Course and Instructor

Instructor: Bobbie Birdsall, PhD, NCC, LCPC, LMFT
Department of Counselor Education
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E-mail: bbirdsa@boisestate.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30 pm, Thursday 1:30 – 4:30

Course Number: COUN 508

Course Title: Ethics and Legal Issues in Counseling

Course Time: Thursday, 6:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Course Location: College of Education, Room 330

Semester: Fall 2013

Credits: 3 credits

Course Objectives and Accreditation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CACREP Standards Addressed in the Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K.1.J. Professional Identity – ethical standards of the American Counseling Association (ACA) and related entities, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>K.7.I. Assessment – ethical and legal considerations.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course Description

This course addresses information on laws, regulations, techniques and interventions needed by professional counselors when working with individuals with disabilities or other challenges. Examination of ethical, legal, and professional issues involved in counseling in all settings and populations. Analysis of questionable situations and practitioner decision-making based on the ethical standards of the American Counseling Association and laws governing professional counselors. PREREQ: COUN 505 or PERM/INST.

Methods of Instruction

Case Studies, lecture, small group work, guest speakers
Objectives
Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Inform others, including consumers of counseling services and members of other professions, of the ethical standards (with historical and philosophical background and current rationale) about which counselors are expected to be knowledgeable;
- Analyze conflict situations of an ethical/legal nature via a decision-making model utilizing ethical principles and standards within an identified personal value system;
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of ethical and legal terminology and concepts;
- Pursue productive avenues to gather information regarding accreditation, licensure, and/or certification in various states, agencies, and organizations; and,
- Recognize and be able to reason through the complexity and ambiguity in applying ethical principles and standards to daily living and professional situations, including cross-cultural and special needs contexts, in light of ever-changing societal expectations.

Technology Skills Addressed in the Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Instructor Application</th>
<th>Student Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utilize Blackboard technology</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word process, including APA formatting</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use a spreadsheet and a statistical package</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquire graphics from the web, digital camera, scanner, or Microsoft media and insert them into a poster or presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create and deliver a power point presentation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find material on the Web and review Web sites</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be able to use e-mail, including document attachments</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be able to sign in and participate in lusters</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be familiar with computerized testing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Be able to use digital recording equipment</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Text and Articles


Recommended:


Also relevant readings as recommended by instructor and posted into Blackboard.
Academic Requirements and Evaluation

Readings: It is expected that you will come to class having read the chapters assigned in order to facilitate discussion. Your opinions are important to both the class and your experience in the program, so please come to class prepared.

Attendance and Participation: A rich and healthy exchange of ideas, reading, and feedback is essential to your growth as a counselor in terms of your ethical decision making skills. You are expected to be an active speaker as well as an active listener, contributing usefully to class discussions. Learning to be an ethical counselor involves assessing one’s personal values and assumptions and learning to understand the values and assumptions of others. Therefore, students will be expected to discuss their personal values and assumptions in class. Wise students will avoid missing class; participation is an opportunity to gain additional insight into concepts and to share ideas.

Absences will be detrimental to the understanding of the course and, therefore, detrimental to the student’s grade. More than two absences will result in a one letter drop in grade (each class is worth 10 points). It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor prior to an absence you know will occur.

Course Assignments:

1. Three Things.
   Each week that assigned readings are due, a brief three things paper is due. For this assignment, you are asked to write down three questions, comments, ideas, surprises, etc. that come to mind as you read the assigned chapters. I do not want a summary of your readings, but instead your opinion regarding the readings. Please bring this paper to class on the day the assigned reading is due to share with the class. Please type this paper and make it no longer than one page.

   On weeks that class does not meet, you will submit this assignment on Blackboard.

2. Professional Credential Search
   Select one field or specialty area and two states other than Idaho (if applicable) and submit a written summary of requirements to become certified/licensed in that area. For example, research the requirements for becoming a Registered Play Therapist, or a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor in Washington and Colorado, or a school counselor in Oregon and Montana. Please include information about required education/training, and supervision hours necessary for certification/licensure in your specific area. Please also include no more than two pages of your opinion/reaction to the information you gathered. APA style is not required. Please be prepared to share what you have learned with the class.

3. Professional Disclosure Statement
   In a format of your choosing, please develop a professional disclosure statement that you would like to use at your dream counseling job. Please include your specific training, areas of expertise, theoretical approach to counseling, anticipated outcomes to counseling, confidentiality and other informed consent information. Please include information relevant to the population you plan to work with in a developmentally appropriate way.
4. **Specialty Area Presentation**
   In groups of 3-4, please identify an area of specialty within the counseling field that you would like to explore more (group, couples, family, children, older adults, assessment, community, research, schools). Using your book, at least three other references, and current case law, statutes and codes, please develop a presentation on some of the important ethical issues specific to the specialty area. Please utilize PowerPoint for the presentation and prepare handouts for the class. In addition, please include one role play demonstration of an ethical issue related to your specialty area. You may involve class members in the role play if you wish! Please limit your total presentation time to 20-30 minutes.

