

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

EDCO 821
ETHICS AND ISSUES IN PASTORAL COUNSELING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An in-depth examination of ethical and legal issues encountered by community counselors, including ethical principles, professional codes of conduct, identifying and resolving ethical dilemmas, ethical decision-making models, and laws governing the profession.

RATIONALE

In a world of fluid values and concepts of right and wrong, it is essential to understand and possess a firm grasp on ethical practice and responsibility when participating in the helping professions. Ethics provide a framework to the values and standards of a given profession, defining behavior and providing expectation and accountability for those involved. It is vital for individuals pursuing a career or vocation in the helping professions to possess a clear and foundational understanding of the role of ethics and related issues.

I. PREREQUISITES

None

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

- A. Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the foundation elements of ethical living and practice.
B. Distinguish the historical framework of ethics in helping professions.
C. Categorize significant influences and schools of thought relevant to Christian ethics.
D. Appraise the role of ethics in various pastoral counseling settings.
E. Assess major ethical issues confronting pastoral counseling.
F. Assemble elements comprising a comprehensive code of ethics.
G. Construct ethical responses to multi-faceted scenarios confronting pastoral counseling.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Ethical Scenario Discussions (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to submit a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 500 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge by including at least 2 scholarly references in current APA format. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 250 words and use at least 1 scholarly reference in current APA format. The forums and replies will be split between modules/weeks with the thread in one module/week and the replies in the following module/week.

(MLO: A, B, C, D, E, G)

D. Initial Understanding of Ethics Paper

The student must write a 3–5-page paper in current APA format summarizing his or her understanding of the importance and role of ethics in pastoral counseling. This assignment must be completed without the benefit of the course texts. This assignment will also be used in comparison with the Concluding Understanding of Ethics Paper at the end of this course. (MLO: A, C, D)

E. Comparison Critique

Using the assignment instructions, the student must write 3–5 pages in current APA format as a comparison critique of the readings in the Geisler and Sanders texts. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

F. Personal Code of Ethics

Using the course materials and texts, the student must write a comprehensive 10–12-page code of ethics defining his or her commitment to an ethical approach to the practice of pastoral counseling. The student must use the resources of the course texts, course materials, and at least 5 other supporting sources, including professional Codes of Ethics. All references used must be cited in current APA format. (MLO: A, B, C, F)

G. Concluding Understanding of Ethics Paper

Using the previously completed Initial Understanding of Ethics Paper, the student must complete a 5–8-page paper addressing the differences between his or her former and concluding understanding of the importance and role of ethics in pastoral counseling. All references used must be cited in current APA format. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Ethical Scenario Discussions (3 at 150 pts ea)	450
Initial Understanding of Ethics Paper	100
Comparison Critique	100
Personal Code of Ethics	200
Concluding Understanding of Ethics Paper	150
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the latest edition of the APA-style manual (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the Online Writing Center.

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

EDCO 821

Textbooks: Clark & Rakestraw, *Readings in Christian Ethics, Vol 1* (1994).
 Clark & Rakestraw, *Readings in Christian Ethics, Vol 2* (1996).
 Geisler, *Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues and Options* (2010).
 Sanders, *Christian Counseling Ethics* (2013).
 Trull & Carter, *Ministerial Ethics* (2004).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Clark & Rakestraw (1994): chs. 1–2 Sanders: chs. 1–2 3 websites	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Initial Understanding of Ethics Paper	10 0 100
2	Geisler: Part 1	Ethical Scenario Discussion 1 Thread	100
3	Clark & Rakestraw (1994): ch. 5 Trull & Carter: chs. 1–6	Ethical Scenario Discussion 1 Replies	50
4	Clark & Rakestraw (1994): chs. 7–8 Sanders: chs. 14–15, 18	Ethical Scenario Discussion 2 Thread	100
5	Clark & Rakestraw (1994): ch. 4 Sanders: chs. 3–5, 9 Trull & Carter: ch. 8	Ethical Scenario Discussion 2 Replies	50
6	Clark & Rakestraw (1996): chs. 1–3 Sanders: chs. 6–8, 10–11, 16, Appendix 1–2	Ethical Scenario Discussion 3 Thread Concluding Understanding of Ethics	100 150
7	Clark & Rakestraw (1996): chs. 4–6 Geisler: Part 2 Trull & Carter – Appendix B–E	Ethical Scenario Discussion 3 Replies Comparison Critique	50 100
8	Clark & Rakestraw (1996): ch. 8 Sanders: chs. 20–21	Personal Code of Ethics	200
TOTAL			1010

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.