

Syllabus  
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY  
EDUA 6333: ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING  
Wren/Spring 2025

Instructor: Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S

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Work Phone: 432.386.6973. Text or Email... (please include your name and this class).

Office Hours: By appointment. Please text (432-386-6973), or email [rwren@mac.com](mailto:rwren@mac.com) or [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu) to set up an appointment to meet by phone or Zoom.

Please read the syllabus carefully and refer to it throughout the course. All course objectives and expectations are outlined in the syllabus. If anything is unclear, please contact me for clarification.

This is a web course and is delivered entirely on Blackboard.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *Issues and Ethics in the Helping Profession* by Corey, Corey, Corey and Callanan. Student edition ISBN-13: 978-1-305-38945-8.
- American Psychological Association (2019). The publication manual of the American Psychological Association. Seventh Edition. Washington, D.C. American Psychological Association.
- *2014 ACA Codes of Ethics* (Blackboard/Course Documents tab, also found online for free)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course to familiarize students with ethical and legal practice 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.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. respond to ethical dilemmas by using a decision-making process.
2. identify the different major components of ethical codes for school or professional counselors.
3. communicate an understanding of the laws for counselors and therapists in Texas.
4. communicate her/his value system, with emphasis on how these values are likely to impact counseling practice.
5. communicate how her/his personal values influence her/his ethical posture.
6. identify the professional organizations for counselors.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course contributes to the following required student learning outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply within guidance and counseling, their knowledge of human development, diversity, and factors that affect students' /clients' ability to achieve their potential.
2. Students will demonstrate their ability to determine ethical dilemmas, and the steps involved and best practices for an effective resolution while utilizing appropriate theoretical frameworks, techniques, and interventions to address personal, interpersonal/ social, educational, and career needs, etc.

3. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with colleagues, parents, and with the community to facilitate student/client success, and will demonstrate the ability to apply ethical, legal, and professional standards.

### **TEXES STANDARDS**

TEXES standards addressed in this course:

1. Standard I. Learner-Centered Knowledge: The certified school counselor has a broad knowledge base.
2. Standard II. Learner-Centered Skills: The certified school counselor applies the knowledge base to promote the educational, personal, social, and career development of the learner.
3. Standard III. Learner-Centered Process: The certified school counselor participates in the development, monitoring, and evaluation of a developmental school guidance and counseling program that promotes learners' knowledge, skills, motivation, and personal growth.
4. Standard IV. Learner-Centered Equity and Excellence for All Learners: The certified school counselor promotes academic success for all learners by acknowledging, respecting, and responding to diversity while building on similarities that bond all people.
5. Standard V. Learner-Centered Communications: The certified school counselor, an advocate for all students and the school, demonstrates effective professional and interpersonal communication skills.
6. Standard VI. Learner-Centered Professional Development: The certified school counselor continues professional development, demonstrating a commitment to learn, to improve the profession, and to model professional ethics and personal integrity.

## **TEXES COMPETENCIES**

TEXES competencies addressed in this course:

1. Competency 001, Human Development: The school counselor understands processes of human development and applies this knowledge to provide a developmental guidance program, including counseling services that meet the needs of all students.
2. Competency 002, Student Diversity: The school counselor understands human diversity and applies this knowledge to ensure that the developmental guidance and counseling program is responsive to all students.
3. Competency 003, Factors Affecting Students: The school counselor understands factors that may affect students' development and school achievement and applies this knowledge to promote students' ability to achieve their potential.
4. Competency 006, Counseling: The school counselor understands how to provide effective counseling services to individuals and small groups.
5. Competency 007, Assessment: The school counselor understands principles of assessment and can use assessment results to identify students' strengths and needs, monitor progress, and engage in planning to promote school success.
6. Competency 008, Collaboration with Families: The school counselor knows how to communicate effectively with families and establish collaborative relationships that enhance work with students.
7. Competency 009, Collaboration with Others in the School and Community: The school counselor understands how to work collaboratively with other professionals and with community members to promote positive change and to facilitate student learning.

