Course Description:
As Pastoral Counselors and people involved in various forms of ministry (spiritual direction, pastoral care, chaplaincy, etc.) we often face ethical dilemmas in regard to our work with vulnerable people. Our work necessarily requires us to consider issues of power and trust, and to know ourselves and our own values and vulnerabilities. In this course, we will consider a broad spectrum of ethical issues including power, confidentiality, informed consent, dual relationships, boundaries, and child abuse reporting as they apply in counseling and ministerial contexts.

Objectives:
By the end of the semester, all students will be able to:
1. Articulate their understanding of their professional identity and role within the counseling or ministry professions.
2. Identify major issues in professional ethics as they occur in either the counseling or ministerial context, as appropriate to the student’s field of study.
3. Articulate their personal ethical framework and thinking process.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with and ability to apply professional ethical standards as articulated in the Codes of Ethics of the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC).
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the requirements for reporting child abuse, maltreatment and neglect as outlined in the New York State reporting standards.
6. Articulate a theological framework for considering ethical issues as they arise in the professional setting.

TEXTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Req'd or Rec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R M Gula</td>
<td>Ethics in Pastoral Ministry</td>
<td>Paulist Press</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Pope &amp; M. Vasquez</td>
<td>Ethics in Psychotherapy and Counseling, 4th EDITION</td>
<td>Jossey-Bass</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Counseling Assoc.</td>
<td>Code of Ethics (download online from <a href="http://www.counseling.org">http://www.counseling.org</a> )</td>
<td>ACA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Association of Pastoral Counselors</td>
<td>AAPC Code of Ethics (download online from <a href="http://www.aapc.org">www.aapc.org</a>)</td>
<td>AAPC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herlihy &amp; Corey</td>
<td>ACA Ethical Standards Casebook</td>
<td>ACA Publishing</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Rec</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Trull and J. Carter</td>
<td>Ministerial Ethics</td>
<td>Baker Academic</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Rec</td>
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In addition to the above, readings from other sources (see weekly readings) will be placed on Blackboard, ERes, or accessible through Fordham Library electronic resources, as indicated.

**Methods of Instruction:**
- Online lectures and power point presentations
- Small group discussions
- Case studies
- Presentations of students' work with clients or congregants
- Other methods (film clips, fiction, personal assessments, etc.) may be employed as appropriate

**PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES (GRADES WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD):**

**Grading Policy:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>90-93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Below 80%</td>
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Failure to meet all course requirements will result in a failing grade (F)

**The following are required for all students:**
1. Thorough preparation: reading and reflecting on assigned material, and respectful participation in discussions
2. **On-time submission of all assignments.** Extensions will not be allowed except under extraordinary circumstances, and must be approved in advance. No grade of incomplete will be given without express approval in advance. All work will be submitted online via Blackboard.
3. **JOURNALS:** (15%). In most weeks, you will be asked to write a brief journal reflection on a question related to the week’s material. These journal reflections will be posted as you complete them.
4. **Weekly CASE discussions (25%):** Case write-ups are due by midnight each
5. **Final Exam:** Online exam, accessible through Blackboard. (35%)

**IMPORTANT notes on thinking, speaking, and writing:**
1. **Mutual respect and confidentiality:** I hope that we will all share freely from our experience during this course. To ensure that everyone feels free to do so, it is important that we listen and speak respectfully to each other. Also, all personal or case material shared in this class should be treated as confidential information, not to be shared outside the online classroom without permission. All material submitted to me will be treated as such.
2. **Inclusive language:** In keeping with 21st-century scholarship and ethical practice, Inclusive language regarding humanity is required in all assignments. You are also strongly urged to use inclusive language when referring to God or the sacred (this may be gender-neutral, or alternating gender-specific pronouns). If the latter practice is new to you, try to make an experiment of it for the semester.
3. **Academic honesty and integrity:** It should go without saying that our work requires honesty and integrity – this applies to academic productions as well as our work with clients or congregants. In every piece of writing produced for this class (and anywhere) you are expected to follow the practice of citing sources when you use others’ words. The rule is that any chain of three words or more that are taken from a published or unpublished text or personal communication must be cited. In addition, if you are using work that you have written for another purpose, this too must be cited, whether published or not. Plagiarism is a serious offense, and will considered grounds for failure in this course.
WEEKLY TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:
You will find detailed information regarding topics and assignments located in the Learning Space in the Blackboard learning platform.

