

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

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.

Course Title, Number, and Section: **CNSL 5307 VC-01 - Ethics and Legal Issues in Counseling**

Term:Spring 2020

Instructor:Bryan Moffitt, PhD, JD, LPC-S

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address: 806-577-9987 bryan.moffitt@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location:Appointment will be scheduled on an as needed basis

Class Meeting Time and Location: Online

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.**

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Material(s): Issues and Ethics in the Helping Profession, 10th edition, Gerald Corey, Cengage Publishing ISBN 9781337406291

Course Outcome Competencies: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

* Be knowledgeable about ethical standards and legal responsibilities in the profession.
* Be knowledgeable about state regulations and licensure requirements for mental health counselors.
* Be familiar with the professional issues and organizations related to the profession.
* Be familiar with available practicum placements in the community and successfully secure a practicum placement.
* Be adequately prepared 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 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, 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 term 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.

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 Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765.  Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

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 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 (10 to 15 weeks) term, 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.

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 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.

Tentative Schedule:

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| **Module**  **/Week** | **Topic** | **Chap** | **Due Date** |
| One | Intro/ Counselor as a Person & Professional | 1,2 | Feb 29th |
| Two | Values and the Helping Relationship/  Multicultural Perspectives | 3,4 | Mar 7th |
| Three | Client Rights & Counselor Responsibilities  Assignment 1 Due | 5 | Mar 14th |
|  | Spring Break |  | March 16th-20th |
| Four | Confidentiality: Ethical & Legal Issues | 6 | Mar 21st |
| Five | Managing Boundaries and Dual Relationships  Assignment 2 Due | 7 | Mar 28th |
| Six | Midterm examination | 1-7 | April 4th |
| Seven | Professional Competence & Training  Assignment 3 Due | 8 | April 11th |
| Eight | Supervision/ Theory in Practice | 9,10 | April 18th |
| Nine | Couples & Family/ Group Work  Assignment 4 Due | 11,12 | April 25th |
| Ten | Ethical Issues in Community Work and Social Justice | 13 | May 2nd |
| Eleven | Final Exam | 8-13 | May 9th |

<http://catalog.wbu.edu>