



## **EDUC 6333: ETHICAL, LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING**

Spring, 2016

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Office Hours: Monday 12:00–12:30 & 5:00-6:00 p.m., Wednesday 3:30-4:30, Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon - Internet Office Hours/Student Teacher Observations.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS/CD**

- **ISSUES AND ETHICS IN THE HELPING PROFESSIONS**, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, by Corey, Corey, and Callanan. ISBN -10: 1305388283 ISBN-13: 9781305388284; Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.

**PUBLICATION MANUAL OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA)**, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. American Psychological Association.

CD-ROM, **ETHICS IN ACTION**, 2003. ISBN-13: 9780534639709

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A course to familiarize students with ethical, legal and professional practice and issues in the field of counseling. Included are standards of ethical practice and their application to the various areas of counseling, ethical decision-making, major ethical and legal issues, and ethical responses to unethical behavior.

### **TE<sub>x</sub>ES COMPETENCIES COVERED IN THIS COURSE**

**Competency 003 – Diversity:** The professional school counselor demonstrates an appreciation of human diversity by providing equitable guidance and counseling services for all learners and by promoting a climate of mutual respect in which students learn to value themselves and others.

**Competency 008 – Assessment:** The professional school counselor uses formal and informal assessment to provide information about and to learners, to monitor student progress, and to recommend modifications to the educational environment to help all learners achieve success in school.

**Competency 009 - Consultation and Collaboration with School Personnel:** The

professional school counselor consults with school personnel, provides professional expertise, and establishes collaborative relationships that foster the growth of a support system for the school community

**Competency 012 – Ethical, Legal, and Professional Standards:** The professional school counselor complies with the legal, ethical, and professional standards for Texas public schools educators; engages in self-reflection and professional growth activities; and works with colleagues to advance the counseling profession.

## Program Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. **Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and use of the basic principles, history and ongoing development of counseling ethics in practice and supervision.**

*Assessment:* Blackboard reflection papers; written exam

2. **Demonstrate recognition and knowledge of the differences in legal, ethical and professional issues as they contribute to client welfare in theory and practice.**

*Assessment:* Written exam; Blackboard Assignments; research paper

3. **Demonstrate the ability to competently, thoroughly and efficiently research areas of ethical, legal and professional issues for up-to-date information and decisions for counseling practice, consultation and supervision.**

*Assessment:* Exam; research paper; discussion papers

4. **Demonstrate the ability to exercise appropriate ethical and legal decision-making in counseling practice.**

*Assessment:* Discussion papers; Blackboard Assignments; research paper; video clips; exam

5. **Demonstrate professional knowledge of ethical, legal and professional practice as it pertains to all venues in counseling practice: group, individual, family, community, school, agency & treatment centers, private practice plus supervision, consultation, collaboration and counseling research and assessment.**

*Assessment:* Exam; Blackboard Assignments; video clips; research and discussion papers

6. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of all dimensions of multicultural and diversity issues in all venues of counseling practice.

*Assessment:* Exam; Blackboard Assignments; video clips; discussion and research papers

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS: 40%

Blackboard Discussion Board assignments will be due on a weekly basis.

Assignments will be posted on Thursdays by noon and will be due on Tuesdays at noon. *No late assignments will be accepted.* This will give you time to view your classmate's postings. You will need to respond to at least 3 other student's responses by Thursdays at noon, at which point you will have a new assignment, etc.

For example, your first assignment will be posted on Thursday, January 21 by noon and will be due on Tuesday, January 26 at noon. You will need to post a comment to 3 other student's postings for this first assignment by Thursday, January 28 at noon.

70% of every assignment grade will come from YOUR posting and 10% each from your comments related to 3 other student's postings. Therefore, you must be thorough with your own posting as well as with the comments you make related to postings by 3 other students. You can comment on more than 3 postings, but note that I will ONLY grade the first 3.

Be specific with the comments that you make. At the same time, be respectable. Begin each of your comments with that student's name. Ex: "Maria, I understand...."

