



COUN6303 – Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Counseling
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church & Community Ministries Division
Spring 2017

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*The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill
the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.*

Purpose of Course

The purpose of this course is to help students develop ethical, legal, and professional practices in counseling.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.

Spiritual Vitality: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.

Mission Focus: We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local

church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.

Characteristic Excellence: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.

Servant Leadership: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The Core Value Focus for this academic year is Characteristic Excellence.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
- 2. Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
- 3. Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
- 4. Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
- 6. Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
- 7. Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

- 1. Spiritual and Character Formation:* As students work through ethical decision making they will gain competence in spiritual and character formation.
- 2. Christian & Theological Heritage:* Through the examination of the foundations of Christian Ethics, students will strengthen their grasp of Christian & Theological heritage.

Course Catalog Description

This course is designed to address ethical, legal and practical issues relevant to the practice of professional counseling. The first half of the course will address the following professional counseling topics: Developing personal Ethics; Licensure and certification (LPC, NBCC, AAMFT); legal matters and potential liabilities; practice management; and the emotional, spiritual, and practical concerns of the practicing Christian counselor. The second half of the course is designed to teach a process of ethical decision making to help increase a student's awareness of ethical practice. Students will examine the code of ethics statements of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, and the American Psychology Association. Role-plays and video segments will be utilized to gain an experiential understanding regarding ethical responses to topics such as boundaries issues, moral issues, dual relationships, confidentiality, financial matters, termination processes, and duty to report and warn.

Student Learning Outcomes

The overarching goal of the course is to stimulate the student to think critically about major issues related to sound and professional practices in psychology and counseling. The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:

- 1) become familiar with issues related certification and licensure;
- 2) be aware of prominent legal issues involved in counseling and ways to minimize legal liabilities;
- 3) become familiar with the practical administrative issues involved in practice management, including the various forms that are required to function in an ethical and efficient manner;
- 4) identify and develop their own approach to fee assessment and practice management that reflects a health consideration of ministerial, therapeutic, and practical needs and objectives;
- 5) formulate their own position on selected ethical and professional issues in counseling;
- 6) become thoroughly familiar with the ethical codes and standards of the major mental health professional; and
- 7) understand and apply the eight steps in making ethical decisions as outlined in the reading.

Required Textbooks

The following texts are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

AAMFT, *Legal Guidelines for Family Therapists with Selected Ethical Opinions*.
<http://www.aamft.org/imispublic/core/orders/product.aspx?catid=2&prodid=118>
(reading report) ISBN: 9781536843019

Corey, G., M. Corey, and P. Callahan. *Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions* (9th ed.) Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole, 2014. ISBN: 9781305389458

Corey, G., M. Corey, and R. Haynes. *Ethics in Action* DVD and Workbook bundle
Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole. ISBN: 9781285850337.

Sanders, R. K., *Christian Counseling Ethics: A Handbook for Therapists, Pastors,
& Counselors* (2nd ed). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2013. ISBN:
978-0830839940

Optional Texts

Gladding, C., Huber, C., Rembley, T., & Wilcoxon, S. *Ethical, Legal, and
Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy*
(4th ed.). Columbus, OH: Prentice Hall, 2007.
(Bonus book)

Coombs, Robert H. *Family Therapy Review: Preparing for Comprehensive &
Licensing Examinations*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates,
2004.

Zuckerman, Edward L. *The Paper Office, 4th Edition*. New York: Guilford Press,
2008.

Course Requirements

Written

1. Book Review:

Students will read and review *AAMFT, Legal Guidelines for
Family Therapists with Selected Ethical Opinions*.

Each student will read and provide book review discussing
ethical, legal, and professional issues as related to marriage and
family therapy. The review should be no less than two full pages, double
spaced, and typed in APA format. It should include a summary of key ideas,
identification of guidelines of which the student was previously unaware, and
a thoughtful discussion on how the student will apply the knowledge. This
review is not to be written in bullet-point form, but it does not need to have a
chapter by chapter summary. The rubric for this assignment can be found at
the end of the syllabus.

Extra credit will be given if the student uses the NOBTS Writing Center's
"The Wright Stuff" to proof their paper before submitting it. Read below
under course policies for more information.

