

EDCO 232: Law and Ethics
Tuesday 7:00 P.M. - 9:45 P.M.
Room: IRC 306
Spring 2010

College of Education Mission: The mission of the College of Education is to prepare educators who will enhance the quality of education for all students in our culturally diverse, technologically complex world.

Counselor Education Program Mission: The mission of The Counselor Education Program is to prepare guidance and counseling candidates who will enhance equity and excellence for all students.

EDCO Professional Dispositions:

Disposition #1: Respect for all forms of Diversity

Disposition #2: Equity & Excellence for all Students

Disposition #3: Life-Long Learning

Disposition # 4: Ethical & Professional Practice

Disposition #5: Democratic & Reflective Practice

Steven Berta, MA, PPS, ASC, DPS, STC Instructor

Email: Steve.Berta@sjsu.edu

Office Hours by Appointment

Phone #s: Home (831) 426-4203

Work (408) 924-3630

FAX (408) 924-4137

Course Prerequisite: None

Objectives of the Course

- To familiarize you with ethical standards as they pertain to the helping profession. In particular the **Ethics and Standards of Practice of the American Counseling Association (ACA, 2004)**
- To familiarize you with laws that pertain to both K-12 and higher education students
- To stimulate you to think about major legal and ethical issues
- To challenge you to formulate a position on ethical and legal issues
- To develop an ability to apply these laws and codes to a variety of problem situations

Reading Required for EDCO 232

1. Corey, G., Corey, M. and Callanan P. (1998), **Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions.** (7th ed.), Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.
2. **Student CD-ROM** It is required that you complete all the assigned CD-ROM activities. **You will be responsible for the first eight segments and the pre/post inventories.**

Schedule for Readings and Assignments for Spring 2010

January 26

Introduction and Class Expectations

- Introduction to the course and to each other
- Self-assessment: An inventory of your attitudes and beliefs about professional and ethical issues
- Review the course syllabus

Assignment

- Read Chapter 1 and be ready for group discussion
- Be prepared for group discussion of **Suggested Activities** in Chapter 1

February 2

Chapter 1: Introduction to Professional Ethics

- Review of professional codes

- Review the basic moral principals and an ethical decision making process

Assignment

- Read Chapter 2 and take self-inventory
- Be prepared for group discussion of **Suggested Activities** in chapter 2

February 9

Chapter 2: The Counselor as a Person and as a Professional

- Review and apply an ethical decision making process to various situations
- Group discussion of suggested activities for Chapter 2

Assignment

- Read Chapter 3 and take self-inventory. Be ready for group discussion

February 16

Chapter 3: Values and the Helping Relationship

- Develop an understanding of "your virtues in excess being your stumbling block"

Assignment

- Read Chapter 4 and continue to work on your CD-ROM assignments
- Do pre chapter self-inventory
- Be prepared for group discussion of **Suggested Activities** in Chapter 4

February 23

Chapter 4: Multicultural Perspectives and Diversity Issues

- Group discussion on Cultural Diversity

Assignment

- Read Chapter 5 and be prepared for group discussion of **Suggested Activities** in Chapter 5
- Do pre-chapter self-inventory

March 2

Chapter 5: Clients Rights and Counselor Responsibility

- Group discussion based upon suggested activities at the end of the chapter
- The importance of informed consent forms
- Job alike groups will create an informed consent form

Assignment

- Read Chapter 6 and take self-inventory
- Be prepared for group discussion of **Suggested Activities** in Chapter 6
- Give special attention to "harm to self or others"
- Create an informed consent form. **Due March 16**

March 9

Chapter 6: Confidentiality: Ethical and Legal Issues

- Privilege vs. confidentiality
- Legal Issues and Malpractice Concerns and assessment strategies for harm to self

Assignment

- Read Chapter 10 and take self inventory
- Continue to work on CD-ROM

March 16

Chapter 10: Issues in Theory, Practice, and Research

- Developing basic ethical counseling constructs

Assignment

- Study for midterm exam on Chapters 1-6 & 10.

March 23

Visit to Juvenile Hall

Assignment

- **Study for midterm exam on Chapters 1-6 & 10.**
It will consist of approximately 20 multiple choice questions from your readings and short essay questions on law and ethics. The midterm will take place on April 6.

March 30-NO CLASS/SPRING BREAK

April 6

Midterm Exam

April 13

No Class/Work on CD-ROM assignment

April 20 Special Education Law/504 Law/Child Abuse Prevention

April 27 Visit to Parents Helping Parents

May 4 Visit to DeAnza College

May 11 Attendance Law/Youth Law/Sexual Harrasement

 Semester Review/CD-ROM Assignments due

PPSC-Standard 6 and 18 Professional Ethics and Legal Mandates

1. The student will be able to respond to ethical dilemmas through the application of an ethical decision-making process and using the Basic Moral Principles.
2. The student will have a greater understanding of and be able to communicate his or her own value system with emphasis on how these values are likely to impact counseling.
3. The student will be able to identify the major components of ethical codes for professional counselors.
4. The student will be able to apply relevant professional Ethical Codes and Standards to specific problem situations.
5. The student will be able to identify the laws that regulate special education, student records, confidentiality, child abuse reporting, school discipline, sexual harassment, 504 law, attendance law and alternative education.
6. The student will have an understanding of multicultural perspectives and diversity issues as it relates to ethical counseling.
7. The student will develop basic ethical counseling constructs.

Focus of this Ethics Course

This class will not be a lecture class. While some lectures will be given, the focus will be on discussion and interaction. There will also be experts guiding us through visits to Juvenile Hall, DeAnza College, and Parents Helping Parents.

Grading Practice and Policy

Your grade will be determined by evidence of your learning as demonstrated by your performance in the following areas:

- 10% Visits to three programs of interest and filling out an experience sheet for each visit; an informed consent form will be created; an ethical dilemma will be worked through using the ethical decision making process.
- 30% Midterm exam, multiple choice and short essay questions that will be taken from our reading assignments and lectures.
- 30% Class participation and attendance.
- 30% Final exam - The completed CD-ROM assignments handed in at the last class meeting. You will be responsible for the first eight segments and the pre/post inventories.

I do ask that you function in the class as a professional. Class attendance will be very important. I ask that you be on time and come prepared.

Make sure you have someone to pick up your handouts for you if you are absent.

If you are enrolled in EDCO 292 or working as a school counselor, teacher or in an agency, your work experience that relates to legal and ethical issues will be important to our class discussions. As "real" material related to your work is confidential, any class discussion or examples must not be identifiable as to school, agency or particular people involved.

- a) **Academic integrity statement (from Office of Judicial Affairs):**
"Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work." Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found on <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>
- b) **Campus policy in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act:**
"If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability."