

**PC305 - 3 Professional Issues and Ethics in Marriage and Family Therapy
Summer, 2015**

Professor: Loren Townsend, Ph.D.

Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive overview of ethical and legal standards for the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy and pastoral counseling. The course will encourage a collaborative focus on the study of ethics as a life-long process that is anchored in principles that guide responsible practice as a therapist. Students will explore ethical and legal principles and develop strategies for sound ethical practice and problem solving. Critical theological engagement with ethical theory and practices will be a central feature of the class.

Objectives and Expected Student Learning Outcomes

<u>By the end of the semester, students will:</u>	<u>Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) & MFT Competencies (MFTC:)</u>	<u>Assessment Signature Assignments</u>
Demonstrate knowledge of AAMFT and AAPC codes of ethics and state laws that govern MFT practice	SLO 3:...able to think ethically and make appropriate clinical decisions... MFTC: 5.1.2-Know...professional ethics and standards that apply to...MFT 6.3.1-Read current MFT...literature	Final Examination Read Texts (summary papers)
Be able to articulate a working knowledge of how ethical codes are translated into legal and ethically informed professional practices	SLO 3:...able to think ethically and make appropriate clinical decisions... MFTC:5.1.2-Know...professional ethics and standards that apply to...MFT 5.1.4-Understand the process of ethical decision making	Class Presentation/Leadership
Be able to identify and define specialized ethical terminology such as privacy, confidentiality, privilege, duty to warn, etc.	SLO 3:...able to think ethically and make appropriate clinical decisions... MFTC: 5.1.3-Know policies and procedures of the practice setting 5.2.1-Recognize the situations in which ethics, law, professional liability...apply	Final Examination Class Presentation/Leadership Ethical Issues Research (Rubric)
Demonstrate the ability to identify common legal and ethical problems	SLO 3:...able to think ethically and make appropriate clinical decisions... MFTC: 5.2.1-Recognize the situations in which ethics, law, professional liability...apply 5.2.2-Recognize ethical dilemmas in practice setting	Class Presentation/Leadership Ethical Issues Research (Rubric) Final Integration Paper (Rubric) Final Examination
Be able to articulate a strategy to manage common ethical decisions	SLO 3:...able to think ethically and make appropriate clinical decisions... MFTC:5.3.5-Take appropriate action when ethical and legal dilemmas emerge 5.4.1- Evaluate activities related to ethics, legal issues and practice standards	Ethical Issues Research (Rubric) Final Integration Paper (Rubric) Class Presentation/Leadership
Be familiar with informed consent, disclosure forms, HIPPA laws and implications for therapy practice	SLO 3:...able to think ethically and make appropriate clinical decisions... MFTC: 5.1.3-Know policies and procedures of the practice setting 5.4.1- Evaluate activities related to ethics, legal issues and practice standards	Read Text (summary papers) Class Discussion Final Examination LSCTC document review
Be able to describe how personal values, cultural, gendered, racial, class, and religious	SLO 3:...able to think ethically and make appropriate clinical decisions... SLO 5: ... able to use a theologically informed and clinically appropriate	Final Integration Paper (Rubric)

differences influence ethical thinking and decision making	framework to integrate religious and spiritual factors into the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy. MFTC:4.3.2-...sensitive to special needs of clients (diversity) 4.5.1-Respect multiple perspectives	
Demonstrate the ability to think theologically about ethical principles and ethical decision making	SLO 6: ... able to use a theologically informed and clinically appropriate framework to integrate religious and spiritual factors into the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy. MFTC: 5.1.4 Understands the process of making an ethical decision.	Final Integration Paper Class Presentation/Leadership

Texts

Wilcoxon, S.A., Remley, T.P., & Gladding, S.T. (2012). Ethical, legal, and professional issues in the practice of marriage and family therapy (5th ed.). NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

AAPC Code of Ethics: <http://www.aapc.org/policies/codes-of-ethics.aspx>

AAMFT Code of Ethics:

http://www.aamft.org/iMIS15/AAMFT/Content/Legal_Ethics/code_of_ethics.aspx

Doherty, William J. (1995) *Soul searching: why psychotherapist must promote moral responsibility*. Basic Books.

Requirements

1. Prior to the seminar (20% of grade)--

Read the required texts and write a (only one paper) 5 page reflective essay about how these readings and resources influenced your thinking about ethics, professionalism, ministry and your own practice. On one or two additional page(s), construct 5-10 questions or issues for discussion during the seminar. You will submit these on the first day of class.

2. During the seminar—

- a. Each student (or dyad of students) will lead at least one class discussion of the readings for the day. Students leading the discussion should prepare a brief outline of the discussion and be prepared to lead conversation about key concepts, terms, practices, dilemmas or concerns. This usually requires some additional reading or thought to assure that presenter understand concepts fully and consider ways to engage colleagues in effective conversation about issues of the day.

b. Integration Paper (due final day of class 30%--see rubric)

Write a 5 page paper describing your philosophical/theological approach to ethics in clinical practice. Your paper should demonstrate:

- how you think theologically about ethical principles and ethical decision making;
- how you account for personal values, diversity (such as gender, class, race, sexual orientation, etc.), and social context in your ethical framework and decision making;
- your perceptions of the strengths, weaknesses, and role of ethical codes in your own practice; and
- any thoughts or conclusions you have about your own ethical practice as a clinician.

