COUN 501

COUNSELOR PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY, FUNCTION, AND ETHICS

*Note: All content provided in the professor’s notes, course chart and course syllabus are based on the professor’s opinion and may vary from professor to professor & student to student. All content may be changed without notice. This information is for the purpose to provide analysis but is not binding in any form.
COURSE RATING FORM
COUN 501 – Professional Identity, Function, & Ethics
(As of July 9, 2007)

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1. From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the overall level of difficulty of this course?

Level of demand = 6
Course could be taken with one other course in an 8-week format.

2. From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the level of the reading requirements in this course?

Level of demand = 7
Course requires staying current on all required weekly reading. This is the key to successful completion of this course. With three textbooks, there is a substantial amount of weekly reading.

3. From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the level of the lecture requirements in this course?

Level of demand = 4
The course contains lecture notes, but at present there is no audio or video lecture. The notes are intended to provide further guidance and information about becoming a professional counselor who practices from a Christian worldview. They contain information from a number of journal articles listed in the References by Session document and include links to web-based resources.

4. From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the level of the online exam requirements in this course?

Level of demand = 4
There are 2 open-book tests with 5 days of test availability. Each test consists of 6 short answer items worth 25 pts each for a total of 150 pts per test. Questions are very specific and based on weekly reading, so there is no need for a study guide.

5. From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the level of the discussion board requirements in this course?

Level of demand = 7
There are 8 weekly discussion board posts. Four are in Full Class forums and 4 are in Small Group forums. They are designed to foster interaction with other students in a manner focused on course-related material for that week.

6. From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the level of the written paper requirements in this course?

Level of demand = 7
There are two papers for this course, both requiring competence with APA style. The first paper deals with comparing and contrasting ethics codes. The second paper is a research paper requiring graduate-level biblical research and knowledge of professional literature regarding the profession of counseling.

Additional comments:

COUN 501 is an entry-level graduate course in professional counseling. There are several different levels of learning taking place throughout the course in addition to the content of the course. Students are learning to use Blackboard, the library, and how to “have a life” during graduate school.

The course provides a clear course chart that helps with sequencing, planning, and due dates. Assignment guidelines are also provided. Assigned activities are contained within each weekly module. Although there are 4 required textbooks, the APA manual used throughout the rest of the program is one of those. Of the others, one deals with the profession of counseling, one deals with ethics in counseling, and the other deals specifically with issues of importance in professional Christian counseling.
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Textbook Reading Legend:

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<td><a href="http://www.motivationalinterview.org">www.motivationalinterview.org</a> Read “Background” articles *Group DP 2</td>
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Course Syllabus
College of Arts and Sciences
Center for Counseling and Family Studies

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Coun 501
Counselor Professional Identity, Function, and Ethics

Course Description
This course introduces students to concepts regarding the professional functioning of counselors, including history, roles, professional organizations, ethics, legalities, standards, and credentialing. Current issues in therapeutic practice in a variety of professional settings are explored.

This course provides students with an understanding of various aspects of professional functioning as a counselor. Some of these aspects include the following: the relevance of personal identity to professional identity; the function of professional ethical codes and standards; ethical/legal considerations; the development of a biblical worldview regarding counseling; the history and development of counseling as a profession and as a distinct ministry of the church; roles, functions, and relationships with other providers; technology; professional organizations, primarily including
the AACC and ACA, with emphasis on divisions/branches, affiliates, benefits, activities, member services, current emphases, credentialing, certification/licensure, and accreditation; public policy and professional advocacy; advocacy on behalf of clients; and current challenges/opportunities facing today’s counselor.

RATIONALE
As students sharpen their focus on becoming skillful counselors, it is important to get oriented to this unique expression of life in Christ. The rationale behind this course is to enhance student motivation for effectively utilizing the resources of the graduate counseling program at Liberty University toward the goal of biblical and clinical excellence in counseling. The development of professional identity as an extension of personal identity is of primary importance in achieving that goal.

I. PREREQUISITES
None.

II. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


III. RECOMMENDED


IV. MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Internet access (broadband or cable recommended) and Microsoft Word
B. Textbooks
V. **Measurable Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

A. Analyze how counseling as a professional ministry will be an expression and extension of who they are personally.

B. Understand and explain the development/current trends of counseling as a profession and as a ministry in the body of Christ.

C. Describe the nature, importance, and function of professional ethics and how the ethical code and standards relate to biblical, moral, and legal issues.

D. Accurately describe and reference professional research in the behavioral sciences.

VI. **Course Requirements and Assignments**

A. **Required readings**

Within each lesson are active links to professional journal articles relevant to that lesson. Recommended reading can enhance the students’ knowledge base and prepare them for the Discussion Board activities.

B. **Discussion boards and related group activities**

Enthusiastic agreement and respectful disagreement with others in the class is expected. Disrespect (e.g., name-calling, “Bible thumping,” sermonizing, hostility, etc.) will not be acceptable communication on the discussion boards and severe final course grade reduction will be the consequence if it occurs. Learning to accurately communicate beliefs, attitudes, and emotions about important issues is a crucial part of personal and professional development, particularly when others don’t see them as you do. See Discussion Board Guidelines under the **About Your Course/Course Overview and Guide** section of the course.

C. **Professional journal article summaries (2)**

Summarize 2 professional journal articles related to the counseling profession that have to do with the current classroom topics. The summaries will be 2 pages in length and will include 2 components: (1) accurate bibliographical citation in APA style and content summary; and (2) personal reaction and reflection on the content. See the Journal Article Summary Guidelines under About Your Course/Course Overview and Guide/Assignments Overview Folder.

D. **Ethics Codes Analysis Paper**

Complete a 4-5 page Ethics Codes Analysis Paper as described in the Assignments section of the course. See Ethics Codes Analysis Paper Guidelines in About Your Course/Course Overview and Guide/Assignments Overview Folder.

E. **Integration Paper**

Complete a 12–15 page integration paper defining and describing biblical terms used for counseling, detailing a couple of biblical situations reflecting student understanding of the concepts involved, comparing/contrasting biblical and professional views of counseling, and making personal application of what has
been learned. Higher grades will be awarded to papers that demonstrate personal
mastery of course content including identity development, ethical practice, and
effective communication. Conformity to APA style is required for this
manuscript. See the Guide for Successful Completion of the Integration Paper in
About Your Course/Course Overview and Guide/Assignments Overview Folder.

F. Tests (2)

VII. COURSE GRADING & POLICIES

A. Points

Discussion Boards (8 posts @ 40 pts each) 320
Journal Summaries (2 @ 40 pts each) 80
Ethics Codes Analysis Paper 100
Integration Paper 200
Test 1 150
Test 2 150

B. Scale

A = 940–1000  B = 860–939  C = 760–859  D = 700–759  F = below 700

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact the DLP Office of Disability
Academic Support (ODAS) at dlpodas@liberty.edu to make arrangements for
academic accommodations.