ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING  
FRIDAY 8:00 – 4:00

INSTRUCTOR: Larry E. Shyers, Ph.D., L.M.H.C.  
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PURPOSE: To explore the often complex and multifaceted issues involved in ethical and legal decision making and to reflect upon the values held by the professional in the process of this exploration.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this course, each student will:

1. understand the history and significant events in the profession of mental health;  
2. understand the roles, functions, and relationship between mental health professionals;  
3. be able to articulate the function of professional associations and their branches for professional members;  
4. be able to apply ethical decision making processes in the practice of mental health professions;  
5. know how to become credentialed as a mental health professional from registration to licensure;  
6. understand the significance of ethical codes and how to apply them to mental health practice  
7. be able to act as an advocate for his/her profession at the local, state, and national level;  
8. be able to integrate Christianity into his/her role as a professional counselor.

FORMAT: This course will be taught by use of lecture; role play; group discussion; and power-point display

Chapter 491, Florida Statutes. Download instructions will be given on the first night of class.  
Chapter 64B4, Florida Administrative Codes. Instructions will be provided along with C. 491, F.S.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Each student will write a brief (2 to 5 pages) self-evaluative paper regarding how your values may figure into your counseling style, what types of clients you may find difficult to work with, issues you might find troubling to you, etc.  
2. Complete readings in texts assigned for first class meeting.  
3. Each student will review at least 6 articles in professional counseling journals (e.g. Journals published by CAPS; AMHCA; ACA; AAMFT; AAPC; etc.) dealing with professional issues. List the professional citations for all articles reviewed and write a brief opinion on two. Make sure you include your opinion regarding the articles you review. How will the article impact your counseling (or not). I will not accept a “book report.” I want to know how you will, or will not use the information contained in the article to make an ethical decision. Your opinion is vital to the grade you receive.  
4. Each student will actively participate in group discussions and/or role play.  
5. Each student will write a research paper regarding a single ethical issue. In this paper the student will explore why the issue is an ethical dilemma, what qualified professional suggest be done about the ethical dilemma, and conclude with a definitive statement about what the student will or would do if faced with that ethical dilemma. Paper should be written using APA style. Paper should be long enough to adequately cover the three areas listed above.
6. Each student will complete 2 cumulative quizzes/examinations during the term of the course with passing grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON DISCUSSION AND NEEDS OF STUDENTS)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>course overview&lt;br&gt;Definition of ethics v law&lt;br&gt;Definition of a profession v job&lt;br&gt;Ethical decision making process&lt;br&gt;The counselor as a person&lt;br&gt;Introduction of Vignettes</td>
<td>Corey: Chps. 1, 2, 3</td>
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<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Values and counseling&lt;br&gt;Right to die&lt;br&gt;Codes of ethics&lt;br&gt;Certification v licensure&lt;br&gt;Informed consent&lt;br&gt;Confidentiality&lt;br&gt;Privileged communication</td>
<td>S. 491.005, F.S</td>
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<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Records and Reports&lt;br&gt;Subpoena&lt;br&gt;Court Orders&lt;br&gt;Malpractice&lt;br&gt;Vignettes</td>
<td>Corey: Chps. 5, 6, 8</td>
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<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Duty to warn&lt;br&gt;Mandatory reporting requirements&lt;br&gt;Involuntary Referral for evaluation and/or Treatment&lt;br&gt;Mental Health Treatment</td>
<td>Corey: Chps. 10</td>
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<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Dual relationships&lt;br&gt;Sexual misconduct&lt;br&gt;Managing Boundaries&lt;br&gt;Supervision&lt;br&gt;Ethical considerations of:&lt;br&gt;Pastoral counseling&lt;br&gt;Marriage counseling&lt;br&gt;Family counseling&lt;br&gt;Application of Ethical Decision Making Process&lt;br&gt;Termination of pregnancy&lt;br&gt;Same sex couples&lt;br&gt;Religious differences</td>
<td>Corey: Chps. 7, 9, 11</td>
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Self Evaluation Paper Due

Research Paper Due
Oct 3
Application of Ethical Decision Making Process
Termination of pregnancy
Same sex couples
Religious differences

Vignettes
Oct. 10
Overflow
Wrap up

FINAL EXAM

GRADING SCALE:

Grades will be assigned on a points earned basis following the guidelines below:

- Class Participation = 20 pts.
- Articles opinions = 30 pts.
- Self-evaluative paper = 10 pts.
- Research Paper = 50 pts.
- Quiz #1 = 50 pts.
- Final Exam = 50 pts.

Total possible points = 210

A = 197 - 210
B+ = 189 - 196
B = 178 - 188
C+ = 168 – 177
C = 157 – 167
D = 147 - 156
F = < 146

ACADEMIC STANDARDS:

1. Each student will be expected to attend all class meetings. If you cannot attend a scheduled meeting, please make arrangements for make-up.

2. All assignments will be due on the date specified in the syllabus. For each day a paper is late, 2 points will be deducted from the final score.

3. Plagiarism/cheating will result in a failure of the course.

4. All papers will be completed using APA style,