5. **Decision-Making Model Research Paper**
   Select a movie that has a main character cast as a counselor, psychologist, therapist, or other mental health professional. Within the movie, please identify one of the major ethical dilemmas and using one of the decision-making models that are presented in class or one that you find in the literature, please demonstrate how you as the counselor would resolve the issue. You must identify which decision-making model you use and then proceed to explain in detail how you work through each step of the model and what conclusion you come to after working through the model. Please include a narrative piece and a visual model. For the narrative part, please use APA style writing and references.

Some examples of movies include: Anger Management, What About Bob?, Antwone Fisher, Because I Said So, Clockwork Orange, Girl Interrupted, Goodwill Hunting, Mr. Jones, Ordinary People, Prince of Tides.

6. **Blackboard Posts**
   Posting to 3 online discussion questions or 1 case study. You must post to at least two other students’ comments.

7. **Final Exam**
   A multiple-choice final exam will be administered the last night of class. The exam will cover all materials and readings from the course.

**Other Expectations:**

- All assigned work is expected to be completed. Time involvement depends upon the pace of the individual student. All work is expected to be original or specifically cited by source.

- I do not accept assignments via email or hardcopy—except for the 3 THINGS ASSIGNMENTS—that you will bring to class. Please do not email me your assignments. Upload your assignments into Blackboard.
Each of the following segments will be scored by means of a point system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Things papers (13 at 5 points each)</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credential Search</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disclosure Statement</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Presentation</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-Making Paper</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation/Attendance (10 pts/class)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Postings (5 at 15 points each)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Points and Grading Scale**

**Total Possible Points:** 430  
**Grading Scale:** 93 – 100 = A, 85 – 92 = B, 77 – 84 = C

No late assignments will be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made.

If there is an emergency that affects your work in the class, such as meeting a deadline, please let me know as soon as possible, and I will be happy to work with you on making accommodations as long as it is prior to the deadline—unless the emergency precludes you from contacting me, in which case I will be flexible.

Contacting me after the deadline, or shortly prior, will not result in accommodations being made except in the case of the aforesaid emergency that precluded timely contact.

Frequently back up your assignments and keep copies until the semester is over! Computer problems do not constitute an emergency that allows for extensions. Hope for the best, plan for the worst.

If you feel you have a received a grade that is not representative of your work, email me as soon as possible about the situation.

**Disability and Academic Integrity Statements**

**Disability Statement:**
If there is someone in the class who has a special need that may be the result of a disability or alternative learning style, I would appreciate hearing from you. I am reasonably certain that we can make the appropriate arrangements if necessary to assist you. The accommodations can take many forms, whether it is seating, testing, or the like. Please see me after class, or during my office hours.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**
Academic misconduct or dishonesty such as cheating and plagiarism is unacceptable and appropriate penalties will be imposed. This includes referencing material that has not been read by you, such as secondary references.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment/ Relevant Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8/29    | Introduction/Overview  
Syllabus Review  
Class expectations | N/A |
| 9/5     | Intro to Professional Ethics | Welfel Ch. 1  
*Three Things #1 due |
| 9/12    | Ethical decision making model | Welfel Ch. 2  
*Three Things #2 due |
| 9/19    | Ethical practice in cultural context  
BB | Welfel Ch. 3  
*Three things BB Post due #3 |
| 9/26    | Confidentiality | Welfel Ch. 5  
*Three things #4 due  
*Credential Search due |
| 10/3    | Competence  
BB | Welfel Ch. 4  
Three things BB Post due #5 |
| 10/10   | Informed Consent | Welfel Ch. 6  
*Three things #6 due |
| 10/17   | Sexual Contact  
BB | Ch. 7  
Three things BB Post due #7 |
| 10/24   | Boundary Issues | Welfel Ch. 8  
*Three things #8 due  
*Professional disclosure statement due |
| 10/31   | No class – group project work time | |
| 11/7    | Groups  
PRESENTATION(S) | Welfel Ch. 9  
*Three things #9 due |
| 11/14   | Assessment  
BB | Welfel Ch. 10  
*Three things #10 due  
BB Post #9 due |
| 11/21   | Impaired Professional  
PRESENTATION(S) | Welfel Ch. 11  
*Three things #11 due |
| 11/28   | No classes at BSU – Thanksgiving holiday | |
| 12/5    | Ethics in schools and communities  
BB | Welfel Ch. 12 & 13  
*Three things BB Post #12 due |
| 12/12   | Final Exam  
PRESENTATION(S) | Welfel Ch. 14  
*Three things #13 due  
*Decision-making model paper due |