

# COU208 Ethics in Counselling

**Level:** 2

**Credit Units:** 5 Credit Units

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Presentation Pattern:** EVERY SEMESTER

## Synopsis:

The course aims at transforming students into professional counsellors who are ethical, therapeutically effective and multiculturally sensitive. The course content will cover professional ethics, the counsellor as a person and as a professional, professional issues in counselling, values and the counselling relationship, multicultural perspectives and diversity issues, as well as client rights and counsellor responsibilities.

## Topics:

- Introduction to Professional Ethics
- Ethical Decision-making
- The Counsellor as a Person
- The Counsellor as a Professional
- Values and the Professional Counsellor
- Values Clarification for Counsellors
- The Ethics of Imposing Values on Clients
- Values Conflict: To Refer or Not
- Client-counsellor Relationship
- Multiple Relationships
- Boundary Issues
- Multiculturalism: Definitions and Terminology
- The Need for Multicultural Emphasis
- Cultural Values and Assumptions in Counselling
- Cultural Tunnel Vision and Culturally-encapsulated Counsellors
- Informed Consent
- Legal Aspects
- Educating Clients about Informed Consent
- The Content of Informed Consent
- Counsellor Responsibility in Record-keeping
- Division of Responsibility in Counselling

## Textbooks:

Corey, G., Corey, M.S. and Callanan, D.: Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions. (eText) 10 ed.  
Cengage  
ISBN-13: 9789814834803

**Learning Outcome:**

- Present an overview of the counsellor's ethical responsibilities
- Explain the importance of and need for self-awareness and self-monitoring, in minimising countertransference issues in counselling
- Recognise the importance of values and multicultural perspectives in counselling
- Differentiate between boundary crossing and boundary violation
- Interpret the ethical guidelines regarding confidentiality, and its limitations
- Examine the place of informed consent in the counsellor-client relationship
- Apply the Code of Ethics to guide counselling practices
- Demonstrate ethical thinking and ethical decision-making abilities in counselling
- Recognise transference and countertransference in counselling, and deal with these appropriately
- Analyse value conflicts in counselling, and handle these effectively
- Develop skills in managing multiple relationships and professional boundaries in counselling
- Examine the clinical implications of record-keeping

**Assessment Strategies (Evening Class):**

<b>Components</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weightage Allocation (%)</b>
Overall Continuous Assessment	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 1	4
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 2	3
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 3	3
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	40
Overall Examinable Components	Written Exam	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>