

**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

Very 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	
Individual Presentation	Yes
DVD/Video Presentation	
Supervised Small Group Work	Yes
Individual/Triadic Supervision	
Group Supervision	
Case Study	Yes
Debate	
Class Visitor / Guest Lecturer	
Off-Campus / Field Visit	
Other:	
Weekly Discussion / Question cards	Yes
Weekly Reflection cards	Yes

**Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling**  
**MHC 532-01 - Thursdays – 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**MHC 532-11 – Fridays - 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Summer, 2020**

**Instructor:**

Nathaniel Brown, Ph.D., CSW-A

[nbrown@lclark.edu](mailto:nbrown@lclark.edu)

**Office Hours:** E-mail a meeting request to schedule an appointment via Zoom

**Course credit:** 2 semester hours

**Textbook required:**

Jacob, C., Wildermuth, D. L., & Thomas, A. (2020). A practical ethics worktext for professional counselors: Applying decision-making models to case examples. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, LLC.

**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 achievement of high levels of ethical awareness and help develop strong ethical performance** in your professional counseling.

**Readings:**

Most of our class discussions and assignments will be from readings in our textbook. The assigned chapters offer a wide scope and understanding with 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 service delivery. This class will help develop your professional ethics and enhance your skills and competence with the primary goal being the safety of your future clients. In this course, you are expected to keep up with the assigned readings and to actively contribute in each and every class session.

**Class Assignments:**

**Participation in Weekly Class Discussions (18 Points @ 2 points for each class)**

**Submit rubric provided by Instructor in Moodle by 11:30 p.m. at the end of each class.**

In this class, our 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 (45 Points – Submit in Moodle by 11:30 p.m. on the day of class):**

For each class, you will write two (2) discussion questions. These questions will come from your assigned chapters. Your questions and their answers will form the foundation of our class discussions. Your discussion questions are due at the **beginning** of each class. The discussion questions are worth 5 points (2.5 points for each question).

**Reflection Statements (9 Points – Submit in Moodle by 11:30 p.m. on the day of class):**

For each class, you will write one reflection statement. These statements 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 example, reaction or reflection on the relevance of that topic**. You will also discuss any **practical applications of those topics and ideas, as well as their importance to your future practice and specialty**. These statements are worth 1 point.

**Important Influences Exercise (10 Points – Submit in Moodle by 11:30 p.m. the day of presentation):**

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 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 brief presentations. Group presentation days are listed on the class schedule.

**Final Exam (10 Points):**

We will have one final exam. Final Exam in week 9 covering material from the semester. The exam will occur in class via Moodle.

**Article on Ethics (8 Points – Submit in Moodle by 11:30 p.m. on the last day of class):**

You will select an article and lead a brief, 10-minute group discussion on this ethics topic of your choice. Please upload the article in Moodle.

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

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. Please inform your instructor(s) as soon as possible if you anticipate missing any class. Missing class means no discussion or reflection card points for that evening. If more than one class is missed, Department Policy requires a referral to a Counseling Psychology Department Academic Review Panel for further discussion.

As a professional courtesy to your classmates and instructors, any **non-class-related** or disruptive use of electronic devices in our class is prohibited. We can make exceptions if you have informed us of a pending critical incoming communication.

If you have a disability that may impact your academic performance, you may request accommodations by submitting documentation to the Student Support Services Office in Albany Quadrangle (503-768-7192). After you have submitted documentation and filled out paperwork there for the current semester requesting accommodations, staff in that office will notify your instructor(s) of the accommodations for which you are eligible.

**Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Counseling**  
**MHC 532-01 - Summer, 2020**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments &amp; Expectations</b>
May 7, 2020	Introduction to Ethics	<b>Chapter 1</b> The Counseling Relationship (Section A of the ACA Code of Ethics)	Attendance and Participation* Discussion Questions* Reflection Statement*
May 14, 2020	Ethical practice in a multicultural society	<b>Chapter 2</b> Confidentiality and Privacy (Section B of the ACA Code of Ethics)	Discussion Questions* Reflection Statement*
May 21, 2020	Confidentiality	<b>Chapter 3</b> Professional Responsibility (Section C of the ACA Code of Ethics)	Discussion Questions* Reflection Statement* <b>Influences group 1</b>
May 28, 2020	Informed Consent	<b>Chapter 4</b> Relationships With Other Professionals (Section D of the ACA Code of Ethics)	Discussion Questions* Reflection Statement* <b>Influences group 2</b>
June 4, 2020	Sexualized Relationships	<b>Chapter 5</b> Evaluation, Assessment, and Interpretation (Section E of the ACA Code of Ethics)	Discussion Questions* Reflection Statement* <b>Influences group 3</b>
June 11, 2020	Nonsexual Multiple Relationships	<b>Chapter 6</b> Supervision, Teaching, and Training (Section F of the ACA Code of Ethics)	Discussion Questions* Reflection Statement* <b>Influences Group 4</b>
June 25, 2020	Competence and preventing misconduct	<b>Chapter 7</b> Research and Publication (Section G of the ACA Code of Ethics)	Discussion Questions* Reflection Statement* <b>Influences Group 5</b>
July 2, 2020	Groups, couples and families	<b>Chapter 8</b> Distance Counseling, Technology, and Social Media (Section H of the ACA Code of Ethics)	Discussion Questions* Reflection Statement* <b>Influences Group 6</b>
July 9, 2020	Open Discussion	<b>Chapter 9</b> Resolving Ethical Issues (Section I of the ACA Code of Ethics)	Discussion Questions* Reflection Statement* <b>Influences Group 7</b> <b>Final Exam – Chapters 1-9 in Moodle</b>

**\*Each class**

**Two Discussion Questions: 2.5 points each, total = 5 points per class**

**One Reflection Statement: 1 point each, total = 1 point per class**

**Important Influences Exercise: 10 points per student**

**Article (and discussion) on ethics: 8 points per student.**