



Ethical Issues in Youth Ministry
SMIN 531
Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

This course provides a survey of legal and ethical concerns affecting youth leaders: boundary awareness, sexual ethics, counseling referral, rights to privacy, crisis response and management. This course will take a case study approach.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Crabtree, J. (2008). *Better safe than sued: Keeping your students and ministry alive*. Grand Rapids, MI: Youth Specialties, Zondervan.

Lebacqz, K. (1985). *Professional ethics: Power and paradox*. Nashville, TN: Abington Press.

Lovin, R. W. (2000). *Christian ethics: An essential guide*. Nashville, TN: Abington Press.

III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

- Discuss ethical issues that in the context of youth ministry.
- Describe the theological context for ethical pastoral conduct.
- Evaluate key ethical issues that confront youth leaders.
- Analyze and make well-reasoned-decisions using a decision making model in a case study approach.

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	6	180	18%
Case Studies	3	270	27%
Book Reviews	3	270	27%
Consultation	1	80	8%
Final Paper	1	200	20%
Total	14	1000	100

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Better Safe Than Sued	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 1 Discussion• Unit 1 Book Review
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Lovin chapters 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 2 Discussion• Unit 2 Case Study• Unit 2 Book Review
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Lovin chapter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 3 Discussion• Unit 3 Case Study
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Lebacqz chapters 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 4 Discussion• Unit 4 Case Study• Unit 4 Book Review
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Lebacqz part 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 5 Discussion• Unit 5 Consultation Paper
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No new readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 6 Discussion• Unit 6 Final Paper

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.