

CO 790 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS FOR COUNSELORS

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Charlotte

Professor: Maria L Boccia

January 26-30, 2009

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the course is to introduce the student to the professional dimensions of counseling and psychotherapy in several pertinent areas:

1. Develop knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities, limits, and liabilities of professional counseling.
2. Become conversant with the central legal, ethical, and professional issues, in addition to the dilemmas that confront practitioners in counseling.
3. Integrate acquired knowledge and understanding, and apply to practical situations that arise in practicum and professional experience, with a view to the specific principles of biblical Christian ethics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Textbooks

Bersoff, Donald N. *Ethical Conflicts in Psychology* (4th Ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 2008.

Sanders, Randolph K. *Christian Counseling Ethics: A Handbook for Therapists, Pastors & Counselors*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Worthington, Everett L. *Psychotherapy and Religious Values*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock. 2004.

Recommended Reading (On Reserve in the Library)

Brock, Gregory W. (Ed.). *Ethics Casebook*. Washington, D.C.: American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, 1998.

Herlihy, Barbara and Corey, Gerald. *ACA Ethical Standards Casebook* (6th Ed.). Alexandria, Virginia: American Counseling Association, 2006.

Huber, Charles H. and Baruth, L.G. (1999). *Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy* (2nd Ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Merrill / Prentice Hall.

READING REQUIREMENTS

**PLEASE READ AT LEAST SANDERS, RANDOLPH K. *CHRISTIAN COUNSELING ETHICS*
BEFORE THE START OF CLASS.**

The student will be expected to read all three required textbooks in entirety. Also, the student will be expected to begin initial but extensive library research in the professional standards and ethics field. By becoming familiar with the available relevant literature on legal, ethical, and professional issues, the student will be equipped to participate knowledgeably in class discussions. Likewise, the student will demonstrate competency to integrate the core concepts into required written assignments.

READING GUIDELINES

To become conversant with the pertinent ethical issues in the counseling field, students are expected to read from a variety of sources to complement areas of understanding and be aware of current ethical questions and conversations. Books may be chosen from the bibliography attached to this syllabus. The student may select other scholarly and clinical sources as long as they clearly fall into the categories and issues that are relevant to

the course. All readings should be recorded in a log that will become an annotated bibliography. Readings should be selected from the following sources:

1. The three required textbooks
2. The three recommended reading books
3. The brief bibliography attached to this syllabus or the more extended bibliographies found in the textbooks and the required reading books.
4. journals and periodicals in the fields of professional, clinical, or Christian counseling as well as marriage and family therapy.
5. Literature of relevant, functional, and applicable value, provided these sources reflect obvious significance to professional, ethical, and legal issues in counseling.

READING LOG

The student will keep account of these readings by means of a log that shall include the following components:

1. Date of the reading
2. Author(s) and source
3. Title of the book, chapter, or journal article
4. Publisher and year of publication
5. Number of pages read by source (also tallied on a summary sheet)
6. Brief summary of the central ideas and concept presented (minimum of 250 words for a book).

Due date: March 30, 2009

CASE STUDY

Students are assumed to be deeply immersed in the practicum training experience or to have completed all internship rotations. Each student will present a (25 min.) detailed case study from personal practicum/internship experience, which represents an ethical question or challenge. A copy of the presentation should be provided to the professor via email before the start of class. Care should be taken to disguise all distinguishing details in order to protect fully the identity of the clients discussed. Use creativity in the presentation and include the suggested format below.

- § State clearly the ethical dilemma
- § Give history and details of its context
- § Facilitate class discussion (using a few carefully crafted questions)
- § Present the group=s decision and rationale

Due date: Dates are assigned in class for presentations later in the week.

FINAL PAPER

A research paper is required, presenting a carefully crafted framework for ethical decision-making. This synthesized approach to challenges inherent within helping should address consideration of how to utilize the Christian faith perspective along with the professional ethical commitments within the practice of counseling. The paper should demonstrate a thorough grasp of the dilemmas, challenges, premises, and principles within the context of the broadly relevant cultural issues. A substantial bibliography and extensive reflective thought are assumed in this assignment. *This paper will be evaluated as a final senior paper and should reflect that level of integration and scholarship.*

FORMAT: Ten to twelve (10-12) pages, plus a bibliography presented in the APA style.

