

## **Course Syllabus Spring Semester 2008**

Course Number and Title	EDL 770 Education Policy and Ethics
Department	Educational Leadership and Counseling
Class Location	TEC 338
Professor	Anthony J. Harris, Ed. D. Office: Room 319 K, TEC Office Telephone: 936-294-1155 Office E-mail: edu_ajh@shsu.edu

### **Course Description**

EDL 770, Education Policy and Ethics, focuses on ethical concepts important to educational leadership as well as to the process of ethical reasoning. Ethical reasoning is presented as a skill acquired through practice. Although readings are important, the essence of the course is the study of and practice with case studies. Students are encouraged to formulate, support, and defend moral principles that underlie their initial reactions to the cases. The goal of the course is to provide students the opportunity to develop sophisticated moral and ethical reasoning skills and behaviors that are value-based.

### **Text**

Beckner, W. (2004). *Ethics for Educational Leaders*. Boston: Pearson, Allyn & Bacon.

### **Additional Readings**

- <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/homepage.html>
- <http://www.josephsoninstitute.org/MED/MED-intro+toc.htm>
- <http://www.nea.org/aboutnea/code.html>
- <http://ethics.sandiego.edu/theories/Kant/index.asp>

The curricula for this course include (1) knowledge of the literature of the discipline and (2) ongoing student engagement in research related to professional practice.

Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

### **Course Objectives**

1. Endeavor to maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the law, demonstrating personal integrity and exemplifying honesty.
2. Assume responsibilities for professional practices and performance and continually strive to demonstrate competence.
3. Exemplify exemplary ethical relations with colleagues, students, staff, parents and other stakeholders.
4. Examine one's own code of ethics and values and understand how they relate to one's professional and personal behavior.
5. Understand the concepts of *ethics, morals, and values*, their relationship to one another, and how they impact thinking and behavior.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Students are expected to attend each class meeting and to fully participate in class discussions. More than two absences will result in the lowering of the final grade by one grade. (There is reasonable flexibility with this policy.) Each student is expected to notify the professor when (s)he cannot attend class.
2. Each student will prepare two case studies that involve one or more ethical issues. Case studies can be real or contrived. Case studies will be presented each week. Students will prepare for each case by conceptualizing the case, identifying ethical or moral issues, and developing well-thought out and intellectually sound responses to the case.
3. Each student will prepare a final project that will be entitled, *Ethical Leadership as I See It!* This project will be a reflection of the student's understanding of the role of ethics, morals, and values in shaping a leader's thinking and actions. The project can be presented in any format the student chooses, e.g. paper, video, PowerPoint, skit, art work, or some other creative medium. The project must relate to, but is not limited to, the field of education. The field of education encompasses all levels, PK- College.

### **Grading**

Final grade will be based on class attendance, case studies, participation in class discussions, and the quality of the final project.

**Disability Policy:** Students with disabilities that affect their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as a chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students – 294-1720.

### **Office Hours**

Monday 9:00 a – 2:00 p

Tuesday 2:30 p – 4:30 p

Wednesday 9:00 a – 2:00 p

Thursday 5:00 p- 6:00 p

Friday – By appointment

### **NOTE:**

In the event of inclement weather, please exercise sound judgment. Also, tune to local and area media outlets for up-to-date information regarding school closing. At no time should you risk your safety or the safety of others by driving in hazardous conditions. You will not be penalized for using good judgment.