

**Lewis & Clark College**  
**Professional Mental Health Counseling & Professional Mental Health**  
**Counseling – Specialization in Addictions**  
**MHC 532 / MHCA 525**  
**Ethical & Legal Issues in Professional Counseling**  
**Syllabus Cover Sheet**

Required Objectives:

Professional Counseling Identity (CACREP 2016 Standards)

1i. ethical standards of professional counseling organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling

Entry-Level Specialty: Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CACREP 2016 Standards)

C2l. legal and ethical considerations specific to clinical mental health counseling

**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.

Ethical Practice		Proficient (A)	Benchmark (B)	Emerging (C)	Inadequate /Fail	As evidenced by:	Review and Remediation
Goal 1 of 1							
Understands, and follows ethical standards	Early Program	90-100% cumulative quiz score	80-89% cumulative quiz score	70- 80% cumulative quiz score	Below 70% cumulative quiz score	MHC 532/MHCA 525 Ethics: Passes ethics quizzes with 80% minimum	First Year Portfolio Review/Advisor: Referral to Benchmark Review Committee

Methods of Instruction for this Course

<b>Instruction Method</b>	<b>Mark All That Apply</b>
Lecture	X
Small Group Discussion	X
Large Group Discussion	X
Course Readings	X
Group Presentation	
Individual Presentation: Important Others exercise	X
DVD/Video Presentation	
Supervised Small Group Work	X
Individual/Triadic Supervision	
Group Supervision	
Case Study	X
Debate	
Class Visitor / Guest Lecturer	
Off-Campus / Field Visit	
Other: Weekly Question/Discussion Cards	X
Other: Weekly Reflection Cards	X

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

**MHC 532-01**

**Winter, 2018**

## **Instructors:**

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

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

**Course credit:** 2 semester hours

## **Textbook required:**

Ethics in Counseling and Psychotherapy: Standards, Research, and Emerging Issues, 6th Edition,  
Elizabeth Reynolds Welfel  
(2016)

## **Overview:**

This course will help you develop a strong 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 diligence and desire 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 the ethical dimensions of 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.

**Discussion questions:** For each class, 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.

**Reflection cards:** For each class, you will also write one (1) reflection card. These statements, on 3 X 5 cards, will be based on your thoughts, reactions, and the integration of information discussed in our classes. You will be asked to consider the topics discussed, and write a brief reaction or reflection on the relevance of that topic. You may also discuss practical applications of those ideas and their importance to your future practice and specialty. These cards are worth **1** point each, for **9** points in the semester.

**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 your construction and presentation of this individual exercise. Students will select the week for your presentations.

**Mid-terms and final:** We will have two mid-term exams (**15 points each**), one in week 4 and one in week 7 of our class, covering class material up to that point. We will have a Final exam 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 make-up assignments. 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**

**Winter, 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Pages</b>	<b>Assignments &amp; expectations</b>
<b>January 11, 2018</b>	Introduction to ethics	Chapter 1 and Chapter 2	Pages 2 to 26 and Pages 27 to 56	<b>Attendance and participation*</b>
<b>January 18, 2018</b>	Ethical practice in a multicultural society	Chapter 3	Pages 57 to 83	<b>Discussion cards* Reflection card *</b>
<b>January 25, 2018</b>	Confidentiality	Chapter 5	Pages 111 to 158	<b>Discussion cards* Reflection card*</b>
<b>February 1, 2018</b>	Informed consent	Chapter 6	Pages 159 to 182	<b>Discussion cards* Reflection card* Important Others 1 Midterm I (15 pts)</b>
<b>February 8, 2018</b>	Sexualized relationships with clients	Chapter 7	Pages 183 to 213	<b>Discussion cards* Reflection card* Important Others 2</b>
<b>February 15, 2018</b>	Nonsexual multiple relationships	Chapter 8	Pages 214 to 242	<b>Discussion cards* Reflection card* Important Others 3</b>
<b>February 22, 2018</b>	Competence and preventing misconduct	Chapter 4 and Chapter 11	Pages 86 to 110 and Pages 296 to 318	<b>Discussion cards* Reflection card* Important Others 4 Midterm II (15 pts)</b>
<b>March 1, 2018</b>	Special topics	To be determined	To be determined	<b>Discussion cards* Reflection card* Important Others 5</b>
<b>March 8, 2018</b>	Groups, couples and families	Chapter 9	Pages 243 to 265	<b>Discussion cards* Reflection card* Important Others 6</b>
<b>March 15, 2018</b>	The ethics of supervision	Chapter 14	Pages 385 to 414	<b>Discussion cards* Reflection card* Important Others 7 Final (15 points)</b>

\*Each class

Two Discussion cards, up to 2 points each, total = 4 points class

One Reflection card, 1 point each, total = 1 point per class

Important Others exercise, by group, up to 10 points per student

Textbook: Ethics in Counseling and Psychotherapy; Standards, Research and Emerging Issues, 6th Edition, Welfel, 2016.