2. Personal essays on selected ethical issues:

*This assignment is an **embedded assignment** that will be completed by all
students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment
is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment in accordance
with the syllabus and the attached rubric.*

Personal essay on selected ethical issue: One paper is to be submitted. The paper will consist of an essay designed to answer one central ethical question. The paper should reflect the results of personal study, research, and thoughts related to given ethical and professional issues. The essay is to be 6 - 8 pages in length, double spaced, and typed in APA format. Students should avoid writing in first person. Students are to select a question that is personally challenging and will help the student think through the ethical/legal/professional issue related to counseling. The essay should demonstrate the student has narrowed down a question to a clear focus, that taken a definite position, developed it fully, and given logical reasons for the perspectives. Reasoning should be supported by ethical codes and research. The chosen topic should not have a straightforward answer that can be found in the codes of ethics, but must be an actual dilemma where the codes of ethics are vague in the matter.

An example of a question on which to build an essay would include: “The codes of conduct endorsed by AAMFT state that the therapist’s task is to advance the welfare of the family (client). If the client is not achieving the stated goals for therapy yet states she wants to remain in therapy anyway, how does the therapist determine if the client’s welfare is being advanced and justify maintaining a professional helping relationship with this client?”

To write an outstanding paper, you will need to show evidence that you have read the relevant material in the textbook and that you have done supplementary reading on each issue in question (see journal articles, or chapters from books listed at the end of the chapters in your textbook). Your paper needs to have at least 4-6 scholarly sources (The Bible does not count). You may wish to consider selecting topics that you are struggling with or have experience with in your work/life. The papers should help you to develop your own positions on these issues and demonstrate the ability to back these views with supporting evidence.

This is a THOUGHT PAPER and not merely a summary of information paper. Take a SPECIFIC position, show why you take such a position, and then develop your own viewpoints by giving reasons for the statements you make. The paper should be designed to specifically interact with the 8 Steps in Ethical Decision Making listed in your textbook.

Extra credit will be given if the student uses the NOBTS Writing Center’s “The Wright Stuff” to proof their paper before submitting it. Read below under course policies for more information.

(All papers are to utilize APA form and style)

Verbal/Interactive Process

The second half of this course will involve interactive discussions revolving around questions posed to you. By the Thursday of week 7, students should have read the first chapter of Corey's textbook. By the beginning of each class period for the remainder of the semester, students should come to class having already read each succeeding chapter. I will select certain students to interact with the material.

On selected days beginning on week 7, a selected number of students will be responsible for presenting a role-play related to an ethical dilemma from that chapter's material. One of the students from this group will serve as an expert during the in-class role play. A specific ethical dilemma should be presented and the student serving as the ethics consultant should be prepared to present specific information on each of the eight steps in making ethical decisions.

Students will be notified in advance of their assigned date to serve as either the ethics consultant or role-play participant. On that date, you will be responsible for sharing with the class your central question, designing a role play vignette and presenting your findings regarding the steps in making an ethical decision. If you fail to attend class or on a day you are assigned to present, you will be given a grade of "0" for that assignment.

Cognitive

LPC Code of Ethics Quiz: The Louisiana Professional Counselors Board publishes a Code of Ethics under which all LPCs in the state are required to operate. Students will take an open book test over the codes during Week 3 of the semester. In order to prepare for this quiz, students should print the Ethical Codes listed on the LPC website (www.lpcboard.org, Board Rules Ch. 47), review these codes, and be familiar enough with the codes to complete a timed quiz on blackboard.

Using the ***Ethics in Action DVD***, watch the vignettes demonstrating ethical situations. Complete and answer the corresponding questions in the workbook. Students are encouraged to begin this work during week 10 of the semester and complete two segments per week. The completed work is to be submitted for evaluation on **Thursday, May 4**.

The **Mid-Term** will be over selected portions of the text, *Legal Guidelines for Family Therapists with Selected Ethical Opinions* and class lectures. Students are responsible for taking notes in class as all lecture content will not be available on Blackboard (**Thursday, March 9**).

The **Final Exam** will consist of questions related to material from Corey's text and class discussions. (**Thursday, May 11**)

This course is graded according to seminary policy:

A--93-100 D--70-76
B--85-92 F--Below 70
C--77-84

Students are required to pass this course with a grade of B or higher in order to begin practicum and internship.

