

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A. Department Information:

Division: Social Science
Department: Human Services
Course ID: HUMSV 179
Course Title: Legal/Ethical Issues in Human Services
Units: 3
Lecture: 3 Hours
Laboratory: None
Prerequisite: None

B. Catalog Description: A study of the interpretation and practice of the legal/ethical responsibilities and liabilities encountered in providing and utilizing Human Services with special focus on privileged relationships, counseling, and confidentiality.

C. Schedule Description: A study of the interpretation and practice of the legal/ethical responsibilities and liabilities encountered in Human Services.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon successful completion of the course the student should be able to:

- A. Recognize basic Tort law issues;
- B. Identify professional codes of ethics in Human Services related to professions;
- C. Discuss the need for value definition and self-awareness in counseling;
- D. Apply the ethical decision making steps to practical problems;
- E. Explain confidentiality requirements;
- F. Discuss federal confidentiality rules;
- G. Know and apply mandatory reporting laws regarding child abuse;
- H. Explain patients rights;
- I. Delineate and apply principles of informed consent in treatment.

IV. COURSE CONTENT:

- A. Tort Law Concepts
 - 1. Distinguish criminal and civil law
 - 2. Intentional torts
 - 3. Negligence
 - 4. Damages
- B. Ethics and Virtuous Practice
 - 1. Definitions
 - 2. Professional codes
 - 3. Ethics and virtue
 - 4. Foundation of counseling virtues
 - 5. Autonomy facilitating virtues
 - 6. Trust establishing virtues
 - 3. The ethical decision making process
 - 4. Self-assessment of attitudes and values
- C. Moral Problems and Issues
 - 1. Multiculturalism and ethics
 - 2. Personal relationships
 - 3. Suspected child abuse
 - 4. A counselor's responsibilities

5. Domestic violence and ethics
 6. Confidentiality: Third party harm, HIV clients
 7. Paternalistic interventions
- D. Stress
1. Dealing with burnout
 2. Sources of stress
 3. Transferences and counter transference
- E. Clients Rights
1. Informed consent
 2. Involuntary commitment
 3. Confidentiality,
 4. Privileged communication
 5. Privacy
 6. Written reports
4. Research with clients
- F. Dual Relationships
1. Patient-counselor
 2. Counselor-supervisor
- G. Federal Confidentiality Regulations
1. Applicability
 2. General rule
 3. Exceptions

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lecture
- B. Films
- C. Directed discussion
- D. Guest speaker when available

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Project
 1. If employed in this field, suggestions for organizational improvement.
 2. If not employed in this field, where would you like to be employed, and investigate employment opportunities?
 3. The class project is discussed with the class.

VII. EVALUATION(S):

- A. Methods of evaluation:
 1. Short answer quiz
 2. Mid-term with multiple choice, true-false and short essay
 3. Optional book reports
 4. Classroom participation
- B. Frequency of Evaluation
 1. One mid-term examination
 2. One final examination
 3. Other exams
 4. Weekly written assignments
 5. Term paper at end of semester
- C. Typical Exam Questions
 1. What is Transference?
 2. What is counter-transference?
 3. What are two consequences of violating ethical standards?
 4. What is the difference between privileged communication and confidentiality.

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):

Freeman, Stephen J. Ethics: An Introduction To Philosophy & Practice.
Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole, 2001

Reamer, Federic G. Ethical Standards in Social Work. Washington, D.C: NASW
Press, 1998

Corey, Corey, and Callanan. Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions,
5th edition. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole, 1998

Kenyon, Patricia. What Would You Do? An Ethical Case Workbook For
Human Service Professionals. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole, 1999

Ezell, Mark. Advocacy In The Human Services. Pacific Grove, CA:
Brooks/Cole, 2001

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: None