

# NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## PSY 627(8160)

### Legal and Ethical Issues for Marriage Family Therapists

#### Syllabus and Course Schedule

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<http://www.carolinepaltinphd.com/psy-627-legal--ethical-issues.html>

**Course:** PSY 627 Legal Ethical Issues for Marriage Family Therapists

**Textbook:** issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions (9<sup>th</sup> edition) Gerald Corey

**Each student will also obtain a free copy of the Board of Psychology pamphlet “Professional Psychotherapy Never Includes Sex” distributed on the first day of class.**

Course Schedule: M and W 5:30-10pm November 21, 23, 28, 30, 05 ,07,12, 14, AND **Saturday**, December 17<sup>th</sup> 1-5pm 2016.

Suggested Readings:

Becoming a Helper – Corey

Ethics: Theory and Practice: Jacques Thiroux

I Never Knew I had a Choice – M Corey

Boundary Issues in Counseling – Corey

American Psychological Association Ethical Standards

CAMFT Ethical Standards <http://aamft.org/imis15/Documents/Legal%20Ethics/AAMFT-code-of-ethics.pdf>

Professional Psychotherapy Never Includes Sex

<http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/proftherapy.pdf>

The Myth of Mental Illness –Szasz

**Course Description:** This course examines the professional laws and ethics pertaining to the practice of psychotherapy, the content of these ethical and legal codes, the meaning of these tenants, and the underlying principles involved. Course sessions will consist of lecture discussion, demonstration role plays and exercises and videos to examine and apply varied ethical systems to a variety of issues encountered in psychotherapeutic practice.

**Course Objectives:** The objective of this course is to increase the student’s ability to understand and apply ethical theories and systems related to psychotherapy and professional relationships.

In addition, students will be able to understand, analyze and evaluate statutes and cases pertaining to professional psychotherapy. Students will also gain understanding of specific legal/ethical practices for counselors and psychologists, including confidentiality, due process and privacy and legal privileges. The course assists the student in ethical problem solving and in developing his or her own ethical code of conduct which surpasses the minimal standards set forth by the licensing board.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

- Demonstrate an understanding of the laws, ethical codes, and values in the counseling profession.
- Identify and integrate relevant legal and ethical responsibilities within the practice of psychotherapy.
- Demonstrate the ability to assess a client's danger to self and/or others and to implement legal and ethical interventions based on that assessment.
- Integrate the understanding of the issues of confidentiality, unprofessional conduct, and managing ethical boundaries into counseling practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to write and file mandated reports.
- Incorporate ethical considerations regarding multicultural and diversity issues into mental health practice.

**Evaluation and Attendance:** Due to the intensive nature of this course, you will be expected to attend all scheduled classes and remain for the full time period. If you are planning to miss more than two scheduled classes or any exam date, you should consider taking this course at a later date.

**In Class Exercises:** These exercises will vary in nature, and may include group participation, discussions or introspective exercises or role plays emphasizing application of course concepts.

**Reaction Paper:** You will be asked to respond in written form to videos, and topics presented in the course. There will be one reaction paper, one page or less which will provide the instructor with awareness of your impressions and understanding of presentations.

**Interview Paper:** Involves interviewing a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Social Worker, MFT or LPCC about their personal ethical practices and specific challenging experiences they have encountered. The student is to develop his/her code of ethics in the course of this month, and this interview serves to assist in this process. This paper is one page minimum and no maximum and is meant to serve as an opportunity to explore the ethical decision making process of a licensed individual with the idea that this will inform the student's own ethical decision making.

**Ethics Research:** This paper consists of a 5 page double spaced typed paper examining a current ethical issue in psychotherapy. The paper should explore current research and writing on the topic of choice and may include material from the text, but text should not be the only source. The conclusion should include the student's reflections summary. A reference page should be

included, and all works should be cited appropriately in the text of the paper. A portion of the grade is based on submission of a statement of proposed interested (no more than two sentences), describing the topic you wish to research.

Quizzes – There are TWO quizzes, multiple choice and true/false, which will cover a small portion of course material. Students will be given advance notice of topics to be covered on the quizzes.

Final Examination: The final examination will consist of an essay take-home portion and an in class multiple choice portion. A study guide to the final exam will be given out in the third week of this course. A portion of the take home is to consist of the construction of a personal working code of ethics. NOTE: The take home portion of the Final exam is due no later than Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at midnight. I am unable to accommodate late submissions.

Material on the final exam will be drawn from the text, lectures, videos and presentations.

