**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 01 – Ethics and Legal Issues in Counseling

**Campus**

: WBU Online

**Term/Session**

**:** Fall 2025

**Instructor**

**:** Dr. Robert Tanner

**Office Phone Number**

**:** 505-269-0359

**WBU Email Address**

**:** Robert.tanner@wayland.wbu.edu

**Office Hours, Building, and Location**

**:** Online class, no office hours or location

**Class Meeting Time and Location**

**:** Blackboard Ultra online each week

**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**.

**Textbook Information**

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

**:**

Title: Issues and Ethics in Helping Professions

Author: Corey

Publisher: Cengage

Edition 11th

Year 2022

***<<If using Wayland’s Automatic eBook program, please include this statement; otherwise delete this paragraph.>>*** *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 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

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 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**

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity , and reference one of the following in regard to how generative artificial intelligence (GAI) such as ChatGPT may or may not be used in this course:](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement%20Pol%208.4.1%20Attch%20Oct%2020222.pdf)

1. No use of any generative AI tools permitted.
   1. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like Chat GPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
   2. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
   3. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

**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 Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. 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. Rick Hammer, [hammerr@wbu.edu](mailto:hammerr@wbu.edu) or call (806) 292-9150.

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria**

ASSIGNMENTS EXPLANATION POINTS

Discussions There are 10 discussion questions. These will be practical applications 20 points each

Where students will apply their reading assignments to the practical (200 total)

Implications in counseling.

Case Studies There will be four cases studies throughout the term. 50 points each

(200 total)

Research Paper This will be an 8–10-page paper covering one or more legal issues in 200 points

Counseling. All papers are to be submitted in APA format, and the topic

Must receive prior approval from the instructor.

Final Exam The exam is multiple choice and an open book. You may stop and resume

The exam as you wish. The final exam covers the complete book. Each

Question is worth 3 points, 100 randomly selected questions from a

Pool of 400 questions. 300 points

TOTAL 900 points

90%-100% 810-900 A

80%-89% 720-809 B

70%-79% 630-719 C

60%-69% 540-629 D

59%-0% below 539 is an F

**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.

**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.

**Tentative Schedule**

WEEK CHAPTERS CASE STUDIES/DISCUSSIONS DUE CLOSED

1 1,2 Discussion 1-2 8/24 11:59

8/11

2 3 Discussion 3/ Case 1 8/31 11:59

8/18

3 4,5 Discussion 4-5 9/7 11:59

8/25

4 6 Discussion 6/Case 2 9/14 11:59

9/1

5 7,8 Discussion 7-8 9/21 11:59

9/8

6 9,10 Discussion 9/Case 3 9/28 11:59

9/15 Research Paper Due

7 11,13 Discussion 10 9/28 11:59

9/22

8 Case 4/ Final Exam 10/6 11:59

9/29

**Additional Information**