8. Competency 010, Professionalism: The school counselor understands and complies with ethical, legal, and professional standards relevant to the profession.

### REQUIREMENTS

Students will:

- participate in online discussions and activities.
- complete reading assignments and study the material prior to deadlines.
- complete all assignments.
- complete all chapter quizzes, the Ethical Codes/Statues exam, and the Final exam.
- practice professional conduct and ethics.
- practice respectful learning exchanges.

### EVALUATION

Your grade for this course will be determined by evidence of the quality of your learning as demonstrated by your performance in the following areas:

Video Discussion Board Postings + 2 responses to classmates	35 %
Chapter Quizzes (14 total)	40 %
Final Exam	25 %

Course Grades:

A	B	C	F
91% - 100%	81% - 90%	71% - 80%	Below 71%

NOTE: Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing.

Counseling students will be required to maintain A/B grades in all graduate coursework.

## PARTICIPATION

You are expected to participate in online activities and discussions. You are free to work at your convenience if you meet the assignment deadlines. No late assignments will be accepted. Your final course grade will be affected by the quality of your participation. Your postings and responses on the Discussion Board should give evidence that you have completed the assigned readings and viewing of the Helping Professions Videos found on Blackboard. Your writing should be that of graduate level and should reflect professional courtesy toward fellow students and instructor.

This is a web-delivered course therefore is subject to the Sul Ross State University online participation policy. It is the student's responsibility to check the Discussion Board and Sul Ross email continuously for the duration of the course. Participation will be evaluated in Blackboard online discussions. For you to remain enrolled in ED 6333, you must reply to the Blackboard Discussion Board "Online Participation Policy" forum by the deadline posted on the Due Dates listing in the Weekly Assignments tab of Bb. It is policy at Sul Ross State University that if a student enrolled in a web-delivered course fails to stay active (for a period of 3 weeks in a long semester or for 1 week during a summer session) or fails to submit assignments and/or does not reply to emails from the instructor then the student will be dropped from the course with a grade of "F." You may access the "Online Participation Policy" forum by entering Blackboard, then selecting Discussion Board. Please follow the directions regarding your required response. *You will be expected to check your Sul Ross email regularly for the duration of the semester.*

## ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

*Note: No late assignments will be accepted.*

Video Discussion-Board Assignments: Worth 35% of your grade: The Video Discussion Boards (DB) are under COURSE CONTENT, in the folder entitled Video Discussion Boards found on Blackboard in the Content Area Tab for this class. It is designed to bring to life ethical issues and dilemmas and some accompanying issues that counselors face. Each video is followed with a vignette of group discussion, with some additional commentary and some key points. You may view the videos/vignettes several times, if needed. You will write your reaction to the weekly video on DB, by Wednesday, 11:55 pm mostly, making your post first, before you are able to see anyone else post. If you do not post your DB first, and somehow get around to seeing your classmates' posts before you submit your own, YOU WILL GET 0 POINTS FOR THE DISCUSSION BOARD THAT WEEK. There will be no exceptions to this, so make sure you write your post FIRST! After you have posted your reaction to the video to DB, you will need to read the posts of your classmates and respond to at least TWO other classmates' posts to receive the maximum possible points. When you post your reactions to the video discussion board, do not summarize the situation, but put some reference about it in your discussion. These Video Discussion Board postings should be concise, around 2 paragraphs long. Please share your conceptualization of what you have learned about the process of making an ethical decision and how to deal effectively with the ethical dilemma in each video. Use this platform to demonstrate your acquired knowledge and insights. You will need to read your classmates' posts AFTER you post your answer, and respond to TWO classmates' posts each week, where indicated by the due date. This may include agreeing with the students' approach (& why), respectfully challenging their approach (& why), or offering a personal insight. Please do not make the mistake of thinking that posts must always agree.