Course Assignment Evaluation Percentages

A. Written:	
1. Book Review	10%
2. Personal essays on selected ethical issues	15%
B. Verbal/Interactive Process:	
1. Class participation/Ethics Consultant Role Activities	5%
C. Cognitive:	
1. LPC Code of Ethics Quiz	5%
2. Ethics in Action Workbook	15%
3. Mid-term Examination	25%
4. Final Examination	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Course Policies

Reading Assignments

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Professor's Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due by class time (8:00 AM) on the assigned date in the syllabus. Assignments are to be submitted through Blackboard. The grade for late assignments will automatically be reduced by *four points* for each week day an assignment is late. Assignments will NOT be accepted after they are one week overdue.

Professor's Availability and Assignment Feedback

The student may contact the professor at any time using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to return answers to emailed questions within a 24-hour period of time. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric located in the student's Blackboard Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as

on graded paper assignments. The student may also email the course grader with questions regarding grading.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/student-services/NOBTSHandbook.pdf> where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

Classroom Parameters

Please arrive on time.
Turn off cell phones. Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.
Respect the professor and other members of the class.
Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.
Participate in class and group discussions.

Extra Credit

There are two opportunities to earn extra credit during the semester, at the midterm exam and at the final exam. Students are allowed to read and review a professor approved extra credit book for four points of extra credit on the exam. Extra credit book reviews are due along with the exam (8:00 AM on exam day) and will NOT be accepted after under any circumstance.

Students may also earn 3 extra points on the book review and ethical dilemma paper respectively by taking a rough draft of their paper to the NOBTS Writing Center to be proof read. Please have the Writing Center email the class' grader to confirm you used this service or submit the feedback you receive.

Blackboard and ITC Technical Support

Blackboard is the instructional platform used in this class. Please make sure that your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. If you need assistance accessing

Blackboard, Selfserve, or other technical support, please contact the Information Technology Center (Hardin Student Center 290 or call **504.816.8180**). Here are other helpful links to ITC assistance.

- Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
- BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
- ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.
- For Student Assistance in using Blackboard, visit: [Student Bb Help](#)

Netiquette

Netiquette refers to appropriate online behavior in Blackboard or other online discussions. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Academic Policies

Academic policies relating to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating Seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00 PM) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Course Schedule

I & E = Issues & Ethics in the Helping Professions; CCE = Christian Counseling Ethics

Week #	Date	Assignment
1	1/26	Introduction / Syllabus Parsing the Course: Ethics, Legal, Professional
2	2/2	Registries & Certification Professional Liability Avoiding Lawsuits
3	2/9	<i>Guest Speaker: Mary Alice Olsan, Executive Director LA LPC Board of Examiners</i> Due by 8AM: LPC Code of Ethics Quiz (on Blackboard)
4	2/16	Examining the Foundations of Christian Ethics <i>Guest Speaker: Dr. Rhyne Putman, Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture</i>
5	2/23	Decision Making Models in Ethics - <i>Dr. Putman</i> 8 Step Decision Making Model (I & E – Ch.1) Due by 8AM: Book Review
6	3/2	“My Doctor My Lover” Legal Issues Regarding Termination Fee Scheduling
7	3/9	Mid Term Exam
8	3/16	Spring Break - No Class
9	3/23	Role Plays Begin Transference / Counter-transference (I&E - Ch. 2) (CCE- Ch.1) Managing Spiritual & Religious Values (I&E - Ch. 3) Litigation – Fears & Phobias
10	3/30	Values: Pertaining to Sexuality (I & E – Ch.3) (CCE-Ch.9) Differences in Cultural Backgrounds & Life Experiences (I & E – Ch. 4)
11	4/6	Sexual Attraction to the Client – (I&E - Ch. 7) (CCE-Ch. 6) Managing Multiple Relationships Boundary Issues, Bartering
12	4/13	Therapist Impairment Ethical Issues in Clinical Supervision (I&E - Ch. 9)
13	4/20	Non-erotic Physical Contact – (I&E - Ch. 7) Professional Competence & Training (I&E - Ch. 8) (CCE – Ch. 4)

14	4/27	Confidentiality in Marital & Family Therapy (I&E - Ch. 11) Values in Marriage & Family Therapy (I & E – Ch. 11) (CCE – Ch.8) Due: Personal Essay on Ethical Issue
15	5/4	Guest Speaker: Stacie Leblanc, Executive Director New Orleans Children’s Advocacy Center Confidentiality: Duty to Protect Children / Reporting (I&E - Ch. 6) (CCE-Ch. 3) Confidentiality: Duty to Warn / HIV (I&E - Ch. 6) Due: Ethics in Action Workbook
Final Exam: Thursday, May 11, 2017 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.		

