Course: Religious and Spiritual Values in Counseling
Course Number: Coun 507

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Accommodation
Students needing an accommodation should immediately inform the course instructor. Students are referred to Disability Services (503-725-4155) to document their disability and to secure support services when appropriate.

Program Policy Statement: The counseling profession requires a high level of personal integrity, self-awareness, and personal maturity. Some core courses include experiences designed to enhance these qualities. These attributes may also be considered by faculty in assessing your overall qualifications for a career as a professional counselor.

All students in the program will demonstrate behavior that is consistent with the Ethical Standards forwarded by the American Counseling Association and the American Psychological Association in their Codes of Ethics. Failure to do so can result in termination from the program.

Course Description
Designed to enable counselors and educators to understand issues and concerns related to religious and spiritual values in counseling and education. Emphasizes developing best practices in approaching religion and spirituality within the context of client presenting issues and understanding the competencies defined by the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC). Major emphasis will be on spirituality and religion as embedded in culture and the need to create tolerance and understanding for diverse beliefs in a democratic society. Course is restricted to graduate students.

Objectives of Course
Students will:
1. Explore the relationship between religion and spirituality as human constructs that impact helping relationships.
2. Explore meaning making as a fundamental aspect of religion and spirituality that develop in cultural contexts.
3. Show an understanding of the differences between beliefs, practices, and experiences.
4. Understand the nine spirituality competencies developed by the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC).
5. Maintain an engaged and ethical professional practice.

Required Text

Participation
Much of our class will be conducted as a professional dialogue. Your participation and positive engagement are critical. Attend class and participate actively in an evolving dialogue and varied activities.

   1. Enter into dialogues to learn about differences between people. Listen to learn. Challenge each other to stay on the growing edge. Demonstrate civility when disagreeing. Show respect toward each other and our differences. Be engaged and participatory.

   2. Basics: Turn off cell phone while in class; respect the learning space in the classroom.

Missing class time will drop your grade.

Reflections on Practice Assignment
Using end of the chapter prompts from the text and/or personal creativity, students will complete a five page Reflections on Practice assignment. The assignment should address at least two of the ASERVIC competencies that inform professional practice. The assignment is designed to allow students the opportunity to formulate their ideas and position as professional counselors or educators who work with clients concerned with spiritual and religious issues. See page 175 of text for possible guiding questions. Due Friday, 6/30.

Evaluation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Both days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflection on Practice</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Due</td>
<td>6/30</td>
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Late assignments will receive partial credit. If you want your papers returned, please supply a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Papers with a SASE will receive comments from faculty; other papers will be read and graded. Papers without an SASE will be discarded after they are read and graded.
ASERVIC’s Spiritual Competencies

The nine spirituality competencies as they have been published (Miller, 1999) are as follows:

1. The professional counselor can explain the relationship between religion and spirituality, including similarities and differences.
2. The professional counselor can describe religious and spiritual beliefs and practices in a cultural context.
3. The professional counselor engages in self-exploration of religious and spiritual beliefs in order to increase sensitivity, understanding, and acceptance of diverse belief systems.
4. The professional counselor can describe her or his religious and/or spiritual belief system and explain various models of religious or spiritual development across the life span.
5. The professional counselor can demonstrate sensitivity and acceptance of a variety of religious and/or spiritual expressions in client communication.
6. The professional counselor can identify limits of her or his understanding of client’s religious or spiritual expression and demonstrate appropriate referral skills and generate possible referral sources.
7. The professional counselor can assess the relevance of the religious and/or spiritual domains in the client’s therapeutic issues.
8. The professional counselor is sensitive to and receptive of religious and/or spiritual themes in the counseling process as befits the expressed preference of each client.
9. The professional counselor uses a client’s religious and/or spiritual beliefs in the pursuit of the client’s therapeutic goals as befits the client’s expressed preference.
Spiritual and Religious Values in Counseling

Rolla E. Lewis, EdD, NCC

A Very Short List of References and Resources


**A Few Web Sites of Interest**

- [http://www.religioustolerance.org](http://www.religioustolerance.org) Religious Tolerance
- [http://www.igc.apc.org/atp/](http://www.igc.apc.org/atp/) Association for Transpersonal Psychology
- [http://www.explorefaith.org](http://www.explorefaith.org) Explore Faith
- [http://www.sofn.org.uk/](http://www.sofn.org.uk/) Sea of Faith Network, United Kingdom
- [http://www.spiritualityhealth.com](http://www.spiritualityhealth.com) Spirituality and Health
- [http://www.spiritweb.org/Spirit/workplace-1.html](http://www.spiritweb.org/Spirit/workplace-1.html) Spirituality in the Workplace
- [http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/sbi/](http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/sbi/) West Virginia Initiative for Innate Health

On the humorous side:

- [http://www.dogchurch.org/index.shtml](http://www.dogchurch.org/index.shtml) Virtual Church of the Blind Chihuahua
- [http://www.spiritslaughing.com](http://www.spiritslaughing.com) Spirituality and Humor