Required Objectives:

**Professional Identity Standards (CACREP 2009 Standards)**

1j. ethical standards of professional organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling
2e. counselors’ roles in developing cultural self-awareness, promoting cultural social justice, advocacy and conflict resolution, and other culturally supported behaviors that promote optimal wellness and growth of the human spirit, mind, or body; and
7g. ethical strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment and evaluation instruments and techniques in counseling.

**Clinical Mental Health Standards (CACREP 2009 Standards)**

A2. Understands ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of clinical mental health counseling. (2001-A4)
B1. Demonstrates the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards in clinical mental health counseling.

- Knowledge of policies and procedures of the practice setting.
- Understanding of the process of making ethical decisions.
- Ability to recognize ethical dilemmas in practice settings.
- Ability to recognize when a legal consultation is necessary.
- Ability to recognize when clinical supervision or legal consultation is necessary.
- Ability to recognize when and how to effectively utilize consultation.
- Understand the limitations to confidentiality and parameters of mandatory reporting.
- Understanding the need for and how to create a safety plan for clients who present with potential self-harm, suicide, abuse, or violence.
- Understand how to take action when ethical and legal dilemmas emerge.
- Know how to report information to appropriate authorities as required by law.
C9. Understands professional issues relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.

- Understand how to practice within your defined scope of practice and competence and how to obtain knowledge of advances and theory regarding effective clinical practice.
- How to obtain license(s) and specialty credentials.
- Understand the necessity of self-care, and monitoring personal issues and problems to insure they do not impact the therapy process adversely or create vulnerability for misconduct.
- Understand how to maintain client records with timely and accurate notes.
- When (and how) to consult with peers and/or supervisors if personal issues threaten to adversely impact clinical work.
- The importance of pursuing professional development through self-supervision, collegial consultation, professional reading, and continuing educational activities.

**Key Required Assignments/Student Learning Outcomes**

These assignments are required for the course, but **will not be the only requirements/expectations**. The chart below lists the assignment, method of submission, and benchmark score/grade. These assignments are set up for upload to Taskstream and/or instructor provides rating for assignment. See syllabus for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethical Practice</th>
<th>Proficient (A)</th>
<th>Benchmark (B)</th>
<th>Emerging (C)</th>
<th>Inadequate/Fail</th>
<th>As evidenced by:</th>
<th>Review and Remediation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1 of 1</td>
<td>Early Program</td>
<td>90-100% cumulative quiz score</td>
<td>80-89% cumulative quiz score</td>
<td>70-80% cumulative quiz score</td>
<td>Below 70% cumulative quiz score</td>
<td>MHC 532/MHCA 525 Ethics: Passes ethics quizzes with 80% minimum</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Year Portfolio Review/Advisor: Referral to Benchmark Review Committee</td>
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</table>
Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling

MHC 532-01

Summer Semester, 2016

Instructors:

James Gurule, MA, LPC  
(503) 645-3581, ex. 2310  
jgurule@lclark.edu

Sally Rasmussen, MA, LPC, MAC  
(503) 645-3581, ex. 2314  
sallyr@lclark.edu

Required Objectives:

Professional Identity Standards (CACREP 2009 Standards)

1j. ethical standards of professional organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling;
2e. counselors’ roles in developing cultural self-awareness, promoting cultural social justice, advocacy and conflict resolution, and other culturally supported behaviors that promote optimal wellness and growth of the human spirit, mind, or body; and
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- When (and how) to consult with peers and/or supervisors if personal issues threaten to adversely impact clinical work.
- The importance of pursuing professional development through self-supervision, collegial consultation, professional reading, and continuing educational activities.

Course credit: 2 semester hours

Textbook required:


Overview:

This course will help you develop a wide knowledge base, critical thinking and ethical decision making skills in all aspects of your counseling work. In our class, you will learn about specific ethical and legal issues and develop ways of thinking that enhance your professionalism. You will be challenged to increase your level of awareness, sensitivity, and understanding of ethical principles in counseling. The goals for this class are to increase your desire and diligence for a high level of ethical awareness and ethical performance in your future professional counseling.

