

**Lewis & Clark College**  
**Professional Mental Health Counseling & Professional Mental Health Counseling –**  
**Specialization in Addictions**  
**MHC 532**  
**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	Yes
Small Group Discussion	Yes
Large Group Discussion	Yes
Course Readings	Yes
Group Presentation	Yes
Individual Presentation	Yes
DVD/Video Presentation	
Supervised Small Group Work	Yes
Individual/Triadic Supervision	
Group Supervision	
Case Studies	Yes
Debate	
Class Visitor / Guest Lecturer	
Off-Campus / Field Visit	
Other:	
Weekly Discussion / Question cards	Yes

# Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling

MHC 532-01

Spring 2020

## Instructors:

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**Course credit:** 2 semester hours

## Textbook required:

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

## Overview:

Our ethics class is participatory in nature, and will be divided into three main segments: Weeks 1 through 5 will be Foundations; Weeks 6 through 9 will focus on Practical Applications and Engagement; Week 10 will be presentations and discussions of student-selected ethics articles.

In our class, you will develop knowledge, sharpen your analytical abilities and enhance your ethical decision making skills. In our class, you will learn about a wide range of ethical and legal issues and develop ways of thinking that will increase your professionalism. You will be challenged to develop increased awareness, sensitivity, and understanding of ethical principles, and how to apply this understanding in your professional counseling work.

## Readings:

Most of our class discussions and assignments will be from readings in our textbook. You are expected to keep up with the assigned readings, and will also be expected to actively contribute in each class session. The assigned chapters offer many descriptions and illustrations of ethical practices and ongoing challenges. Strong ethics are the foundation for providing competent counseling services. Our goal is that you will learn practical applications of professional counseling ethics for the safety and well-being of your future clients.

## Class assignments:

**Participation in weekly class discussions:** In our class, expectations are that every student will share questions and ideas in each class session. We want you to find your voice and express yourself. Since we rely heavily on student participation in class discussions, **missing** a class means earning **no** discussion question points for that evening.

**Discussion questions:** For each class, you will write two (2) discussion questions. These questions, written on index cards, will come from your assigned chapters. Your questions **and their answers** will help form the foundation of our class discussions. Due at the **beginning** of each class,

your 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.

**Quizzes:** In classes 2 through 5, we will have a short quiz (**6 points**), covering the ethics information for that class. For the semester, your possible quiz total will be **24 points**.

**Important influences exercise:** Ethics are inspired and influenced by many events, places and people in our lives. You will create a 10-minute presentation, selecting from a variety of options, describing several influences on your professional ethics. For this exercise, students will present information in small groups, and then discuss an overview of your exercise with the larger class. More information and a form will be provided (**10 points**).

**Foundations/Practical applications and engagement:** After establishing a strong foundation in the principles of ethics, we will spend weeks 6 through 9 in the practical application of these concepts. Students will work in small groups, and present a review of the evening's topic through one of the four foundational lenses (Multicultural considerations, Confidentiality, Informed Consent, and Boundaries). Student groups will have a variety of options for the 20 minute team presentation (such as case studies, articles, class activities, or other class-engagement strategy). Your group will also complete a form providing an introduction, an outline of the main points of emphasis, and a summary describing how your presentation combines the chapter topic with the foundational lens (forms will be provided). These group presentations will be worth **5 points** per student each week. For the semester, your possible total will be **20 points**.

**Ethics article assignment:** On the last night of class, each student will lead a discussion presenting information from your student-selected ethics article. You are free to select your article from any area of ethics that interests you. Plan to provide a written outline or summary of your article (**3points**); Identify at least two ideas that describe ethical dilemmas, principles, or considerations a therapist needs to address in clinical work (**3 points**); present your information in class (**2 points**); and provide your instructors with copies of your article (**2 points**). This assignment will be worth up to **10 points**.

**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:** Regular class attendance is expected. Please inform your instructor(s) if you anticipate missing any class. Missing class means no discussion card points for that evening. As a professional expectation, any **non-class-related** or disruptive use of electronic devices in our classroom is prohibited. Your instructors can make exceptions if you have informed us of your need. Otherwise, please demonstrate appropriate phone courtesy. Any student with a disability that may impact your academic performance may request **disability accommodations** by submitting documentation to the Student Support Services Office (503)768-7192. After submitting documentation for the current semester requesting accommodations, their staff will notify your instructor(s) of the accommodations for which you are eligible.

# Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling

## MHC 532-01: Winter 2020

### Foundations

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments and Expectations
January 9, 2020	Ethical Principles	Chapter 1 and Chapter 2	Attendance and Participation*
January 16, 2020	Ethical practice in a multicultural society	Chapter 3	Discussion cards* Quiz 1 Important Influences
January 23, 2020	Confidentiality	Chapter 5	Discussion cards Quiz 2
January 30, 2020	Informed Consent	Chapter 6	Discussion cards Quiz 3
February 6, 2020	Boundaries	Chapter 7 and Chapter 8	Discussion cards Quiz 4

### Practical applications and engagement

February 13, 2020	Groups, couples and families	Chapter 9	Discussion cards Group presentations
February 20, 2020	Competence and Preventing misconduct	Chapter 4 and Chapter 11	Discussion cards Group presentations
February 27, 2020	Electronics and Social Media	Selected readings	Discussion cards Group presentations
March 5, 2020	Clinical Supervision	Chapter 14	Discussion cards Group Presentations

### Articles

March 12, 2020	Student-selected Articles	To be selected by each student	Discussion cards* Ethics article presentation
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\*Each class

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

Important influences exercise, up to 10 points per student;

Group presentations, up to 5 points each class, and up 20 points per student in the semester;

Ethics articles presentations, up to 10 points per student.