**Wayland Mission Statement**

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

**Contact Information**

**Course**

: CNSL 5307 VC-02 – Ethics and Legal Issues in Counseling

**Campus**

: WBUonline

**Term/Session**

**:** Spring 1- 2021

**Instructor**

**:** Bryan Moffitt, PhD, JD

**WBU Email Address**

**:** bryan.moffitt@wayland.wbu.edu

**Office Hours, Building, and Location**

**:** Available Upon Request

**Class Meeting Time and Location**

**:** Online

**Textbook Information**

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Materials**

**:**

**Issues and Ethics in Helping Professions**  
  
**Author(s):** Corey, Gerald  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1-337-40629-1  
**Edition / Copyright:** 10TH 19  - Current Edition  
**Publisher:** Cengage Learning  
**Book Type:** Hardback

*The textbook for this course is part of the* ***Wayland’s Automatic eBook*** *program. You will have access to an eBook and interactive learning material on the first day of class through your Blackboard course site. The cost of this Automatic eBook will be billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. You will be notified via email with access instructions and additional information. If you do not wish to participate in the Automatic eBook program, you will have the first 12 days of class to opt-out of the program (additional details will be outlined in your email instructions). For more information on the Automatic eBook program, visit the Wayland Bookstore* [*Automatic eBook FAQ*](https://bookstore.wbu.edu/site_inclusive.asp) *page.*

**Course Information**

**Catalog Description**

**:**  Review of critical issues in the practice of school and mental health counseling; ethical standards, legal requirements, client rights, and practice issues with special populations, and licensure/certification.

This course is designed to emphasize Professional Counseling Ethics by providing a broad understanding of professional counseling ethics, legal standards, and responsibilities. This coursework does not include material in an adjunctive therapeutic area.

**There is no prerequisite for this course**.

**Course Outcome Competencies**

**:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

* Explain and apply ethical standards and legal responsibilities in the profession
* Demonstrate knowledge of state regulations and licensure requirements for mental health counselors
* Describe the professional issues and organizations related to the profession
* Evaluate available practicum placements in the community and successfully secure a practicum placement
* Demonstrate preparation to begin the supervised practice of mental health counseling in an ethical and professional manner

**Attendance Requirements**

WBUonline (Virtual Campus)

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

**University Policies**

**Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

**:** Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

**Disability Statement**

**:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Director of Counseling, Career and Disability Services serves as the coordinator of students with disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation request at (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Accessibility issues with content in WBUonline courses or in Blackboard should be addressed to the WBU accessibility coordinator, Dr. Trish Ritschel-Trifilo, [trifilot@wbu.edu](mailto:trifilot@wbu.edu) or call (806) 291-3745.

**Student Grade Appeals**

**:** Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

WBU Catalog

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria**

**Evaluation of student performance**:

**Exams**: (30% each or a total of 60% of your final grade). Two unit exams will be administered during the course of the semester. The exams will consist of objective questions. The tests may consists of items from either the textbook(s) or from material discussed in class.

**Homework Assignments:** (a total of 40% of final grade) You will be required to complete several assignments over the course of the semester. You will be graded on grammatical correctness and organization of your paper as well as ability to follow instructions. If you know that you will be absent in class on the day that an assignment is due, turn it in early.

**Assignment #1** (10% of final grade) There are moral, ethical, and legal issues identified in most situations. Often times they are not in agreement. Describe 4 completely different situations that demonstrate moral, ethical, and/or legal disagreement.  How would you go about navigating the best course of action to take? Explain your opinions thoroughly. Your paper should be at least 3 pages in length and include the 2014 ACA Code of Ethics.

**Assignment #2 Texas Counselor laws** (10% of final grade) Read the statutes pertaining to counselors on the Texas LPC Board website and summarize the parts of the law that you find interesting or different from what you had imagined. Your discussion should be at least 3 pages.

**Assignment #3 Code of Ethics Comparison Assignment:** (10% of final grade) Read the following codes of ethics—APA (American Psychological Association), ACA (2014), MFT (Marriage and Family Therapy), ASCA (American School Counseling Association) and ASGW (Association for Specialist in Group work). Discuss areas in which they are similar and specifically mention all areas in which they disagree. What is your opinion on the disagreements? This paper should be at least 4 pages in length.

**Assignment #4 Real cases** (10% of final grade) Each student will be assigned to a past active licensure discipline case and will write a paper (at least 3 pages long) about where the disciplinary situation went wrong and what could have been done differently.

**The University has a standard grade scale:**

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term, within the last week of an 8-week session, or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long 16-week term or 8-week session, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion.  If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

**Tentative Schedule**

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| Module/Week | Topic | Due Date | Module/Week |
| One | Chap 1 Introduction to Ethics | Jan 16 | One |
| Two | Chap 2 The Counselor as a Person and Professional Identity | Jan 23 | Two |
| Three | Chap 3 Ethical Decision Making | Jan 30 | Three |
| Four | Chap 4,5 Ethics and Diversity--  Clients’ Rights and Counselors’ Responsibilities | Feb 6 | Four |
| Five | Exam #1 | Feb 13 | Five |
| Six | Chap 6 Confidentiality and Privileged Communication | Feb 20 | Six |
| Seven | Chap 7,8 Ethics in Theory, Practice, and Professional Relationships--  Appropriate Boundaries and Multiple Relationships | Feb 27 | Seven |
| Eight | Exam #2 | Mar 4 | Eight |
| Module/Week | **Topic** | **Due Date** | **Module/Week** |