I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to teach students the process of ethical and legal decision making in the practice of Christian counseling. Topics covered include: potential liabilities, practice management, emotional and spiritual concerns of the practicing Christian counselor. Students will gain experiential understanding regarding ethical responses related to boundary issues, moral issues, dual relationships, confidentiality, financial matters, termination process, case notes, and duty to report and warn.

II. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- That the student becomes familiar with issues related to certification as a counselor (F12).
- That the student understands prominent legal issues involved in counseling and ways to minimize legal liabilities (J4).
- That the student is introduced to administrative issues involved in practice management (R20).
- That the student develops his/her own personal position on selected ethical and moral issues in Christian counseling (J3).
- That the student displays a healthy respect for the ethical codes and standards of the major mental health professions (C10).

III. Course Assessment

1. ePortfolio Reflections - All degree-seeking students must reflect on the work completed as part of required courses by commenting upon the manner in which the course contributed to his/her growth in relation to five Essential Leadership Characteristics selected by the student and referenced in the syllabus under Course Learning Outcomes. These reflections must be recorded in the student's ePortfolio and a copy emailed to the professor no later than the last scheduled meeting of the class.

2. CoursEval Assessments – Each semester a link to a CoursEval survey for each course taken will appear in the student's MyGateway page. Students are required to complete this online evaluation of course/instructor no later than the last scheduled meeting of the class.
A summary of results (without student ID) is released to the professor only after grades have been submitted for the course.

3. ePortfolio Artifacts – The syllabi of certain courses identify specific assignments which the student will both turn in to the professor for a grade AND attach to their ePortfolio as a "learning artifact." The institution reviews these artifacts as a way of judging the effectiveness of the Seminary's academic program. The review normally occurs after the student's graduation and without reference to student identity. Students are encouraged to remove title page or header/footer containing their name prior to attaching the artifact to their ePortfolio.

Seminary Policy on academic credit and workload expectations: For each hour of academic credit granted for a Gateway course the Seminary assigns 15 hours of instruction and assigns 30 hours of instructional exercises to be completed outside of class meetings. For andrological reasons, individual courses may adjust the ratio of assignments inside and outside class meetings, but the same total workload expectation of 45 clock hours of academic learning activities per academic credit hour earned will be maintained in all classes.

IV. Course Requirements

A. Attendance/Participation is required.

B. Class presentation. Each student will develop and present in a case study reflecting an issue of law or ethical concern. The topic must be approved by the professor. The student is responsible for the presentation and discussion of the pertinent legal/ethical guidelines. Presentations should last 30-45 minutes, students may receive up to 60 points for this assignment.

C. Forms - A Declaration of Practices and Procedures, and Client Intake Form.
   1. Each student is required to create a Declaration of Practices and Procedures and Client Intake Form that reflects his/her personal approach to counseling, as well as other relevant legal and ethical issues.
   2. It will be important to review several Informed Consent samples to aid in the production of your document.
   3. Due date is April 6th. Bring the completed assignment to class.
   5. Total points = 50 points

D. Research Articles Summary and Reflection - Each student is responsible for reading four (4) research articles related to legal and ethical decision making in counseling.
   1. Write a 3-page summary and personal reflection of each of the four articles.
   2. See Appendix A for the list of articles.
   3. See course schedule for due dates.
4. Each article is worth 10 points for a total of 40 points for the assignment.
5. Please download the document to MLS.
6. Use Times Roman, 12 pt., double-spaced, 1” margins, and include a title page).


B. Final Examination – there will be a final exam that will be distributed the week of May 8th-12th. It must be completed and submitted by May 18th.
1. The completed final will be returned to guygrimes@gs.edu
2. Case studies will be given that require consideration based on ethical and legal guidelines.
3. Be sure to include state guidelines.
4. Be sure to include Biblical resources.
5. A thorough analytical response is requested.
6. Total points = 100 points

GRADES:

1. Declaration of Practices 50 points
2. Class presentation 60 points
3. Research Articles 40 points
4. Critical Book Review (1) 100 points
5. Final Examination 100 points
Total 350 points

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Letter Grades</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
VI. Required Texts

AAMFT, Legal Guidelines for Family Therapists with Selected Ethical Opinions

Corey, G., M. Corey, and P. Callahan. *Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions* (8th ed.)


Recommended Text

Clinton & Ohlschlager, Competent Christian Counseling, VI: Foundations & Practice of Compassionate Soul Care. Publisher: WaterBrook Press - 2002-04-16


Wilson, Counseling & Community: Using Church Relationships to Reinforce Counseling. Publisher: Regent College Publishing - 2003-04-02

V. Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2nd</td>
<td>Overview of syllabus Introduction to Professional Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 9th</td>
<td>Professional Ethics Research Articles #1 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16th</td>
<td>The Counselor as a Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 23th</td>
<td>Values and the Helping Relationship Articles #2 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>Multicultural Perspectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9th</td>
<td>Client Rights/Counselor Responsibilities Informed Consent, Record Keeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16th</td>
<td>Confidentiality: Ethical/Legal Issues Duty to Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23rd</td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30th</td>
<td>Boundaries and Multiple Relationships Research Articles # 3 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6th</td>
<td>Research Articles #4 and Forms Due Sexual Misconduct/Abuse of Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13th</td>
<td>Professional Competence and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20th</td>
<td>Issues in Theory, Practice, Research Issues in Supervision and Consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27th</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Couples/Family Therapy Book Review Due</td>
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<td>May 4th</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Group Work</td>
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<td>May 11th</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Community Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18th</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM DUE</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

VIII. Bibliography

**RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**


Appendix A

Ethical Decision Making
Smith D. In an ethical bind? Here are things every psychologist can do. Monitor on Psychology, 61. (continued from previous link)

Competence, Confidentiality and Informed Consent

Legal Mandates

Multiple Relationships and Professional Boundaries

Clinical Supervision
Diversity

High Risk – Life Endangering Clients