When grading, I will break down the points for your own posting and for the comments that you make to each of 3 other students. Example: 68 (your posting) + 9 (posting of student 1) + 10 (posting of student 2) + 8 (posting of student 3) = 95 (total Discussion Board Grade – for that particular assignment).

A very important component of this class is reading and sharing other student's views. Since this class is totally online, we will need to do this via the Discussion Board in Blackboard.

### DISCUSSION PAPERS:

Many of the Discussion Board assignments will be Discussion/Reflection Papers based on specific ethical/ legal issue. You are to submit them as an attachment. Submit these two page double-spaced papers typed in Word, Times New Roman font in 12 pt. No late submissions will be accepted.

### VIDEO VIGNETTES: 20%

Students will be required to watch video clips on the CD-ROM, *Ethics in Action*,

**2003. This is a three-part self-study interactive program. It deals with: (1). Ethical decision-making, (2). Values and the helping relationship, and (3). Boundary issues and multiple relationships. Questions related to these video clips are posted after the video. There are a total of 12 different vignettes in this CD-ROM.**

**View the assigned video(s) and answer ALL the questions that follow. Be sure and also watch the video discussion and answer ALL the exercises that follow this section.**

**Save your answers after you type them in. Then, post them as an attachment to Discussion Board. (You can save your answers to the CD-ROM under “My Documents” and it will save them as a Text Document, and then you can attach them). These video vignettes exercises will be due on Tuesdays at noon. Please refer to the syllabus as to when each video segment is due.**

**You will NOT respond to other student’s postings over the video vignettes.**

**Please note that if you use a “copy” of the CD-ROM, some of the features will not work.**

#### **GRADING RUBRIC:**

**I will utilize a Discussion Board Rubric to grade all assignments posted to the Discussion Board in Blackboard. This rubric will be posted to Blackboard. Grading will be based on the thoroughness and depth of your written responses. I will not necessarily respond individually to your written assignments, but will use the grading rubric to base my evaluation. Your grades will be posted on a weekly basis in the Grade Center. This will enable you to keep up with your grades throughout the semester.**

#### **ASSIGNED READING:**

**Students are responsible for reading the assigned material BEFORE the class for which it is assigned. A schedule of required reading is included in this syllabus.**

#### **COMMUNICATION:**

**I will post “Announcements” to update you as needed, or I will send mass emails. Please check your Announcements and RGC Emails on a consistent basis.**

#### **TUTORIAL QUIZZES:**

**Online, at the Textbook Student Companion Site, there are tutorial quizzes assigned to each chapter. You can take these on your own and grade them and review your answers. These will not be submitted for a grade. They are to assist you and help monitor you throughout the semester.**

#### **STUDY GUIDE:**

**Online, at the Textbook Student Companion Site go to “Student Download”. There is a downloadable study guide that will be helpful throughout the semester.**

#### **PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH PAPER: 15%**

**Each student will select a *specific ETHICAL/LEGAL ISSUE PERTINENT TO***

***COUNSELING PRACTICE*** to research and write a scholarly professional paper following APA 6<sup>th</sup> edition guidelines. A format with all instructions for writing this paper is attached to this syllabus. The selected issue **MUST** be approved by the professor prior to the research being conducted. The deadline for getting approval on your research topic is Thursday, February 18. It will count as a Discussion Board grade. This paper is required in order to pass this course. Email me your research paper no later than April 5<sup>th</sup>

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS AS ASSIGNED:**

Some outside reading or viewing videos in addition to the assigned areas of research may be assigned as the need becomes evident or resources become available.

**EXAM: 25%**

A Final Exam will be given during Finals Week on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Make arrangements to take this exam in Uvalde.

**GRADING**

**NOTE: GRADES ARE EARNED BASED ON THE *QUALITY* OF THE ASSIGNED WORK, NOT SIMPLY ON COMPLETION OF THE REQUIRED WORK.**

Each student's total *earned* points are divided by the total *possible* points to determine the percentage.