Due date: March 30, 2009

ATTENDANCE

The style and format of this course is essentially that of a senior seminar that anticipates maximum class input

and reflective discussion from the student. The student is expected to attend all class sessions and participate fully in the classroom experience. Case study presentations and class discussions will be a significant part of the final grade.

GRADING CRITERIA

The final grade will reflect the combined efforts of the student as derived from the following sources:

1. Final Paper	40%
2. Case Study Presentation	30%
3. Contributions / Participation in Class Discussions	15%
4. Annotated Reading Log	15%
Total	100%

CO 790 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS FOR COUNSELORS COURSE OUTLINE

SESSION #1

- ∅ Introduction to the course
- ∅ Assignment of case presentations
- ∅ Review of comparative codes of ethics
- ∅ Responsibility to clients and agencies

SESSION #2

- ∅ Ethics versus Christian ethics
- ∅ Values and psychotherapy
- ∅ Religious values and secular therapies
- ∅ Family law and child custody issues
- ∅ Marital law and ethical conflicts

SESSION #3

- ∅ Ethical theory and Biblical standards
- ∅ Ethical accountability and the learning of ethics
- ∅ Determination of professional competence
- ∅ Evaluating education, training, experience, and capacity
- ∅ Issues in assessment

SESSION #4

- ∅ Confidentiality, privilege, and privacy
- ∅ Informed consent to treatment
- ∅ Limits of confidentiality, Tarasoff, and the ethical dilemma
- ∅ Principles and guidelines for decision-making

SESSION #5

- ∅ Supervision and training
- ∅ Requirements for supervisors
- ∅ Complex supervisory relationships
- ∅ Distinguishing supervision from therapy

SESSION #6

- ∅ Multiple relationships
- ∅ Intimacy and integrity
- ∅ Boundaries in counseling and therapy
- ∅ Values and belief systems: the client's and the counselor's
- ∅ Gaining clarity about the potential for exploitation
- ∅ Sexual issues and reasonable prudence

SESSION #7

- ∅ Financial issues and disclosure
- ∅ Advertising, promotion, and marketing
- ∅ Ethics in research, education, and the marketplace
- ∅ Decision-making processes

SESSION #8

- ∅ Legal issues and roles within forensic settings
- ∅ Legal responsibilities of therapists
- ∅ Judicial system and expert testimony
- ∅ Legal ramifications of professional associations and groups
- ∅ Malpractice and common risk factors

SESSION #9

- ∅ Referral and termination
- ∅ Models for ethical decision-making
- ∅ Development of a truly Christian code of ethics

SESSION #10

- ∅ Professional development and continuing education
- ∅ Being professional in a professional community
- ∅ Professional identity and involvement in local issues
- ∅ Review and evaluation of the course

CO 790 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
CHRISTIAN ETHICS FOR COUNSELORS
BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Corey, Gerald, Corey, Marianne Schneider , and Callanan, Patrick (2006). *Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions*. Brooks Cole.
- Cucciare, M. and O'Donohue, W.T. (Eds) (2007). *Terminating Psychotherapy: A Clinician's Guide*. Routledge.
- Fisher, CB (2003). *Decoding the Ethics Code: A Practical Guide for Psychologists*. Sage Publications, Inc.
- Fretz, Bruce R. and Mills, David H. (1980). *Licensing and Certification of Psychologists and Counselors*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.
- Haber, Russell. (1996). *Dimensions of Psychotherapy Supervision: Maps and Means*. New York: W. W. Norton and Compare.
- Hartsell, TL, Berstein, BE (2008). *The Portable Ethicist for Mental Health Professionals, with HIPAA Update: A Complete Guide to Responsible Practice, 2nd Edition*. Wiley
- Herlihy, Barbara L. and Corey, Gerald (2006). *Boundary Issues in Counseling: Multiple Roles And Responsibilities, 2nd edition*. Amer Counseling Assn
- Hoffman, J.C. (1979). *Ethical confrontation in counseling*. Chicago : University of Chicago Press.
- Johnson, Lynn D. (1995) *Psychotherapy in the Age of Accountability*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company.
- Laacqz, K and Driskill, J.D. *Ethics and spiritual care : a guide for pastors, chaplains, and spiritual directors*.
- Ohlschlager, G. and Mosgofian.P. (1992) *Law for the Christian counselor*. Irving, Texas: Word Inc.
- Luepker, E. (2002). *Record Keeping in Psychotherapy and Counseling: Protecting Confidentiality and the Professional Relationship*. Brunner-Routledge
- Motram, K.P., (2007). *Caring for those in crisis : facing ethical dilemmas with patients and families*. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Brazos.
- Myers, David G. and Jeeves, Malcolm A. (1987) *Psychology through the Eyes of Faith*. San Francisco: HarperCollins Publishers.
- Ofer, Zur (2005). *The HIPAA Compliance Kit: Understanding and Applying the Regulations in Psychotherapeutic Practice, 3rd Edition*. W. W. Norton & Company
- Pope, K.S., Vasquez, M.J.T. (1998). *Ethics in Psychotherapy and Counseling: A Practical Guide*. San Francisco : Jossey-Bass Publishers.
- Ronch, Judah L., Ornum, William Van, and Stilwell, Nicholas C. (Eds.) (1994). *The Counseling Sourcebook: A Practical Reference on Contemporary Issues*. New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company.
- Roth, Anthony and Fonagy, Peter (1996). *AWhat Works for Whom?" A Critical Review of Psychotherapy*

