	Business & Counselor Education	Ch 12 & 13	Disclosure Statement Due
05/22/12	Supervision & Research	Ch 14 & 15	Test
05/29/12	Resolving Dilemmas	Ch 16	Test Returned
06/05/12	Special Topics	TBD	
06/12/12	Class Review & Summary		Journal Due Test Revisions Due