3. After the seminar—

a. Write an Ethical Issue Research Paper (30%--see rubric on CAMS. Due June 26)

Select an ethical issue, concern, principle, or dilemma related to clinical practice that you believe deserved careful attention. Conduct a literature review of MFT, pastoral counseling and theological sources. Write a 10-15 page research paper that includes the following:

- A clear statement of the ethical issue, question or problem you are examining;
- A summary and critical evaluation of the literature you reviewed (for example—pros and cons, identification of ethical frameworks, observed competition between ethical frameworks, etc.);
- Clear attention to contextual considerations related to the issue (for example, gender, race, class, religious differences, geography, family constellation, etc.)
- A discussion of theological dimensions, ramifications or implications related to the issue as a human and clinical concern;
- A discussion of the clinical implications for you and your practice;
- A concluding paragraph that summarizes your findings and tells your reader why this study was important.

4. Final Examination (20%of grade, Due June 26)

The final examination will be completed in the library computer **lab within one week of completing the course**. The final will cover ethical principles, specialized ethical terminology, knowledge of ethical codes, HIPPA rules, ethical decision making in clinical practice,

Other Resources

AAMFT. (2001). *User's guide to the AAMFT code of ethics*. Washington, DC: AAMFT.

- Brock, G. W. (Ed.). *Ethics casebook*. Washington, DC: American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Publications.
- Bucky, S., Callan, J., & Stricker, G. (2005). *Ethical and legal issues for mental health professionals*. New York: Haworth Press.
- Bullis, R. K. & Mazur, C. S. (1993). *Legal issues and religious counseling*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press.
- Corey, G., Corey, M.S., & Callanan, P. (2007). *Issues and ethics in the helping professions* (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.
- Falvey, J. E. (2002). *Managing clinical supervision: Ethical practice and legal risk management*. Pacific Grove, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.
- Guy, J. D. (1989). *The personal life of the psychotherapist*. Somerset, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
- Haynes, R., Corey, G., & Moulton, P. (2003). *Clinical supervision in the helping professions A practical guide*. CA: Thomson Learning, Brooks/Cole.
- Kottler, J. (2003). *On being a therapist*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Lageman, A. G. (1993). *The moral dimensions of marriage and family therapy*. New York: University Press of America.
- Lebacqz, K. (1985). *Professional ethics: power and paradox*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.
- Lebacqz, K. & Driskill, J. (2000). *Ethics and spiritual care*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.
- Neibuhr, H. R. (1963). *The responsible self*. New York: Harper & Row.
- Noyce, G. B. (1988). *Pastoral ethics: professional responsibilities of the clergy*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.
- Rave, E. J. & Larsen, C. C. (Eds.). (1995). *Ethical decision making in therapy: feminist perspectives*. New York & London: The Guilford Press.
- Sperry, L., Carlson, J., & Kjos, D. (2003). *Becoming an effective therapist*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
- Wicks, R.J. (2008). *The resilient clinician*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Woody, R. H. & Woody, J. D. (Eds.). (2001). *Ethics in marriage and family therapy*. Washington, DC: American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Publications.
- Wynne, L.C., McDaniel, S.H., & Weber, T.T. (1986). *Systems consultation: a new*

Perspective for family therapy. New York: The Guilford Press.

Grading: Grade Scale and Philosophy

A	96.6-100
A-	93.6-96.5
B+	90.6-93.5
B	87.6-90.5
C	85.6-87.5
C+	83.6-85.5
C	81.6-83.5
C-	79.6-81.5
D	70.6-79.5
F	Below 70.6

Individuals admitted to graduate study are expected to perform consistently and well in academic work. This is translated into grades in the following way:

- Basic mastery of the body of knowledge at a level expected in graduate study will earn scores in the B to B+ range.
- Grades of A- are granted for work which demonstrates basic mastery of the body of knowledge, and independent thought about the subject matter.
- Grades of A are granted for work which demonstrates mastery of the required body of knowledge, independent thought about the subject matter, creative/integrative use of the material, exceptional writing which integrates the material into a student's own system of thought, and/or exceptionally well done or articulate research.

Seminary Policies

Use of Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. For more information see:

<http://lpts.libguides.com/content.php?pid=469569&sid=4083885> Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God.

Academic Honesty

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Two occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic

honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For more information, see the Policy for Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

Special Accommodations

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester (or before the semester begins) and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Citation Policy

Citations in your papers should follow Seminary standards, which are based on these guides:

American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 6th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010.

Turabian, Kate L., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

The Chicago Manual of Style. 16th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

Attendance Policy

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course.