

## Course Syllabus: **Ethics & Issues in Counseling**

Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education  
COUN 5303  
Spring 2022

### Contact Information

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### Instructor Response Policy

Please allow 48 hours for response. This does not include weekends or holidays.

### Textbook & Instructional Materials

Corey, G., Corey, M. & Callanan, P. (2019). *Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions*. 10th ed. Brooks Cole: CA

### Course Description

A seminar in current professional, legal, and ethical issues in counseling.  
Prerequisite(s): Admission to the counseling program and COUN 5203.

### Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

- 1.c. counselors' roles and responsibilities as members of interdisciplinary community outreach and emergency management response teams
- 1.f. professional counseling organizations, including membership benefits, activities, services to members, and current issues
- 1.g. professional counseling credentialing, including certification, licensure, and accreditation practices and standards, and the effects of public policy on these issues
- 1.i. ethical standards of professional counseling organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling (KPI)
- 1.k. strategies for personal and professional self-evaluation and implications for practice (KPI)
- 1.l. self-care strategies appropriate to the counselor role
- 1.m. the role of counseling supervision in the profession
- 2.a. multicultural and pluralistic characteristics within and among diverse groups nationally and internationally (KPI)
- 2.b. theories and models of multicultural counseling, cultural identity development, and social justice and advocacy
- 2.c. multicultural counseling competencies

2.d. the impact of heritage, attitudes, beliefs, understandings, and acculturative experiences on an individual's views of others  
2.g. the impact of spiritual beliefs on clients' and counselors' worldviews  
2.h. strategies for identifying and eliminating barriers, prejudices, and processes of intentional and unintentional oppression and discrimination  
5.c. theories, models, and strategies for understanding and practicing consultation  
5.g. essential interviewing, counseling, and case conceptualization skills  
5.h. developmentally relevant counseling treatment or intervention plans  
6.g. ethical and culturally relevant strategies for designing and facilitating groups  
7.b. methods of effectively preparing for and conducting initial assessment meetings (KPI)  
7.c. procedures for assessing risk of aggression or danger to others, self-inflicted harm, or suicide  
7.d. procedures for identifying trauma and abuse and for reporting abuse  
8.b. identification of evidence-based counseling practices (KPI)  
9.2.i. legislation and government policy relevant to clinical mental health counseling  
9.2.j. cultural factors relevant to clinical mental health counseling  
9.2.l. legal and ethical considerations specific to clinical mental health counseling  
9.2.m. record keeping, third party reimbursement, and other practice and management issues in clinical mental health counseling  
9.3.c. strategies for interfacing with the legal system regarding court-referred clients

**Learning Objectives:**

LO1. Students will understand the ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of clinical mental health counseling  
LO2. Student will demonstrate the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards in clinical mental health and counseling.  
LO3. Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in procedures related to assessment and management of crisis situations, and how to report abuse.  
LO4. Students will understand laws related to ethical issues of clinical mental health practice, and laws pertaining to LPC's in the state of Texas.

See Appendix A for a complete list of standards/competencies (if applicable) and Appendix B for assignment/standards alignment matrix

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of

work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

### Grading/Assessment

Course Grade-

Table 1: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Assignments	Points
Discussions (5 at 25 pts each)	125
Online Assignments	350
Case Study Paper	100
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>775</b>

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	775-725
B	724 to 675
C	674 to 625
D	624 to 575
F	Less than 574

### Projects Required

- 1. Online Assignments and Comments (7 @ 50 pts each)** Students are required to answer questions or complete assignments regularly related to the weekly reading. Almost every week students will be required to answer questions about the reading or be asked to reflect on a particular ethical dilemma. Students may also be required to engage in short creative projects instead of questions about the readings. Activities will likely include ethical dilemma case studies, and the application of ethical decision making models. If there is a discussion, students are required to participate and comment on at least one other person's thread. The assignment and weekly comments are due by Sunday at 11:59 pm at the end of the week. Follow directions to get full points each week. Late work will not be accepted.
- 2. Discussion Posts (5 @ 25pts each)**

