Instructor: Jeffrey W. White, Ph.D, LMFT-S  
Office: Warrior Hall – 318 J  
Phone: 254-519-5769  
Email: j.white@tamuct.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11am-4pm

Method of Instruction and Course Access:  
This course is a 100% online course and uses TAMUCT’s Blackboard system (http://TAMUCT.blackboard.edu). You will use your University ID (UID) and the 6-digit University PIN to logon to this system.

UNILERT:  
UNILERT is an emergency notification service that gives TAMUCT the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email and text message. By enrolling in UNILERT, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location. Please enroll today at www.ct.tamus.edu/unilert.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and Description  
An overview of the contemporary and postmodern therapeutic directions in the field of marriage and family therapy. This course also includes an in depth examination of the Core Competencies for MFTs. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the theories and how they are applied to individuals, couples, and family systems, as well as practice theoretical concepts and interventions in role-play scenarios.

Course Learning Outcomes – this course targets two of the MFT program’s Student Learning Outcomes

(SLO-1) - Demonstrate knowledge and appropriate application of classical and postmodern MFT theories.  
(SLO-4) - Formulate treatment plans based on individual issues, relational dynamics, and contextual issues.

It targets these SLO’s through the following Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the various contemporary and postmodern approaches to MFT (SLO-1)  
2. Identify and apply approach-appropriate interventions to clinical cases in marriage and family therapy (SLO-1) (SLO-4)  
3. Identify the domains and subdomains of the MFT Core Competencies (SLO-1)  
4. Explain their personal theory of how change happens in marriage and family therapy (SLO-4)
Required Reading - Textbooks

Required Reading – Research Articles


Academic honesty statement:
Texas A&M University - Central Texas expects all students to maintain high standards of honor in personal and scholarly conduct. Any deviation from this expectation may result in a minimum of a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic dishonesty concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact me before taking a course of action. More information can be found at [http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/studentconduct/academicintegrity.php](http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/studentconduct/academicintegrity.php)

Absence / Late work policy: The course is designed in a very particular sequence with one assignment contributing to your development in the next assignment. For this reason, all assignments must be submitted by their due date. Assignments submitted within 24 hours after the due date will receive a 2 point deduction and assignments submitted after 24 hours but within 1 week after the due date will receive a 20 point deduction. Please do not submit assignment more than 7 days late as they will not be accepted nor will they be graded.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Class Participation (15% or 5% each): Students will complete 3 assignments based on the assigned reading. Each assignment will be posted under the Discussion tab and will be due at specified time noted. Assignments will be graded on effort to answer the material and indication that the student has completed the reading. Each student is also required to monitor and participate in online discussions. Online discussions will be available for students to ask questions about the assigned reading prior to the due date to promote understanding of material.

Competency Assignments: Case Conceptualization, Clinical Assessment, and Treatment Plan Assignments (36% or 12% each) Assignment will be posted on Bb. More instructions will be posted on Bb.

Exams (20% = 5% Midterm and 15% Final). Two exams will cover the texts and material presented in class in a multiple choice, essay, and case-study format. Students will demonstrate their knowledge and ability to apply their knowledge to questions presented. Students who have not completed the weekly assignments will not be allowed to take the midterm or final.

Research Paper (9%): Choose a research paper related to one of the topics covered in the course. A minimum of 10 journal articles and texts must be included in paper and in bibliography. This finished product will be worth 90 points. NOTE: This paper is to be a minimum of 15 pages in length (15 pages of content does not include abstract, bibliography or title page). All papers are to be typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman (12 point) with one inch margins. One page is composed of print on the entire page. Consideration should be given to neatness, grammatical correctness, style and readability, promptness, and content. Each of these is a component of your evaluation on every project. Use the APA Manual 6th edition for guidance.

Video Interview Assignment (10%): For this assignment, you will assume the role of an expert in one of the approaches (covered in this class) to family therapy. You will then find another classmate or friend to interview for 10 minutes. During this interview, the interviewer (your classmate or friend) will ask a minimum of 4 questions and a maximum of 6 questions. He or she may only choose from the questions below:

1. “Please summarize your chosen approach to family therapy”
2. “What makes your chosen approach distinct from other approaches to family therapy?”
3. “What drew you to this approach personally?”
4. “Can you give a case example in which this approach proved to be useful and describe how it was useful?”
5. “Can you describe any key interventions associated with this approach?”
6. “How would you describe this approach in one sentence?”

Your interviewer may ask you these questions in any particular order. If you want the interviewer to ask you the questions in a particular order, then please advise them to do so. Please also ask them to only ask the questions above. The questions are designed for you to be speaking for 9 of the 10 minutes. If you are finished in 3 minutes, then you can assume that you have not provided enough detail in your answers. HINT: This is not something to videotape the first time you do it. You want to practice beforehand. You do not necessarily need to practice with the interviewer, because the questions are already selected. Please do this is a video and then submit on YouTube. You will then need to submit the weblink so that myself and your classmates can go and view the videos.