90% - 100% = A  
80% - 89% = B  
70% - 79% = C  
60% - 69% = D  
Below 59% = F

**Disability Statement**

SRSU Rio Grande College, a Member of the Texas State University System, supports equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons. No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored by Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including but not limited to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability.

**Distance Education Statement:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. ***[If the course requires students to take proctored exams or to purchase additional software or***

*equipment, please describe those requirements here.]* The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

**EDUC 6333 SEMINAR: ETHICAL, LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL  
ISSUES IN COUNSELING  
Spring 2015  
PROPOSED COURSE OUTLINE**

**DATE            TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS DUE and READINGS**

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**January 21 (Thurs.)            Syllabus, Introductions**  
**January 26 (Tues.)            Blackboard Due**

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**January 28 (Thurs.)            3 Responses Due**  
**Chapter 1 - Introduction to Professional Ethics**  
**40 item self-assessment**  
**Four different counselors responding to Kevin. How would you respond?**  
**February 2 (Tues.)            Blackboard Due**

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**February 4 (Thurs.)            3 Responses Due**  
**Chapter 2 - The Counselor as a Person and a Professional**  
**Becoming aware of your motivations for being a helper.**  
**Although many personal needs can be met through helping others, it is crucial that these needs not be met at the expense of the client.**  
**Self-awareness and influence of the therapist's personality and needs.**  
**February 9 (Tues.)            Blackboard Due**  
**CD #2 "Big Brother" Due**

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**February 11 (Thurs.)**            **3 Responses Due**  
**Chapter 3 - Values and the Helping Relationship**  
**Awareness and Clarification of Values Issues**  
**Becoming aware of how your values can impinge on the client's**  
**ability to make autonomous decisions.**  
**Caution against too quickly referring a client with whom you**  
**may have a value difference.**

**February 16 (Tues.)**            **Blackboard Due**  
**CD #4 "The Divorce", #5 "Doing It My Way" Due**

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**February 18 (Thurs.)**            **3 Responses Due**  
**RESEARCH TOPIC DUE**  
**Chapter 4 - Multicultural Perspectives and Diversity Issues**  
**Reflect on the multicultural competencies summarized in the**  
**chapter.**  
**What are some assumptions that you make about people that**  
**are different from you?**

**February 23 (Tues.)**            **Blackboard Due**  
**CD #3 "Culture Clash" Due**

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**February 25 (Thurs.)**            **3 Responses Due**  
**Chapter 5 - Client Rights and Counselor Responsibilities**  
**Ethical and Legal Responsibilities and Their Ramifications**  
**Informed Consent – an On-Going Commitment**  
**Recordkeeping, counseling via the Internet and malpractice**  
**liability.**

**March 1 (Tues.)**                 **Blackboard Due**  
**CD #7 "The Affair", and #1 "Teen Pregnancy" Due**

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**March 3 (Thurs.)**                 **3 Responses Due**  
**Chapter 6 - Confidentiality: Ethical and Legal Issues**  
**Confidentiality, privileged communication, and privacy; duty to**  
**warn and protect; and confidentiality and HIV/AIDS related**  
**issues.**

**March 8 (Tues.)**                 **Blackboard Due**  
**CD #6 "The Promiscuous One" Due**

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**March 10 (Thurs.)**               **3 Responses Due**  
**Chapter 7 - Managing Boundaries and Multiple Relationships**  
**Issues and Liability in Counseling in Small Communities**  
**Boundary issues; bartering; giving or receiving gifts; non-**

**professional relationships with clients; dealing with sexual attraction in the client/therapist relationships; legal and ethical issues associated with the prohibition of sexual relationships between therapists and clients.**

**March 14-18**

**SPRING BREAK**

**March 22 (Tues.)**

**Blackboard Due  
CD #8 “The Picnic”, #9 “The Friendship”, #10 “The Disclosure”**

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**March 24 (Thurs.)**

**3 Responses Due  
Chapter 8 - Professional Competence and Training  
Issues in Counselor/Counseling Evaluation  
Professional Licensing and Credentialing Issues  
Ethical aspects of therapist competence; when and how to refer;  
and continuing education**