**3. Case Study Paper: (100 pts.) (KPI: 1.i, 1.k., 2.a., 8.b)** Students will research a topic concerning an ethical issue of their choosing and write a paper to discuss their findings. The paper will include a case study illustrating the ethical dilemma, and the case study will be used to frame the specific ethical issue. The paper is to be no less than 15 pages in length, a cover page and reference page are required, along with a Header at the top of each page. Footers are not required. A minimum of 10 references is required. All papers for this class are to be completed in the APA style, and points will be taken off for errors in formatting. Please use appropriate APA headings.\*See Assignment Handout for more information.

#### Mid-Term Exam

**Midterm Examination (100 pts.) (KPI: 1.i., 1.k., 2.a., 7.b.)** Given to students Week 8 covering chapters 1-7.

#### Final Exam

**Final Examination (100 pts.) (KPI: 2.a., 1i., 1.k., 8.b.)** Given to students Week 16. The final exam will not be cumulative, and covers chapters 8-13

#### Extra Credit

There is no extra credit offered in this course.

#### Late Work

Late Assignments: NO late assignments will be accepted without prior consent from instructor. All late assignments will be penalized **-5 points per day** that it is late. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**No Incompletes ("I") will be given in this class unless under extreme circumstances, which will be determined by the instructor of this class.**

#### Make Up Work/Tests

Students are not allowed to make up any missed assignments.

#### Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: **April 29, 2022 by 11:59pm.** Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: **February 14, 2022.** Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **March 21, 2022 by 4:00 pm.** Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

## Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

## Attendance

Attendance and participation are important components of the course. Online class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to be active in the classroom weekly unless extenuating circumstances exist. All absences must be explained to the instructor of the course.

ANY unexcused absences as determined by the instructor may result in full final grade level reductions at the discretion of the instructor of the course. **Students missing attendance online for more than 1 week will receive an automatic grade of F and will be required to retake the course prior to completion of degree or program requirements.**

If you must be absent from class, please inform the instructor prior to the absence, and in the event of an emergency, please contact the instructor as soon as feasible.

The class is conducted in a discussion format and all students are **expected** to participate in online class discussions. As students will play a major role in their own learning they are **expected** to read the assigned materials and should be prepared to comment on the readings.

**Online participation is assessed through a variety of methods including timely submission of assignments as well as logging in and checking the course site regularly. In addition, active participation in the discussions is required.**

## Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. **Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.**

Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

### Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

### Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### College Policies

#### Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

#### Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

#### Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

## Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the  
Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

### Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be  
made at the discretion of the instructor.

## Course Schedule

Class Session	CACREP Standards	Topics	Materials	Activities/ Assignments
1 Jan 10-16	1.i., 1.k., 5.g., 9.2.l., 9.2.m., 9.2.j.,	Introduction to Professional Ethics	Read: -Ethical Decision Making Model -ACA Code of Ethics -Ch. 1	<b>Discussion and Online assignment due</b>  Read Ch. 1 Read in Module: Ethical Decision Making Mo -ACA Code of Ethics
2 Jan 17-23	1.k., 1.l., 1.m., 5.c., 9.2.l.	Counselor as a Person and as a Professional	Read: Ch. 2 PP: Ch. 2	<b>Chapter 2 Online Assignment Due</b> Read: Ch. 2 PP: Ch. 2
3 Jan 24-30	1.f., 1.g., 2.a., 2.c., 2.d., 2.g., 2.h., 5.c., 5.g., 9.2.i., 9.2.j.	Values and the Helping Relationship	Read: Ch. 3 PP: Ch. 3	<b>Chapter 3 Online assignment 3 due</b>  Read: Ch. 3 PP: Ch. 3
4 Jan 31- Feb 6	2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 2.d., 2.h., 9.2.i., 9.2.j., 9.2.l.	Multicultural Perspectives and Diversity	Read: Ch. 4 PP: Ch. 4	<b>Chapter 4 Discussion due Feb 6</b>  Read: Ch. 4 PP: Ch. 4
5 Feb 7-13	1.j., 1.m., 5.g., 5.h., 7.b., 9.2.l., 9.2.m., 9.3.c.	Clients Rights and Counselor Responsibilities	Read: Ch. 5 PP: Ch. 5 -Sample Informed Consents -Video: Examples of Giving Informed Consent	<b>Chapter 5 Online assignment 5 due (KPI: 7.b)</b>  Read: Ch. 5 PP: Ch. 5