Readings:

Most of our class discussions and assignments will be from readings in our textbook. The assigned chapters offer a wide scope, broad understanding and many illustrations of ethical challenges. As new counselors entering a very complex and highly ambiguous field, it is critically important to recognize and understand ethical dimensions in our profession. As you will see, strong ethics are the foundation for competent counseling services. This class will help develop your professional ethics, and enhance your skills and competence with the primary goal being safety for your future clients. In this course, you are expected to keep up with the assigned readings and to contribute actively in each and every class session.
Class assignments:

**Participation in weekly class discussions:** Learning Ethics is participatory in nature. Our expectation is that every student will discuss a question or an idea in each class session. We want you to find your voice and express your ideas. Students may earn 1 point per class up to a total of 9 points.

**Discussion questions:** For each week, you will write two (2) discussion questions. These questions, written on 3 X 5 inch index cards (provided by your instructors), will come from your assigned chapters. Your questions and their answers will form the foundation of our class discussions. Due at the beginning of class, you may (or may not) receive credit for late cards at the discretion of the instructors. These cards will be worth up to 2 points each (maximum of 4 points per class), for a total of 18 cards (36 points) during the semester.

**Class Project: Ethics and special populations:** This small group project will explore cultural, ethical, & legal considerations with specific populations. You and your peers will create and deliver a 20 minute class presentation, selecting from a variety of options, illustrating some of the most important influences on your professional ethics. Students can earn up to 10 points for the construction and presentation of this individual exercise.

**Important influences exercise:** Ethics are inspired and influenced by many events, places and people in our lives. You will create a 10 minute class presentation, selecting from a variety of options, illustrating some of the most important influences on your professional ethics. Students can earn up to 10 points for the construction and presentation of this individual exercise.

**Mid-term and final:** We will have a Mid-term exam (15 points) in week 6 of our class, covering class material up to that point. We will have a Final examination during our last class session (15 points), covering the remaining class material.

**Grading:** For a total of up to 100 points on your final grade, scoring 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

Please note: A score of 69 points or below is registered as a failing grade for this class.

**Attendance and courtesy:** Class attendance is expected and required. If you are going to miss any class, you will be given a make-up assignment. Please inform your instructor(s) as soon as possible if you anticipate missing a class. More than one missed class (3.5 hours) will be considered by the Counseling Psychology Department as a failure to complete our course. (See CPSY Department Attendance Policy for further details.)

As a professional courtesy to your classmates and instructors, please avoid any non-class-related or disruptive use of electronic devices in our class. We can make exceptions if you have informed us of a pending critical incoming communication. If you require any educational accommodation based on ADA standards, please provide your instructors with
evidence of written approval by the Counseling Psychology Department as early in the semester as possible.

**Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling**

**MHC 532-01**

**Summer Semester, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Assignments &amp; expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 12, 2016</td>
<td>Introduction to Ethics</td>
<td>Chapter 1 and</td>
<td>Pages 2 to 26 and</td>
<td>Attendance and participation*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Pages 27 to 56</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19, 2016</td>
<td>Ethical Practice in a Multicultural Society</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Pages 57 to 83</td>
<td>Discussion cards (4)</td>
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<td>May 26, 2016</td>
<td>Confidentiality</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Pages 111 to 158</td>
<td>Discussion cards (4)</td>
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<td>June 2, 2016</td>
<td>Informed Consent</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Pages 159 to 182</td>
<td>Discussion cards (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9, 2016</td>
<td>Sexualized Relationships with clients</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Pages 183 to 213</td>
<td>Discussion cards (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16, 2016</td>
<td>Nonsexual Multiple Relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Pages 214 to 242</td>
<td>Discussion cards (4) Midterm (15 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 23, 2016</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Special Settings</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Pages 320 to 355</td>
<td>Discussion cards (4) Class Projects (15)</td>
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<td>Important others: Group 1 (10 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>Groups, Couples and Families</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Pages 243 to 265</td>
<td>Discussion cards (4) Important others: Group 2 (10 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7, 2016</td>
<td>Competence and Preventing Misconduct</td>
<td>Chapter 4 and</td>
<td>Pages 86 to 110</td>
<td>Discussion cards (4) Important others: Group 3 (10 points)</td>
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<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Pages 296 to 318</td>
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<td>July 14, 2015</td>
<td>The Ethics of Supervision</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
<td>Pages 385 to 414</td>
<td>Discussion cards (4) Important others: Group 4 (10 points) Final (15 points)</td>
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*Each class