**DUE DATES ON ALL ASSIGMENTS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE.**

Grading:

Reaction Papers (2)	5pts
Interview Paper	10pts
Excercises	10pts
Quizzes (2)	25pts
Research Paper	30pts
Final Exam	90pts
Total Points	175pts

Grading Scale: Grades are calculated based on the total points earned and are assigned on the basis of full completion of requirements for the assignment. Higher values assigned to those papers and assignments which demonstrate exceptional skills and mastery of the material, and express this mastery in a particularly articulate and well developed manner free of grammatical and syntax errors. Final Grade Scale is as follows:

A+ 169-175	A 163-168	A- 157-162
B+ 151-156	B 145-150	B- 139-144
C+ 133-138	C 127-132	C- 121-126
D+ 115-120	D 109-114	D- 103-108
F 0-102		

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas or work as one's own. Students must give credit for any information that is not either the result of original research or common knowledge. If a student borrows ideas or information from another author, he/she must acknowledge the author in the body of the text and on the reference page. Students found plagiarizing are subject to the penalties outlined in the Policies and Procedures section of the University Catalog, which may include a failing grade for the work in question or for the entire course. The following is one

of many websites that provide helpful information concerning plagiarism for both students and faculty: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

**Ethics:**

Ethical behavior in the classroom is required of every student. Cheating of any sort is not tolerated. The course will identify ethical policies and practices relevant to course topics.

**Technology:**

Students are expected to be competent in using current technology appropriate for this discipline. Such technology may include word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software. Use of the internet and e-mail may also be required.

**Diversity:**

Learning to work with and value diversity is essential in every class. Students are expected to exhibit an appreciation for multinational and gender diversity in the classroom.

**Civility:**

As a diverse community of learners, students must strive to work together in a setting of civility, tolerance, and respect for each other and for the instructor. Rules of classroom behavior (which apply to online as well as onsite courses) include but are not limited to the following:

- Conflicting opinions among members of a class are to be respected and responded to in a professional manner.
- Side conversations or other distracting behaviors are not to be engaged in during lectures, class discussions or presentations
- There are to be no offensive comments, language, or gestures

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students seeking special accommodations due to a disability must submit an application with supporting documentation, as explained under this subject heading in the General Catalog. Instructors are required to provide such accommodations if they receive written notification from the University.

**Writing Across the Curriculum:**

Students are expected to demonstrate writing skills in describing, analyzing and evaluating ideas and experiences. Written reports and research papers must follow specific standards regarding citations of an author's work within the text and references at the end of the paper. Students are encouraged to use the services of the University's Writing Center when preparing materials.

The following website provides information on APA, MLA, and other writing and citation styles that may be required for term papers and the like:

<http://library.nu.edu/FindResources/ReferenceTools/citations.html>

**National University Library:**

National University Library supports academic rigor and student academic success by providing access to scholarly books and journals both electronically and in hard copy. Print materials may

be accessed at the Library in San Diego or through document delivery for online and regional students. Librarians are available to provide training, reference assistance, and mentoring at the San Diego Library and virtually for online or regional students. Please take advantage of Library resources:

URL: <http://library.nu.edu>.

Contact the Library:

- [RefDesk@nu.edu](mailto:RefDesk@nu.edu)
- (858) 541-7900 (direct line)
- 1-866-NU ACCESS x7900 (toll free)

Use the Library Training Tools (on the Library Homepage) for additional help

- Recorded class presentations
- Tutorials & Guides (APA/MLA, Peer-Review, and more)

Please see me if you have questions, curiosities or encounter any problems during this course. I will make every effort to be available to assist in clarifying material and facilitating completion of assignments. You are strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor regarding any problems you encounter in the course. I can most easily be reached by email at [cpaltin@nu.edu](mailto:cpaltin@nu.edu) or by voicemail/phone at (714) 429-5133.

We will refer to this syllabus throughout the course. It is your contract with the instructor, and you are expected to be familiar with the requirements and due dates.

## PSY 627 Course Schedule

Legal Ethical Issues in Marriage Family Therapy

This schedule is tentative and may be adjusted at the Instructor's discretion in order to accommodate assignments and topics

### **We will refer to CAMFT guidelines throughout the course**

Date	Daily Topics, Required Readings and Assignment Due Dates
M 11/21	Introduction to the Course: Definitions and theories of Ethics and Morality; Role plays Personal Values Assessment; Diagnosis as an ethical Dilemma  CH 1 & 2
W 11/23	<b>NO CLASS:</b> STUDENTS CONDUCT INTERVIEWS AND LIBRARY RESEARCH FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENT COMPLETION

Students are to research common ethics controversies and violations and assemble Research for the research paper assignment

Readings: Ch 3 & 4

M 11/28 Ethical Decision Making Models including the Feminist Model of Ethical decision making  
Library Research Assignment

W 11/30 Counselor as Person and a Professional, Role-plays and Exercises in Transference and Countertransference

Readings: Ch 6 & 7

M 12/05 Countertransference Continued – Client Rights and Confidentiality  
Values Assumptions  
**Quiz # 1**  
Read Ch 8 & 9

W 12/07 Western Cultural Assumptions in Therapy- Multicultural counseling  
**Reaction paper # 1 due**

Readings: Chapters 8 & 9

M 12/12

Ethics and Justice  
Right to Die, Confidentiality and Duty to Warn

Managing boundaries and dual relationships  
**Quiz # 2**

Readings: Chapters 10 & 11

W12/14 Managing Boundaries and Multiple Relationships continued  
VIDEO PRESENTATION  
**Research Papers Due**

Readings: Chapter 12 & 13

**FINAL EXAM MULTIPLE CHOICE PORTION**  
**Reaction to Video Due (reaction paper #2)**

Saturday  
12/17  
1-5

FINAL EXAMINATION (Take Home)