

## **Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling**

**CPSY 580 - 01**

**Summer Semester, 2008**

### **Instructor:**

James Gurule, MA, LPC  
(503) 645-3581, ex. 2310 (office)  
[james@silentdragon.com](mailto:james@silentdragon.com) (home)

### **We meet:**

Wednesdays, 5:30 to 9:00 pm

### **Catalogue Description:**

“Consideration of the applicable ethical and legal issues for mental health and school settings. Students develop skills in writing reports, assignments, and treatment plans.”

### **Course credit:**

2 semester hours

### **Textbook required:**

Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues in Counseling,  
Remley and Herlihy  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Updated 2007)

### **Overview:**

This course is designed to develop a wide knowledge base, critical thinking and ethical decision-making skills for your professional practice in counseling. In our class, you will learn about specific ethical and legal issues, and ways to increase your skills of critical analysis. You will be challenged to increase your understanding of the ethical principles of counseling, and to become adept at knowing when and how to seek consultation and supervision. This class will hopefully instill both a desire and diligence on your part as professional counselors to develop a high degree of ethical consideration and performance in the coming years.

### **Readings:**

Our class discussions and assignments will be drawn from readings in your textbook. Your text will offer our class a wide scope and broad understanding of ethical thinking as illustrated in the assigned chapters. As soon-to-be professionals entering a complex, multi-disciplinary field, understanding and recognizing the ethical dimensions of your work is critically important. This class will help develop your professional ethics and thereby enhance the competence and safety of your counseling work. Of course, you are expected to keep up with the assigned readings in order to actively contribute to our class discussions.

## **Class assignments:**

In addition to the chapter readings, you will have the following class assignments:

**Question / Discussion Cards:** Each week, you will write two (2) discussion questions. These questions, written on 3 X 5 inch index cards, will be due at the beginning of each class period, and will come from your assigned chapters. Your discussion questions and their answers will be evaluated on their accuracy, insight, thoughtfulness and creativity. These cards will be the foundation of our class discussions, and will eventually help create our Final exam. You may (or may not) receive credit for late cards at the discretion of this instructor. These two cards will be worth up to two points each (a total of four (4) points per class), with a maximum total of **15** cards equaling **30 points** during the semester.

**Informed Consent Forms:** The expectations for these documents will be discussed in detail before your assignment. Your forms will be evaluated on their completeness, readability, and informative content. They are expected to be original creations, not a copy of a previously existing form, and developed as if you were going to present them to counseling clients. These forms are due two weeks from assignment and will be eligible for a maximum of **25 points**.

**Participation in class discussions:** Since learning Ethics is participatory in nature, it is my expectation that **every** student will discuss a question or idea in **each** class session. Since there are only 8 class meetings, every class counts! This will be for a maximum total of **8 points**.

**Chapter example discussions:** Each student will be part of a small team (two to three students) and be responsible for a brief presentation and discussion of the ethical issues illustrated in the chapter examples. The teams are responsible to lead discussions and illuminate relevant points. Each student will earn up to **12 points** for their participation in leading these discussions.

**Final examination:** During our last class meeting, you will complete our class Final. This exam will be drawn mostly from the question / discussion cards you've written throughout the semester. This exam will evaluate your recall and understanding of our class discussions. The Final will be worth up to **25 points**.

**Grading:** These assignments will offer you the chance for a possible total of **100 points** toward your final grade. Class grading will proceed as follows:

A = 100 to 93 points    A - = 92 to 90 points  
B + = 89 to 87 points    B = 86 to 83 points    B - = 82 to 80 points  
C + = 79 to 77 points    C = 76 to 73 points    C - = 72 to 70 points  
A grade of C minus (69 points or below) is considered failure for our class.

**Attendance and courtesy:** Class attendance is expected and required. If you are going to miss a class, you will be given a make-up assignment at the discretion of this instructor. Please inform me as soon as possible if you anticipate missing any classes. More than one missed class (3.5 hours) will be considered by the Counseling Psychology Department as a failure to complete our class.

Of course, as a courtesy to your classmates and instructor, all computers, cell phones, or other electronic communication devices are to be rendered non-disruptive, unless you've informed me of a pending critical incoming communication, or if you require an educational accommodation based on ADA standards and approved by the Counseling Psychology Department.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Pages</b>	<b>Assignments</b> <b>Points (up to #)</b>
<b>June 11, 2008</b>	Class overview	As announced		<b>Attendance</b>
<b>June 18, 2008</b>	Confidentiality	Chapter 5	pages 88 to 116	<b>Discussion cards (4)</b>
<b>June 25, 2008</b>	Informed Consent	Chapter 4	pages 65 to 87	<b>Discussion cards (4)</b> <b>Informed consent forms assigned</b>
<b>July 2, 2008</b>	Boundary issues and Multiple relationships	Chapter 8	pages 179 to 202	<b>Discussion cards (4)</b>
<b>July 9, 2008</b>	Competence and Malpractice	Chapter 7	pages 150 to 178	<b>Discussion cards (4)</b> <b>Informed consent forms due (25)</b>
<b>July 16, 2008</b>	Children and vulnerable adults	Chapter 9	pages 203 to 225	<b>Discussion cards (4)</b>
<b>July 23, 2008</b>	Families and groups	Chapter 10	pages 226 to 246	<b>Discussion cards (4)</b> <b>3 Finals cards (6)</b>
<b>July 30, 2008</b>	Supervision and consultation	Chapter 14	pages 318 to 337	<b>Final (25)</b>

Textbook:  
Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues in Counseling,  
 Remley and Herlihy  
 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Updated 2007)