Your initial post is worth 20 points max. Your responses to your 2 classmates are worth 5 points max each (30 points maximum possible points for this assignment per week). Grades will be based on your writing skill and your rationale.

Remember! Cite your information and have a Reference list at the end!

Weekly Chapter Quizzes: Worth 40% of your grade: Ethical approaches to online testing are required of each student.

Individual integrity is an expectation in this venue.

You have 90 minutes in one sitting to complete these chapter quizzes over the chapter you read that week. If you'd like you may take the quiz TWO (2) times by the deadline, and the best grade you make will be the grade recorded. Because of this, DO NOT ASK WREN TO RESET A QUIZ OR EXAM FOR YOU!!!! Please refer to the ethical approaches to online testing, as this is required of all of you. The exam/quiz questions are chosen randomly, so you will probably get different questions the second time you take the test/quiz.

You MAY NOT collaborate on the chapter tests, the Ethical Codes/Statutes Exam, or the Final Exam. Do not attempt to print, copy, take photos, or screenshot these quizzes or exams! To do so will violate stated rules regarding academic honesty and you'll be dropped from the course and/or program. Correct answers will not be provided until all students have taken each quiz.

Correct answers will not be provided after all students have taken each quiz, and a few days after the due date.

Quizzes are due on most Wednesdays by 11:55 pm (central time).



Final Exam: Worth 25% of your grade: Due no later than Friday, May 2, 2025, 11:55 pm (central time).

You have two hours (120 minutes) to complete the test, so if you need the entire time available, the latest you can start it would be 9:55 pm Central Time on Friday, May 2, 2025. You may take this exam two times, with your highest score being recorded, but both exams must be completed by the 11:55 pm (central time) deadline on Saturday.

Zoom Meeting: Wren will conduct one (1) Zoom meeting to discuss the course during this semester. This is a voluntary meeting (not required) for students who would like to meet and discuss the course. This meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 3:00 pm Central Time (2:00 pm El Paso time)

Topic: My Meeting w Students of ED6333/Spring 2025

Time: **Sunday, Jan 19, 2025, 03:00 PM Central Time/02:00 pm El Paso Time**

Join Zoom Meeting:

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81267902640?pwd=bV9QqK9PMffiGnht1OleaAZW2ws5ng.1>**

Meeting ID: **812 6790 2640**

Passcode: **497375**

SRSU Disability Services:

ADA Statement

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services

must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203, or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) or [ronnie.harris@sulross.edu](mailto:ronnie.harris@sulross.edu).

RGC students can also contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email [alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu](mailto:alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu). The Counseling and Accessibility Office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and their mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

#### Distance Education Statement:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, please visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. 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 on web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

#### LECTURES/DISCUSSIONS

Note: This course is delivered entirely online. Therefore, all lectures will be available to students from the beginning of the semester, and discussion will occur in forum(s) on Blackboard at the designated times in this syllabus.

Lectures will incorporate text and power point presentations including the following topics: course overview; introduction to professional ethics; the counselor as a person and a professional; values and the helping relationship; multicultural perspectives and diversity issues; client rights and counselor responsibilities; ethical and legal issues in confidentiality; managing boundaries and multiple relationships; professional competence and training; issues in supervision and consultation; issues in theory and practice; ethical issues in couples and family therapy; ethical issues in group work; ethical issues in community work; codes of ethics and statutes relevant to counseling.

Final note - complete the reading assignments and study the material PRIOR to each deadline noted in Bb. You may complete all assignments, quizzes/final exam early. Late assignments will not be accepted. All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard no later than 11:55 pm, Central Time on the date indicated in the Weekly Assignments tab. To complete the assignments, you will need to refer to the textbook, Codes of Ethics booklet, and the other Supplementary Materials.

*Have a fantastic semester!*

*I am looking forward to working with you!*

*- Rebecca (Becky) Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S*