

COUN 549: Ethics in Professional Counseling
Tentative Syllabus – Fall 2014

Instructor Contact Information

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Course Descriptions

Catalog Description

549. *Ethics in Professional Counseling.*
One semester hour.
Examines ethical and legal issues in counseling and the behavioral sciences. Includes theories of moral philosophy and the development and application of professional codes.

General Course Description

Students consider the bases for ethical codes. Texas law and case law are reviewed. Students learn an ethical decision making model.

Methods of Instruction

Methods of instruction include, but are not limited to lecture, discussion, and experiential problem solving.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to

1. Explain the purpose of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics;
2. Explain, describe, and/or identify the differences between values, morals, and ethics;
3. Explain, describe, and/or discuss the relationship between key counseling values, ethical principles, and ethical decision making;
4. Identify, define, and apply the five ethical principles that provide the foundation for professional behavior;
5. Apply the ACA Code of Ethics to ethical decision making;
6. Explain, define, and/or discuss the concepts of confidentiality, privacy, and privileged communication and the relationship between these concepts;
7. Recognize and explain the difference between ethical issues and ethical dilemmas;
8. Apply an ethical decision making model in resolving an ethical dilemma.

Course Content

1. Ethical Principles
2. Ethics for professional counselors
3. Basic legal concepts for professional counselors
4. Texas law related to counseling
5. Tort (case) law related to counseling
6. Ethical decision making

Course Requirements

Prerequisites

Students are expected to be able to: 1) Navigate the World Wide Web using a web browser (e.g., Safari, Explorer, Opera, Firefox, Chrome) and a search engine (e.g., Google); 2) Communicate electronically via email; 3) Send attachments via email; and, 4) Use a word processing computer program, preferably MS Word.

Active Attendance

Students are expected to attend class punctually for the entire meeting time. While there, they are expected to be attentive, to contribute intelligently to class discussions, and to participate in course activities. Should your absence be foreseeable, please contact the instructor in advance of that absence either via email or via cell call or text. Contribution to final grade in COUN 549 – 35%.

Test(s)

One or more tests will be administered online or take home. Items may be multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay. Item construction will reflect all 6 domains of Bloom's revised taxonomy (Anderson & Krathwohl, 2001): Remember, Understand, Apply, Analyze, Evaluate, and Create. Contribution to final grade in COUN 549 – 40%.

Project

Students will prepare a summary in which they discuss, in their own words, their understanding of each section of the ACA Code of Ethics. Students will be expected to describe relationships between the Code sections and ethical principles. Contribution to final grade in COUN 549 – 25%.

Grading

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|---|---------|---|
| A | ≥ 90 | Defined as consistently excellent performance which distinguishes the individual as being hard-working and highly motivated to succeed |
| B | 80 - 89 | Defined as above average performance, occasionally submitting work of superior quality distinguishing the individual as being of high caliber |
| C | 70 - 79 | Defined as average performance with little or no distinction. |
| D | 60 - 69 | Defined as below average performance. Considered to be a failing grade for graduate students. |
| F | < 60 | Defined as unacceptable performance in relation to standards. |

University Closing due to Weather

Check <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/> regarding class cancellations. Also, KETR radio on 88.9 FM and television channels 4, 5, and 8 (channel 7 for Tyler & Longview Area).

For Students Needing Special Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) *Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A12.08.11*

Academic Honesty

Graduate students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. (See Section A13.12, Academic Honesty, A&M-Commerce Procedures.)

Tentative Course Schedule

Class 1

Introductions; Course overview; ethical principles; ACA Code of Ethics

Class 2

Credentialing; Basic legal concepts; Texas law

Class 3

Texas law continued; Tort law (Tarasoff v. the Board of Regents of the University of California; Thapar v. Zezulka; Abrams v. Jones; Jaffe v. Redmond; Ward v. Wilbanks)

Class 4

Tort law continued; Ethical decision making

Class 5

Ethical decision making