**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

**Continuing Education**

**071307070**

Ethical and Legal Issues in Adult Learning

Category: Ethics Legal Issues

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*Ethical and Legal Issues in Adult Learning*

*1) Learning Materials:*

1.1 Prescribed Text: Brockett, R.G. and Hiemstra, R. (2004). *Toward Ethical Practice. Professional Practices In Adult Education and Human Resource Development.* Malabar: Krieger Publishing Company

Supplementary Text: Preston, N. (2001). *Understanding Ethics.* Sydney: The Federation Press

1.1Study Guide

1.2 Other Core Readings

1.3 Course Web Pages including,

Discussion Board

Supplementary Readings

*2) Overall Course Description*

Based on my study of ethics and experiences in the courts I understand that within society today professionals who follow and demonstrate ethical codes of behaviour are often perceived more favourably on their administrative reviews than those who do not. This course considers ethical and legal issues, personal and social values within the context of adult and counselling education. Explore and apply principles to solve ethical and law related problems that may affect your practices as an adult and/or counselling educator.

*3) Learning Objectives*:

Some key competencies that it is anticipated that you will gain from this course include being able to:

 3.1 Articulate your personal philosophy (Brockett and Hiemstra, 2004, pp. 9, 20, 35-36, 121-123, 128).

 3.2 Explain what might be involved in ethical conduct and moral issues in adult and counselling education (Brockett and Hiemstra, 2004, pp 1, 14 – 15, 94-97, 1-3 – 105, 110)

 3.3 Identify themes that could surround ethical and law-related issues (Brockett and Hiemstra, 2004, pp. 2-3, 5, 9-10, 14-15, 9, 19, 25, 114 -116)

 3.4 Recognise and respond to power and control issues and ethical dilemmas in adult and counselling education (Brocket and Hiemstra, 2004, pp. 52-70)

 3.5 Develop aspirational codes and practice standards to enhance an ethical environment at work and/or in the home. (Brockett and Hiemstra, 2004, pp. 87 -98)

Religion has seemingly featured in the development of social and law related codes although some perspectives such as conflict theories including Marxism, feminisms and critical theories often appear to decentre the role of religion. Religion might, for example, shape "aspirational codes" in ethics (Ross, 2004, p. 66). Ross (2004) states,

Detailed codes to control ethical behaviour are doomed to fail. They will foment endless litigation because it is impossible to achieve any kind of certainty in the principles and rules to be applied. There is a need for flexibility which is destroyed when ethical codes become too specific. (p. 66).

This concept seems to call for “aspirational codes” to guide and inform conduct. It appears to be important to resist extremism in its many forms ranging from biological to sociological determinism. This course includes a constellation of factors drawn from a number of areas that are linked with ethical and legal issues with adult and counselling education. For example, ethical issues that might arise with the education of adults include “respect for persons”, “beneficence”, “non-maleficience”, and “justice” (Morgan, 1995, p. 210). These factors are often connected with issues of power and control that might manifest in the workplace. Based on my experiences and practice interests some of these factors arise repeatedly in the education of adults. It is a theoretical intention of this course to provide materials that can stimulate your thinking, perhaps helping you to fine tune your approach to ethical and legal issues in adult and counselling education.

References

Brockett, R.G. & Hiemstra, R. (2004). *Toward Ethical Practice. Professional Practices in Adult Education and Human Resource Development.* Malabar: Krieger Publishing Company

Morgan, D. (1995). *Doctoring Legal Ethics: Studies in Irony. In Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility.* Oxford Clarendon Press

Ross, Y. (2004). *Lawyers' Responsibility and Accountability in Australia.* (3rd ed.) Australia: Butterworths

