



# BRANDON UNIVERSITY

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**Faculty of Education  
Graduate Studies & Field Research**

**04.768 Ethical and Legal Issues for Counsellors  
Spring Session 2014 Both Terms**

**Instructor Name:** Cam Symons

**Office #:** EB 109

**Telephone:** (204) 571 8535 Cell/Text 204 573 6522

**Email:** [symonsc@brandonu.ca](mailto:symonsc@brandonu.ca)

**Website:** [www.camsymons.net](http://www.camsymons.net) or [www.brandonuteachertools.net](http://www.brandonuteachertools.net)

**Moodle Page:** <http://moodle.brandonu.ca/course/view.php?id=1248>

**Course Dates:** In-person on-campus sessions will be held from 9:00 to 4:00 on Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **Course Description:**

**04:768 ETHICAL & LEGAL ISSUES FOR COUNSELLORS**

(3) Prerequisite: 04:708 or permission of Instructor.

The course will provide the participant with background knowledge on ethical decision making models and the ethical and legal codes that guide counselling practice. There will also be opportunities to practice skills working with cases involving ethical and legal issues. Credit cannot be held for both this course and 04:568. 3 lecture hours per week, one term.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

- Know the requirements outlined in the CCPA's Code of Ethics;
- Know the legislative and common law requirements for counsellors;
- Be aware of various perspectives on ethics and ethical decision making;
- Demonstrate the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions on ethical matters in a counselling context.

**Knowledge:** What things must students know?

- The rights of clients in counselling
- The responsibilities of counsellors
- The meaning and requirements of confidentiality and privileged communication
- The terms of informed consent and ways of ensuring informed consent by clients
- The requirements for record keeping by counsellors
- The responsibilities of counsellors in the legal system (subpoenas, testimony)
- The conditions defining counsellor competence
- The conditions defining counsellor malpractice and/or negligence

**Skills:** What things must students be able to do?

- Discuss the ethical considerations involved in specific counselling scenarios
- Weigh the various ethical and legal considerations in a scenario to arrive at a decision

**Products:** What kinds of product(s) must the students be able to create?

- Notes, responses, and journaling on individual topics. (including Moodle forums, and VoiceThread)
- Completed quizzes on each topic
- 10 item annotated bibliography on counselling articles
- Essay of publishable quality on a topic related to counselling ethics

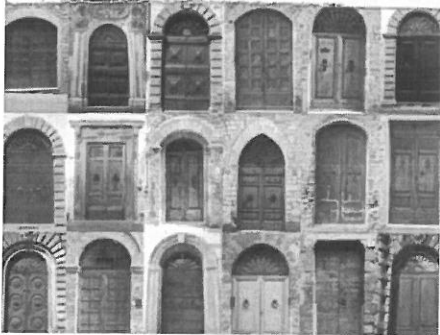
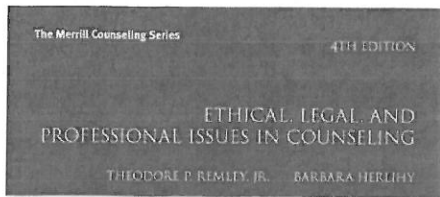
**Values:** What kinds of attitudes or values must the students be able to demonstrate?

- Commitment to clients.
- Commitment to the improvement of one's own performance as a professional.
- Collegiality with colleagues.
- Professionalism.
- Confidentiality.
- Ethical practice.

**The sources** that will provide the knowledge students will need to acquire will include

- The Remley and Herlihy Text
- Videos and video clips
- Notes, Powerpoints, etc. provided by the instructor and fellow students
- Library resources
- Internet sources

## Required Texts & References:



**Lauralee in the Campus Books store has ordered special packages of this text for you. The package includes both a hard copy text, as well as an access code for the ebook (should you prefer to read on your computer or tablet or phone) and access to online video resources as well.**

**You can get this package by calling Elyse, Clark, Lauralee, or Amber at Brandon U Campus Books at 204 727 9732. They will take your information and ship the package out to you.**

### **Statement on Accommodation:**

Brandon University is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities. Students are responsible for registering with Student Services, providing official documentation, and requesting appropriate accommodation with reasonable advanced notice. If you have registered with the Disability Services Coordinator, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. For more information about services for students with disabilities, contact the Disability Services Coordinator located in the Accessible Learning Centre, Room 106 A.E. McKenzie Bldg or call 727-9759.

### **Course Assignments (APA version 6.0 required):**

- The Graduate Studies Committee, and the Dean of Education, have affirmed that “all graduate courses in Education must include a requirement of a writing assignment of publishable quality.” This would mean an article or essay. Therefore, this will be part of our assessment plan. This will be worth 20%.
- In the summative seminar, which you will take at the conclusion of your program, you may (depending upon the instructor) be required to produce an annotated bibliography of 50 articles based on coursework done throughout your program. So that you will not be sideswiped by that when you take that course, you can develop a chunk of your future annotated bibliography by acquiring ten articles and writing annotations on them in this course now. This will be worth 10% of the final grade. These can, however, be the same articles you source for the paper mentioned above.

- Most of the marks will be accumulated based on smaller chunks of work done throughout the course. These marks may be based on a response journal, quiz, case study, or other similar activity. These will range in the 10-20 mark area.
- The mark on all the mini assignments will be added up and converted to give a mark out of 70. The marks out of 20 for the essay and 10 for the bibliography will then be added to create a mark out of 100.
- The mark out of 100 will then be converted to a letter grade according to this scale.

Minimum grade requirement for graduate program: **B**

Grade Equivalencies:	A+	96-100	B-	70-74
	A	90-95	C+	65-69
	A-	85-89	C	60-64
	B+	80-84	D	50-59
	<b>B</b>	<b>75-79</b>	F	Under 50%

*Academic dishonesty will cancel out all the calculations above and result in an F-AD.*

#### Senate Approved Grading System (From B.U. Calendar)

<i>Verbal Description</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Grade Points</i>
Distinction	A+	4.30
	A	4.00
	A-	3.70
Superior	B+	3.30
	B	3.00
	B-	2.70
Average	C+	2.30
	C	2.00
	C-	1.70
Marginal	D	1.00
Failure	F	0.00

**Academic dishonesty:** (refer to the Graduate Calendar, section 5.3.2)

Plagiarism, cheating, falsification of records or research misconduct will result in disciplinary action. A student who is determined to be responsible for academic dishonesty or misconduct may be subject to the imposition of one or more of the following:

- a. requirement to repeat the assignment or examination, with or without grade reduction
- b. assignment of a grade of zero in the assignment, test or exam
- c. assignment of "F-AD" in the course in which the offence is committed
- d. suspension from some or all courses in which a final grade has not been entered and the assignment of "F-AD" in all such courses
- e. suspension from all Brandon University teams, clubs or like organizations for a period of 1 to 5 years
- f. suspension from the faculty for a period of 1 to 5 years
- g. expulsion from the faculty
- h. suspension from the University for a period of 1 to 5 years
- i. expulsion from the University
- j. cancellation or revocation of degree

**Confidentiality within the course itself:**

During discussions on VoiceThread or in online discussion forums, you and your colleagues may discuss cases in your professional practice in your school/workplace that relate to a topic under discussion. When doing so, the expectation will be that no identifying names or other information be raised in these discussions. The other expectation will be that the confidentiality of all of these discussions will be honoured.

**Instructor / Course Evaluation:**

The anonymous course evaluations will be completed online.

All students are expected to complete the evaluation.

Dates of the evaluation will be communicated by the instructor through the Graduate Studies Office.