Selected Bibliography

- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. (2001). *User’s Guide to the AAMFT Code of Ethics*. AAMFT.
- Coombs, R. (2005). *Family Therapy Review: Preparing for Comprehensive and Licensing Examinations*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. (RC488.5.F349)
- Corey, J., Corey, M., Callanan, P. (2007). *Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions*. Brooks Cole.
- Rosenthal, H. (1993). *Encyclopedia of Counseling: Master Review and Tutorial. Accelerated Development*. (BF637.C6R674)
- Sanders, R. (1997). *Christian Counseling Ethics: A Handbook for Therapists, Pastors & Counselors*. IVP Academic. (BV4012.2.C516)
- Sanders, R. (Ed.). (2016). Ethics and Value in Psychotherapy [Special issue]. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 35(4).
- Satinover, J. (1996). *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*. Baker Books. (HQ76.3.U5S35)
- Wilcoxon, S., Remley, T., Gladding, S., Huber, C. (2007). *Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy*. Pearson. (RC488.5.H8)
- Zuckerman, E. (2003). *The Paper Office*. Guilford Press.

Ethics Book Review Grading Rubric

Format/Style (20 points)

- At least 2 pages
- APA
- Double spaced
- Grammar
- Proof reading

Following Directions (40 points)

- Summary of key ideas
- Identification of previously unaware guidelines

Content (40 points)

- Demonstrated reading comprehension
- Critical reflection on the ideas and content in the reading
- Applied content to counseling practice

Ethics Issues Paper Grading Rubric

Format/Style (10 points)

- APA
- Double spaced
- Grammar
- Proof reading

Following Directions (5 points)

- 6-8 pages
- 4-6 scholastic sources
- Avoided first-person

Clear Ethical Questions Presented (15 points)

8 Step Ethical Decision Making Model Used (30 points)

Definite Position Taken and Defended (40 points)

Student Services

This is a partial list of NOBTS services available to all students, no matter your delivery system or location. If you have questions or need more information than you see here, please refer to www.nobts.edu/student-services, contact us at studentservices@nobts.edu, or call the Dean of Students office at 800-662-8701, ext. 3283.

Advising - Graduate	studentservices@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3312	www.nobts.edu/student-services/graduate-advising.html
Advising - Undergraduate	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504.816.8590	www.nobts.edu/LevellCollege
Church Minister Relations	cmr@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3291	www.nobts.edu/CMR
Dean of Students	deansec@nobts.edu	504.282.4455, ext. 3283	www.nobts.edu/dean-of-students
Financial Aid	financialaid@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3348	www.nobts.edu/financial-aid
Gatekeeper	pr@nobts.edu	504.816.8003	www.nobts.edu/gatekeeper
Graduate Dean	graddeanasst@nobts.edu	504.282.4455, ext. 3327	www.nobts.edu/graduate-program/welcome.html
Information Technology Center	itcsupport@nobts.edu blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	selfserve.nobts.edu nobts.blackboard.com
Library	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	www.nobts.edu/Library
Guest Housing	ph@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x4455	www.provhouse.com
PREP finances program	Prepassistant1@nobts.edu	504.816.8091	www.nobts.edu/prep
Student Counseling	lmccc@nobts.edu	504.816.8004	www.nobts.edu/lmccc
Undergraduate Dean	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504-282-4455, ext. 3366	www.nobts.edu/LevellCollege
Women's Programs	womensacademic@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3334	www.nobts.edu/women
Writing Center	writingcenter@nobts.edu	504.816.8193	www.nobts.edu/writing

For additional library resources in your state, check <http://www.nobts.edu/library/interlibrary-loan.html>

- GALILEO for Georgia students
- LALINC for Louisiana students
- Florida Virtual Library (<http://www.flelibrary.org/>) for Florida students



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