**March 29 (Tues.)**

**Blackboard Due  
CD #11 “The Architect” and #12 “Tickets for Therapy” Due**

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**March 31 (Thurs.)**

**3 Responses Due  
Chapter 9 - Issues in Supervision and Consultation  
Ethical and Legal Issues in Clinical Supervision  
Informed consent in the supervision process; competence of supervisors; multicultural dimensions of supervision; and multiple roles and relationships in supervision.  
Difference between supervision and therapy.**

**April 5 (Tues.)**

**Blackboard Due  
RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

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**April 7 (Thurs.)**

**3 Responses Due  
Chapter 10 - Issues in Theory and Practice  
Issues in Goals and Techniques Selection  
How theory influences practice; division of responsibility in counseling; ethical Arguments for and against diagnosis; using tests in counseling; ethical issues in managed care; and ethical issues in research.**

**April 12 (Tues.)**

**Blackboard Due**

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**April 14 (Thurs.)**

**3 Responses Due  
Chapter 11 - Ethical Issues in Couples and Family Therapy**

**Contemporary Ethical Values – Counselor’s and Family’s Training standards; and value issues in working with couples and families.**

**April 19 (Tues.) Informed Consent and Confidentiality Issues in family therapy Blackboard Due**

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**April 21 (Thurs.) 3 Responses Due  
Chapter 12 - Ethical Issues in Group Work  
Ethical and Legal Issues for Group Leaders  
Screening and selecting members of a group; confidentiality concerns; working with minors in groups; values issues in group work; becoming a diversity competent group worker; uses and abuses of group techniques; and issues concerning termination.**

**April 26 (Tues.) Blackboard Due**

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**April 28 (Thurs.) 3 Responses Due  
Chapter 13 - Ethical Issues in Community Work  
Ethical Practice in Community Work  
Alternative roles for counselors, such as adviser, advocate, and consultant.**

**Roles of Counselors and Helpers  
Issues in Promoting Change**

**May 3 (Tues.) Blackboard Due**

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**May 9 (Monday) FINAL EXAM in Uvalde. 3:00-6:00 p.m.**

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**EDUC 6333 – ETHICAL, LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING  
SCHOLARLY RESEARCH PAPER**

**RESEARCH PAPER:**

**Each student shall select A SPECIFIC ETHICAL ISSUE IN COUNSELING to research extensively and develop a professionally written paper discussing the issue, the trends of the courts where applicable, and recommended practices with regard to various scenarios. Choice of topic for this paper MUST be approved by the professor prior to writing the paper.**

**Articles used for this paper MUST be from professional counseling or psychology journals;**

**Do Not Use Books for this assignment. Lack of sufficient use of resource articles will definitely decrease the accuracy and value of your paper, so read widely and deeply before you write. Use as many sources as needed (minimum of 8) to write a professional paper that fully and accurately informs the professional reader about the selected issue. Your paper should be a minimum of 8 pages in length, not including References.**

**The following format should be used for this paper. Utilize the headings in your paper and use the APA Manual when writing this paper.**

**Submit this paper via email to me by April 5, 2016. No late or incomplete papers accepted!**

## **FORMAT OF THE PAPER:**

**Use these headings:**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**In this section, introduce the reader to the issue and explain in general what is problematic about this issue as it affects clients, practitioners, practice, research, etc. – whatever is affected.**

### **REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE**

**In this section, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, review in great detail the pertinent literature that exists regarding this issue as it affects the various aspects of counseling practice, client progress, legalities, and overall growth of the profession. Extensively describe how it develops, how it continues to manifest, how clients and others attempt to resolve it, why those attempts don't work, etc. – whatever is relevant.**

### **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Explain your findings and recommendations in this section – this will vary, depending on the nature of the issue you have selected.**

### **SUMMARY**

**Write a professional summary and wrap-up of your paper – make it meaningful.**

### **REFERENCES**