Essays (10% or 5% each): Write a three page essay related to the assigned topics on Bb.
For all written assignments, APA style must be followed, including cover page, running head, heading hierarchy, paragraph and margin formatting, and citations and references as needed.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

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<thead>
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<th>Graded Assignments</th>
<th># Due</th>
<th>Each</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Competency Assignments:</td>
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<td>Interview Assignment:</td>
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Posting of Grades:

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COURSE CALENDAR

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Instructional Activities</th>
<th>Assignment(s) Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>Explain the Various and Postmodern Approaches to MFT</td>
<td>Nichols – Chapter 1, 10, and 11</td>
<td>Discussion Board #1</td>
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<td>Modern Family Therapy</td>
<td>Becvar – Chapter 4 &amp; 13</td>
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<td>Solution Based Therapies</td>
<td>Gehart - Chapter 1, 3 &amp; 9 and Part 3</td>
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<td>1/26</td>
<td>Explain the Various and Postmodern Approaches to MFT</td>
<td>Nichols - Chapter 12&lt;br&gt;Gehart - Chapter 10&lt;br&gt;Gehart – Chapter 10&lt;br&gt;Anderson and Gehart Part 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Essay #1&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board #2</td>
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<td>2/2</td>
<td>Explain the Various and Postmodern Approaches to MFT</td>
<td>Mills and Sprenkle article&lt;br&gt;Dickerson article&lt;br&gt;Gehart- Chapter 3&lt;br&gt;Anderson and Gehart - Part 3</td>
<td>Interview Assignment&lt;br&gt;DB #3</td>
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<td>2/9</td>
<td>Identify and Apply Approach Appropriate Interventions</td>
<td>Cheon and Murphy article</td>
<td>Midterm Exam&lt;br&gt;Competency Assignment #1</td>
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<td>2/16</td>
<td>Identify and Apply Approach Appropriate Interventions</td>
<td>Cullin article</td>
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<td>Identify the Domains and Subdomains of the MFT Core Competencies</td>
<td>Gehart – Appendix A</td>
<td>Discussion Board #4&lt;br&gt;Competency Assignment #3</td>
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<td>3/2</td>
<td>Identify the Domains and Subdomains of the MFT Core Competencies</td>
<td>Beevar – Chapter 14</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>3/9</td>
<td>Explain Personal Theory of Change</td>
<td>Beevar – Chaper 15</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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*The professor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule as needed during the term. Any and all changes will be communicated as soon as possible to the students.

**Important DUE DATES**
Jan 25: DB #1

Feb 1: Essay #1 and DB #2

Feb 8: Interview Assignment and DB #3

Feb 15: Midterm Exam and Competency Assignment #1

Feb 22: Essay #2 and Competency Assignment #2

March 1: DB #4 and Competency Assignment #3

March 8: Research Paper

March 13: Final Exam

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Requirements and Support

Requirements

This course will use the new TAMUCT Blackboard Learn learning management system for class communications, content distribution, and assessments.

Log on to https://tamuct.blackboard.com to access the course.

For this course, you will need reliable and frequent access to a computer and to the Internet. You will also need a headset with a microphone or speakers and a microphone to be able to listen to online resources and conduct other activities in the course. If you do not have frequent and reliable access to a computer with Internet connection, please consider dropping this course or contact me (your email and phone number) to discuss your situation.

Check browser and computer compatibility by following the “Browser Check” link on the TAMUCT Blackboard logon page. (https://tamuct.blackboard.com). This is a CRITICAL step as these settings are important for when you take an exam or submit an assignment.

Upon logging on to Blackboard Learn, you will see a link to Blackboard Student Orientation under the My Courses tab. Click on that link and study the materials in this orientation course. The new Blackboard is a brand-new interface and you will have to come up to speed with it really quickly. This orientation course will help you get there. There is also a link to Blackboard Help from inside the course on the left-hand menu bar. The first week of the course includes activities and assignments that will help you get up to speed with navigation, sending and receiving messages and discussion posts, and submitting an assignment. Your ability to function within the Blackboard system will facilitate your success in this course.

Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

Support

For technological or computer issues, students should contact the TAMUCT Blackboard Support Services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Support portal with online chat: http://www.ct.tamus.edu/bbsupport
Phone: (855)-661-7965
For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Disability Support Services
If you have or believe you have a disability and wish to self-identify, you can do so by providing documentation to the Disability Support Coordinator. Students are encouraged to seek information about accommodations to help assure success in their courses. Please call (254) 501-5831 or visit Founder's Hall 114, Suite 114. Additional information can be found at http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/disabilitysupport/index.php

Tutoring
Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored include Accounting, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Writing. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Room 111. Visit www.ct.tamus.edu/AcademicSupport and click "Tutoring Support" for tutor schedules and contact info. If you have questions, need to schedule a tutoring session, or if you're interested in becoming a tutor, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-501-5830 or by emailing tutoring@ct.tamus.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMUCT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in Mathematics, Writing, Career Writing, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Calculus, and Statistics. To access Tutor.com, log into your Blackboard account and click "Online Tutoring."

Library Services
INFORMATION LITERACY focuses on research skills which prepare individuals to live and work in an information-centered society. Librarians will work with students in the development of critical reasoning, ethical use of information, and the appropriate use of secondary research techniques. Help may include, yet is not limited to: exploration of information resources such as library collections and services, identification of subject databases and scholarly journals, and execution of effective search strategies. Library Resources are outlined and accessed at http://www.tamuct.edu/library