

**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***

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### **EDCO 821**

#### **ETHICS AND ISSUES IN PASTORAL COUNSELING**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Of key import in the realm of pastoral counseling is adherence to a biblically based standard of ethical behavior. This course will examine the ethical codes utilized by major Christian counseling organizations in order to assist the student in knowing and pursuing the proper path in relationships with others during the course of pastoral counseling, as well as the moral standards set forth in the Bible. A variety of current relevant issues will be examined through this lens.

#### **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 provides a framework to the values and standards of a given profession, defines behavior, and provides 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 its related issues.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

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 foundational 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. Discussion Board Forums (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. 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. Each thread must be at least 400 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.

(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 Ethical Understanding Paper at the conclusion of this course. (MLO: A, C, D)

- E. Comparison Critique

Using the assignment instructions, the student must write a maximum of 5 pages in current APA format as a comparison critique of the readings in the Gielser 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 code of ethics defining his or her commitment to an ethical approach to the practice of pastoral counseling. 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 Current Ethical Understanding Paper, the student must complete a 5–8-page paper addressing the differences between his or her former and his or her 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
Initial Understanding of Ethics paper	100
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 150 pts ea)	450
Comparison Critique	150
Personal Code of Ethics	200
Concluding Understanding of Ethics Paper	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

## B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

## C. Disability Assistance

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

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **EDCO 821**

Textbooks: Clark & Rakestraw, *Readings in Christian Ethics, Vol. 1: Theory and Method* (1994).  
 Clark & Rakestraw, *Readings in Christian Ethics, Vol. 2: Readings in Christian Ethics* (1994).  
 Geisler, *Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues and Options* (2010).  
 Sanders, *Christian Counseling Ethics* (2013).  
 Truill & Carter. *Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders* (2004).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Clark & Rakestraw, Vol. 1: chs. 1–2 Sanders: chs. 1–2 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Initial Understanding of Ethics Paper	10 0 100
<b>2</b>	Geisler: Part 1 (pp. 15–130) 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Thread	100
<b>3</b>	Clark & Rakestraw, Vol. 1: ch. 5 Truill & Carter: chs. 1–6 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Replies	50
<b>4</b>	Sanders: chs. 14–15, 18 Clark & Rakestraw, Vol. 1: chs. 7–8 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Thread	100
<b>5</b>	Sanders: chs. 3–5, 9 Clark & Rakestraw, Vol. 1: ch. 4 Truill & Carter: ch. 8 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Replies Comparison Critique	50 150
<b>6</b>	Sanders: chs. 6–8, 10–11, 16, Appendices 1–2 Clark & Rakestraw, Vol. 2: chs. 1–3 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Thread	100

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>7</b>	Geisler: Part 2 (pp.131–358) Clark & Rakestraw, Vol. 2: chs. 4–6 Truill & Carter: Appendices B, C, D, E 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Replies Personal Code of Ethics	50 200
<b>8</b>	Sanders: chs. 20–21 Clark & Rakestraw, Vol. 2: ch. 8 1 presentation	Concluding Understanding of Ethics Paper	100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**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**.