

SPRING 2017
CNS 780: Professional, Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling
Wake Forest University Department of Counseling

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Time and Location: Wednesdays, 2-4:30, 205 Carswell

Course Content: This course is an overview of the critical professional issues in counseling with an emphasis on current ethical, legal and values-related questions.

Course Objectives: Knowledge, Skills and Practice [CACREP 2 F:]

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Recognize and define key terms and concepts associated with the ethical practice of counseling (II.F.1.i)
- Understand the similarities and differences between ethical and legal issues in counseling (II.F.1.i)
- Exhibit a thorough knowledge of ethical standards (II.F.1.i; II.F.4.j; II.F.5.d; II.F.6.g; II.F.7.m; II.F.8.j)
- Apply a decision-making model to ethical/legal dilemmas (II.F.1.i)
- Examine personal ethics (II.F.1.i)

Methods of Instruction:

Classroom activities will include didactic instruction, discussion, case studies, panel presentations and experiments with different ideas.

Texts:

Remley, T.P., & Herlihy, B. (2016). *Ethical, legal, and professional issues in counseling*. (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill.

American Counseling Association. (2014). *ACA Code of Ethics*. Alexandria, VA.

North Carolina LPC Board Rules [available from NCLPC website]

Recommended:

Wheeler, A.M., & Bertram, B. (2015). *The counselor and the law* (7th ed.). Alexandria, VA: American Counseling Association.

Student performance evaluation criteria and procedures:

- **Law:** (25% of your grade). Prepare this in outline form with citations for laws and a reference sheet.

For the state of your choice, find laws related to being a licensed counseling practitioner. The NBCC and ACA websites will have useful links. Include this information in a bulleted presentation:

- a. List the criteria for becoming a licensed counselor (be specific)
- b. Explain the scope of practice for counselors (this should include the definition of counseling and the approved/prohibited practices)
- c. Identify state board requirements for informed consent
- d. Provide the law for reporting child/vulnerable adult abuse or neglect
- e. Describe the laws about privileged communication
- f. Describe the laws and precedence for duty to warn and duty to protect
- g. Identify other exceptions to confidentiality
- h. Describe involuntary commitment procedures
- i. Outline any case law relevant to these materials
- j. Summarize what you have learned

- **Test:** You will be given a comprehensive test on the texts and readings. (75%).

Student performance evaluation criteria:

Includes grade weights by assignment, grading scale & late assignments policy.

Summary of Learning Activities with grade weights:

Learning Activity	Points
Law Summary (II.F.4.j; II.F.5.d; II.F.6.g; II.F.7.m; II.F.8.j)	25
Final Test (II.F.1.i ; II.F.4.j; II.F.5.d; II.F.6.g; II.F.7.m; II.F.8.j)	75
Total	100

Grading Scale

Corresponding Points

A	93-100	93-100
A-	90-92	90-92
B+	87-89	87-89
B	83-86	83-86
B-	80-82	80-82
C+	77-79	77-79
C	70-76	70-76
F	0-69	0-69

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Date	Topic	Reading
1/11/17	Resolving Ethical Issues	Remley & Herlihy, 1,2, 3
1/18/17	Resolving Ethical Issues Protecting the Client: Informed Consent	Remley & Herlihy, 4, 11, 12
1/25/17	Protecting the Client: Confidentiality Suicide Duty to warn	Remley & Herlihy, 5
2/1/17	Protecting the Client: Records, subpoenas, technology	Remley & Herlihy, 6, 10
2/8/17	Competence Limits of Practice Involuntary commitment Relationships	Remley & Herlihy, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15
2/15/17	Responsibilities for self and colleagues Ethical Dilemmas State Laws	Remley & Herlihy, 8, 13 Summary of laws due
2/22/17	TEST – Legal and Ethical	Remley & Herlihy, all chapters

CPCE – March 1 during class time

Disability Accommodation Policy and Procedure: Wake Forest University recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional climate in which students with differing needs and abilities can thrive. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation for taking this course, please contact the Learning Assistance Center within the first two weeks of the semester at 117 Reynolda Hall, WFU, Winston-Salem, NC, 27109. Phone:336-758-5929. Email: lacenter@wfu.edu.

Emergency Contingency Plan:

In the event that the University is closed for an emergency, students will be able and expected to keep up with their coursework as all documents will be made available online in a Sakai course

website. It is suggested that all materials be downloaded. Student work can be submitted via the course website or via email. If Internet access is limited, work can be submitted via snail mail to the instructors address as listed below. If there is a continued need to cancel class, the due dates for assignments may be pushed back.

Academic Policies and Honor Code

Every student is required to practice and adhere to the principle of academic integrity while undertaking studies with Wake Forest University. Maintaining academic integrity is considered an essential academic standard of every graduate course and program. The University does not tolerate academic dishonesty. The graduate faculty at Wake Forest has adopted a formal honor code to provide guidance for student conduct with respect to academic pursuits. Read the [Graduate Student Academic Honor Code](#), which can also be accessed on the [Graduate School website](#).

Academic dishonesty may be an academic issue or a disciplinary issue, or both, depending on its pervasiveness and/or severity. Any student engaged in academic dishonesty may face reprimand, disciplinary warning, a lowered or failing grade(s), and/or probation or suspension from the course, academic program, or University; or expulsion from the University.

The list that follows includes examples, although not all-inclusive, of academic dishonesty:

- Purchase of term papers turned in as one's own or writing the term paper(s) for another student.
- Submission of same term paper to another class without permission.
- Providing another student answers during an exam.
- Use of notes or book during exam when prohibited.
- Collaboration on homework or take-home exams when instruction called for independent work.
- Providing test question(s) to student(s) in another section of the class.
- Falsifying records or the fabrication of information and/or citation in an academic exercise.
- Violation of computer policies.
- Plagiarism: appropriating or passing off as one's work the writings, ideas, etc. of another, i.e.: copying without giving credit due, forgery, literary theft, and expropriation of some other's work. Plagiarism also includes electronic information of all types.
- Assisting someone in doing any of the above.

For the complete academic honesty policy and tips to avoid plagiarism, please see your student handbook.

Other Academic Policies

For further information on all academic policies, including the policies for adding and dropping a course, requesting a grade of incomplete, academic probation, termination of enrolment, reinstatement, and student and faculty expectations, see the [Wake Forest Student Handbook](#).