Week 1. Profession or Vocation?; Ethics, Virtues, Values
This week you will read Gula, Ch. 1-4 and Pope and Vasquez, Preface, Ch.1-2. In addition to the reading, you will answer the Discussion Question, post a journal reflection based on the topic offered, and try your hand at the Case of Hal.

Week 2. The Ethical Decision-Making Process; Using Ethics Codes
This week you will read Pope and Vasquez, Ch. 3, 9, 11 and examine the ACA and AAPC Codes of Ethics (both are available in Learning Space and also Course Documents Folder). In addition to the reading, you will answer the Discussion Question, post a journal reflection based on the topic offered, and try your hand at the Case of Stella, Paula, and Rita.

Week 3. Competence and Self-Care; Trust and Power
This week you will read Pema Chodron: Learning to Stay, Gula, Ch. 5, Pope and Vasquez, Ch. 4, 6, 7, and Cataldo: Toward the Right Use of Power. In addition to the reading, you will answer the Discussion Question, post a journal reflection based on the topic offered, and try your hand at the Case of Lucy.

Week 4. Confidentiality and Informed Consent:
This week you will read: Gula, Ch. 7, Pope and Vasquez, Ch. 19, The Duty to Warn, Pope and Vasquez, Ch. 14, ACA Publication: ACA Publication: Implementing Informed Consent, Cal. State U. Counseling Ctr. Informed Consent Form, LINK TO Ken Pope's website regarding informed consent.

In addition to the reading, you will answer the Discussion Question, post a journal reflection based on the topic offered, and try your hand at the Case of Nurse Hathaway or Mercedes Rodriguez.

Week 5. Boundary Issues (Sexual Boundaries; Dual Relationships and Roles)
This week you will read: Gula, Ch. 6, Pope and Vasquez, Ch. 16 and 17; Dual Relationships Decision-Making Guide; When the Rabbi Sins - sermon on rabbinical boundary violations; and Therapist-Patient Sex as Sexual Abuse (K. Pope)

Week 6. NY State Child Abuse Identification and Reporting; Cultural Issues
This week you will read: P&V Ch. 18 and view a Power Point. Study it carefully as there will be a quiz that follows.

Week 7. Record–Keeping; Money; Availability
This week you will read Pope and Vasquez. Ch. 5, 13, 18. Review page 250 on bartering, and Pope and Vasquez, p. 279-280; 283-285; 344: P&V, Ch. 8, 13, Other readings as assigned in Learning Space

In addition to the reading, you will answer the Discussion Question, post a journal reflection based on the topic offered, and try your hand at the Case of Anna Frank.

Week 8. Malpractice and Legal Issues; Wrapping Up

This week you will read Pope and Vasquez, Ch. 10 and 20, and Bernstein and Hartsell, The Portable Ethicist, pp. 113-141

In addition to the readings, you will complete the course by taking the Final Exam which is located in the Course Documents folder.

READING SCHEDULE:

6. We will always read the chapters of Gula and Pope and Vasquez that are related to the week's topic (make sure you have the 4th Edition of Pope and Vasquez).
7. Each week, thoroughly review the ACA and AAPC Codes of Ethics sections that relate to the week's materials
8. There will be additional readings as assigned on the Blackboard Learning Space page – links will be provided.

OTHER MATERIALS:

Each week, there will be several forms of learning material available for you. These include: power point presentations, audio lectures, links to relevant websites, videos, or other materials.