Research. New York: The Guilford Press.

Sperry, L (2006). *Dictionary of Ethical and Legal Terms and Issues: The Essential Guide for Mental Health Professionals*. Brunner-Routledge

Tribe, Rachel & Morrissey, Jean (Eds). (2004). *The Handbook of Professional and Ethical Practice for Psychologists, Counsellors and Psychotherapists*. Routledge.

Vacc, Nicholas A. and Loesch, Larry C. (1994). *A professional orientation to counseling*. Muncie Ind.: Accelerated Development, c1994.

Welfel, E.R. (1998). *Ethics in counseling and psychotherapy : standards, research, and emerging issues*. Pacific Grove : Brooks/Cole Pub. Co.

Wilcoxon, S. Allen, Remley, Theodore P., Gladding, Samuel T., and Huber, Charles H. (2006) *Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy (4th Edition)*. Prentice Hall

Woody, Robert Henley. (1988). *Fifty Ways to Avoid Malpractice: A Guidebook for Mental Health Professionals*. Sarasota, Florida: Professional Resource Exchange.

Woody, Robert Henley. (1988). *Protecting Your Mental Health Practice*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.

Woody, Robert Henley. (1997). *Legally Safe Mental Health Practice: Psychological Questions and Answers*. Madison, Connecticut: Psychosocial Press.

Zuckerman , E.L. (2006). *HIPAA Help: A Compliance Toolkit for Psychotherapists for Maintaining Records' Privacy and Security, Managing Risks, and Operating, revised edition*. Three Wishes Press.

Can a Christian therapist working in a government agency talk with a client about faith? A young couple with two children asks a Christian counselor to help them negotiate an end to their marriage. What responsibility does the counselor have to try to repair the relationship? A youth group member confidentially reveals to the pastor that he is taking drugs. Should the pastor tell the boy's parents? A counselor who teaches a college course has a client show up for class. What should she do? These are just a few of the complex dilemmas that therapists face. Additional Ethical Standards for Licensed and Professional Christian Counselors . 45 ES3-000: Fees, Client Billing and Financial Relationships . 45 ES3-010: Setting Fees . 45 ES3-011: Confidentiality and Privacy . 45 ES3-012: Dual Relationships . 45 ES3-013: Ethics; and 3. the vitality and growing maturity of Christian counseling including its many theories and approaches indicating the need for an overarching ethical-legal template to guide the ongoing development of biblical and empirically-sound Christian counseling models. 45 ES3-014: Ethical standards I. ethical standards for all christian counselors The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a professional organization supporting school counselors, school counseling students/interns, school counseling program directors/supervisors and school counselor educators. School counselors have unique qualifications and skills to address preK-12 students' academic, career and social/emotional development needs. In this document, ASCA specifies the obligation to the principles of ethical behavior necessary to maintain the high standards of integrity, leadership and professionalism.