



# TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

## Course Syllabus

### Fall 2012

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS  
COUN 0775

SEPTEMBER 12 TO DECEMBER 5  
WEDNESDAYS 1:00 – 3:50

INSTRUCTOR: THE REV. DR. PAUL D. SCUSE  
Email: [pscuse@tyndale.ca](mailto:pscuse@tyndale.ca)  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30 & Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00

To access your course material, please go to <http://www.mytyndale.ca>

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to contribute to the ethical development of the professional. Counsellor issues pertaining to legal responsibilities and liabilities, professional ethical standards and general professional conduct in contemporary society are considered. The AAMFT Code of Ethics serves as the primary standard for this course.

This course is designed to offer the participant a foundational knowledge of the field of professional ethics as it relates to the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy. This course is intended to acquaint the participant with the content of the Code of Ethics of the AAMFT, the process of ethical decisional making and, hence, to contribute to the overall ethical development of the professional. Issues pertaining to legal responsibilities and liabilities, professional ethical standards and general professional conduct in contemporary society will be considered.

**Prerequisites:** This course is intended for senior counselling major students. Successful completion of Counselling Skills Lab I (COUN 0601) and Counselling Skills Lab II (COUN 0602) is required.

## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should:

1. Be able to distinguish among morals, values, ethics, and the law and to explore how they each impact on professional practice;
2. Have an increased personal understanding of issues related to ethics and the law within the practice of marriage and family therapy;
3. Have examined one's own ethical decision-making processes and developed guidelines for enhancing one's ability to generate ethical behaviours and solutions to conflicts arising in the clinical practice.

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### A. REQUIRED TEXTS

*The user's guide to the AAMFT Code of Ethics*, (2001). Washington, DC: American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. (ISBN 1 93 18 46 057)

AAMFT *Code of Ethics*, Washington, DC: American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. (This text will be available on the class website in a PDF format.)

Sanders, R.K. (1997). *Christian Counseling Ethics: A handbook for therapists, pastors & counselors*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press. (ISBN 0 8308 1892 8)

Beamish, S., Melanson, M., & Oladimeji, M. (1998). *Client rights in psychotherapy & counselling: A handbook of client rights and therapist responsibility*. Toronto: Client Rights Project. (This text will be available on the class website in a PDF format.)

Wilcoxon, S., Remley, T., Gladding, S. (2012) *Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy – 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Pearson

#### B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

**1. Integrative Research Paper:** Due on Wednesday November 7, 2012 at 1:00 pm; 40% of final grade.

Each student will select a topic or an issue that is clearly and directly relevant to the field of professional ethics. The student will then write a clear and concise integrative paper on that topic or issue. The paper should provide clear direction for professional practice that is based on an integration of ethical/legal and biblical perspectives.

This paper will be evaluated as an academic research paper. Therefore, along with the requirement for such a paper, a thesis statement should be clearly evident and adequate support from credible resources provided.

All written submissions must adhere to APA standards. All papers should reflect graduate-level competency in regards to matters of grammar, punctuation etc.

Length of paper: 10 pages of written text, not counting references and bibliography.

**2. Discussion Group Participation:** 10% of final grade.

A significant amount of learning in this course will occur in and through participation in a discussion group. General contribution to the learning ethos of the course will, therefore, be a part of the overall class evaluation.

**3. Reading and Class Participation:** 10% of final grade

**4. Final Examination** 40% of final grade.

A final examination will be comprised of some short answer questions, some multiple choice questions and a case study.

Date: December 12, 2012 at 1:00 – 3:50 pm

## **C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**

Deadlines:

Papers are due at the beginning of class. Papers handed in late will receive a **one percent deduction per day**. With the exception of “extreme and extenuating circumstances”, no papers will be accepted two weeks after the due date.

If there are some significant, unusual and unpredictable circumstances which prevent you from getting your assignment in on time, please complete the REQUEST FOR EXTENSION DUE TO EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES form found at the end of this syllabus, specifying the nature of these circumstances and submit it to me **by the due date** for that assignment. All assignments must be completed and submitted in order to receive a credit in this course.

If you need to get hold of me for something fairly brief, before/after class or in the hall are possibilities. For lengthier questions you will need to make an appointment with me.

## Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://tyndale.ca/registrar>.

## D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Value	Date Due
Integrative Research Paper	40%	November 7, 2012
Discussion Group Participation	10%	December 5, 2012
Reading and Class Participation	10%	December 5, 2012
Final Examination	40%	December 12, 2012
Total Grade	100%	

Regular attendance in and punctuality for all classes is expected for all students.

Absence from more than 2 classes may result in the loss of credit.

#### **IV. COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT**

Through reading, discussion, exercises, and reflection the student will be encouraged to examine his/her own values and ethics as they impact on the professional practice of Marriage and Family Therapy.

After an initial reflection on some basic principles of Ethical Theory (Principle Ethics and Virtue/Character Ethics) and an integrative multi-leveled understanding of Christian Ethical Reasoning, an Ethical Decision Making Model will be developed as a guide for making ethical decisions in the professional context. Thereafter, the course will follow the sequence of principles as outlined in the AAMFT Code of Ethics.

Topics will include AAMFT Code of Ethics, ethical issues in Marriage and Family Therapy (such as informed consent, confidentiality, therapeutic contract, fees, competence, dual relationships, supervisory and teacher-student relationships, research), legal aspects (such as privileged communication, subpoenas and court orders, courtroom testimony, malpractice suits), and values impacting on professional practice (such as issues pertaining to marriage, divorce, co-habitation, homosexuality, extramarital affairs, abortion, child-rearing, elder-care, euthanasia, suicide, violence, religion, culture).

Students will also be encouraged to explore areas of special interest to them.

#### **V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

(To be provided by the instructor)

READING & PARTICIPATION REPORT

NAME: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Mail Box: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name)

Please evaluate your comprehension of the required texts for this course by circling the appropriate number according to the following scale:

- 1. I didn't read the text
- 2. I read parts of the text
- 3. I read most of the text
- 4. I read and understood most of the text
- 5. I read the text and feel confident in being able to apply what I read.

The user's guide to the AAMFT Code of Ethics 1 2 3 4 5

*AAMFT Code of Ethics,* 1 2 3 4 5

*Christian Counseling Ethics: A handbook for therapists, pastors & counselors* 1 2 3 4 5

*Client rights in psychotherapy & counselling: A handbook of client rights and therapist responsibility.* 1 2 3 4 5

Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy 1 2 3 4 5

MY SELF ASSIGNED MARK FOR THE READING REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS COURSE OUT A POSSIBLE 5 POINTS IS: \_\_\_\_\_ POINTS

Class Participation:

- 1. I missed several classes
- 2. I attended but hardly ever participated
- 3. I participated from time to time
- 4. I participated regularly
- 5. I made significant contributions to the class

MY SELF ASSIGNED MARK FOR THE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS COURSE OUT A POSSIBLE 5 POINTS IS: \_\_\_\_\_ POINTS

MY SELF ASSIGNED MARK FOR THE COMBINED READING & PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS COURSE OUT A POSSIBLE 10 POINTS IS: \_\_\_\_\_ POINTS



**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION DUE TO EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**TYNDALE SEMINARY**

**PROFESSIONAL ETHICS (COUN 0775)**

**Professor: Dr. Paul D. Scuse**

_____	_____
	Date
_____	_____
Surname	Given Name

Name of Assignment Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date of Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

Circumstances that Necessitate a Request for Extension:

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Student's suggested NEW DUE DATE for Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \*

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Extension Request: Granted \_\_\_\_\_ New Due Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Denied \_\_\_\_\_