6 Feb 14-20	1.c., 1.g., 1.i., 1.k., 1.l., 1.m., 5.c., 5.g., 5.h., 7.c., 7.d., 9.2.i., 9.2.j., 9.2.l., 9.2.j.,9.2.m.	Confidentiality: Ethical and Legal Issues	Read: Ch. 6 PP: Ch. 6 -Sample Emergency and Crisis Response Assessments and Paperwork -Legal Links and Important Info. Handout -Tarasoff vs. Regents -Thapar vs. Zezulka	<b>Chapter 6 Discussion due Feb 20</b>
7 Feb 21-27	1.g., 1.i., 1.k., 1.l., 1.m., 2.d., 2.g., 7.b., 9.2.l., 9.2.m.	Managing Boundaries & Multiple Relationships	Read: Ch. 7 PP: Ch. 7	<b>Chapter 7 Discussion due Feb 27</b>  Read: Ch. 7 PP: Ch. 7
8 Feb 28-Mar 6	KPI: 1.i., 1.k., 2.a., 7.b.	Midterm Examination Ch. 1-7	Midterm Examination	<b>Midterm Examination Ch Due by Mar 6</b>  KPI: 1.i., 1.k., 2.a., 7.b.
9 Mar 7- 13	1.g., 1.i., 1.k., 1.m., 2.c., 2.d., 8.b., 9.2.l.	Professional Competence and Training	Read: Ch. 8 PP: Ch. 8	<b>Chapter 8 Online assignment 8 due</b>  Read: Ch. 8 PP: Ch. 8
10 Mar 14-20		SPRING	BREAK	

11 Mar 21-27	1.i., 1.k., 1.m., 5.c., 9.2.l.	Ethical Issues in Supervision	Read: Ch. 9 PP: Ch. 9	<b>Chapter 9 Discussion due Mar 27</b>  <b>Read: Ch. 9 PP: Ch. 9</b>
12 Mar 28-Apr 3	1.k., 2.b., 5.c., 5.c., 5.g., 5.h.,7.b.8.b.,9.2.j., 9.2.l.	Ethical Issues in Theory and Practice	Read: Ch. 10 PP: Ch. 10	<b>Chapter 10 Online assignment 10 due</b>
13 Apr 5- 10	2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 5.g., 7.b., 7.c., 7.b., 8.b. 9.2.j., 9.2.l.	Research Couples Therapy	Read: Ch. 11 PP: Ch. 11	<b>Chapter 11 Online assignment 11 due</b>
14 Apr 11- 17		<b>Holiday Break</b>		
15 Apr 18- 24	<b>(KPI: 1.i, 1.k., 2.a., 8.b)</b>			<b>Case Study Paper Due Apr 24</b>  <b>(KPI: 1.i, 1.k., 2.a., 8.b)</b>
16 Apr 25- 29	<b>(KPI: 2.a., 1i., 1.k., 8.b.)</b>			<b>Final Exam Due Apr 29</b>  <b>(KPI: 1i. 1.k., 8.b.)</b>

References/Scientificallly-Based Research/Additional Readings:

Corey, G., Corey, M. & Callanan, P. (2019). Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions. 9th ed. Brooks Cole: CA

Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs. (2016).

2016 CACREP standards. Retrieved from <https://www.cacrep.org/for-programs/2016-cacrep-standards/>

## Appendix A: Standards/Competencies

- 1.c. counselors' roles and responsibilities as members of interdisciplinary community outreach and emergency management response teams
- 1.f. professional counseling organizations, including membership benefits, activities, services to members, and current issues
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