Instructor: Paul S. Stanford, Ph.D, LMFT
Office: Online Only
Phone: 972-841-1731
Email: pstanford@tamuct.edu (Blackboard messages works as well)
Office Hours: Appointments available upon request

Method of Instruction and Course Access:
This course is a 100% online course and uses TAMUCT’s Blackboard system
(http://TAMUCT.blackboard.edu)

Student-instructor interaction:
I will do my best to check and reply to emails within 24 hours. Since I will be using virtual office hours for appointments, we can communicate through email, Blackboard messages, phone calls, or video conferencing software.

UNILERT:
Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas
UNILERT is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in UNILERT through their myCT email account. Connect at Unilert [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/security/unilert.php] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in UNILERT, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

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
Anderson & Gehart, Collaborative Therapy, 1st, 978-0415953276 (2006)


Gehart, Mastering Competencies, 2nd, 978-1285075426 (2013)

Required Reading – Research Articles


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Discussion Board (200 pts total, 25 each): Students will complete 4 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.

Videos (60 pts toal, 20 pts each): Students will record and submit a video on Bb covering their perspective on a topic. Assignment and more instructions will be posted on Bb.

Mock Sessions: Students will choose a theory from the previous section (Classical for the first, then Postmodern for the second) and record themselves performing therapy in a scenario they’ve created. Video can be scripted or ad libbed, but a copy of the script/transcript must be provided with the video. Student will end the video by explaining why they chose to use this particular theory for this particular situation. Videos should be 15-20 minutes and provide clear examples of the primary features of said theory. HINT: This is not something to videotape the first time you do it. You want to practice beforehand.

Competency Assignments: Case Conceptualization, Clinical Assessment, and Treatment Plan
Assignments (150 pts total, 50 each): Assignment and more instructions will be posted on Bb.

Exams (200 pts total, 100 pts each). 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.
## Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Assignments</th>
<th># Due</th>
<th>Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Videos:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock Sessions:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competency Assignments:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>710 points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Posting of Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>University Definition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>59 or below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Instructional Activities</th>
<th>All Assignments are due on the following Sunday unless otherwise noted.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Weeks begin on Tuesdays</td>
<td>Exploring the Foundations of MFT History of MFT</td>
<td>Gehart – Chapters 1, 2, &amp; 3</td>
<td>Video #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>Exploring the Foundations of MFT Diversity of Families</td>
<td>Gladding – Ch. 3, 4, &amp; 5</td>
<td>Video #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>Explain Classical Approaches to MFT Systemic and Strategic Approaches</td>
<td>Gehart – Ch. 4</td>
<td>Discussion Board #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7</td>
<td>Explain Classical Approaches to MFT Structural Family Therapy</td>
<td>Gehart – Ch. 5</td>
<td>Discussion Board #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Explain Classical Approaches to MFT Bowen Family Systems Theory</td>
<td>Gehart – Ch. 7 (p. 229-242)</td>
<td>Discussion Board #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Task Description</td>
<td>Reading Material</td>
<td>Discussion/Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/21</td>
<td>Explain Classical Approaches to MFT Internal Family Systems</td>
<td>Gehart – Ch. 6 (p. 196-208)</td>
<td>Discussion Board #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/28</td>
<td>Explain Postmodern Approaches to MFT From Classical to Postmodern</td>
<td>Mills and Sprenkle article, Dickerson article</td>
<td>Mock Session #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>Explain Postmodern Approaches to MFT Solution Based Therapies</td>
<td>Gehart – Ch. 9, Gladding – Ch. 14 (p. 335-346)</td>
<td>Midterm Exam, Discussion Board #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>Explain Postmodern Approaches to MFT Narrative Therapies</td>
<td>Gehart – Ch. 10 (p. 399-446), Gladding – Ch. 14 (p. 347-357)</td>
<td>Discussion Board #6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>Explain Postmodern Approaches to MFT Collaborative Therapies</td>
<td>Gehart – Chapter 10 (p. 379-398), Anderson and Gehart – Ch. 1-4, 7, &amp; 22</td>
<td>Discussion Board #7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>Explain Postmodern Approaches to MFT Integrative Therapies and Educational Approaches</td>
<td>Cheon and Murphy article, Gladding – Chp 8</td>
<td>Discussion Board #8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>Identify and Apply Approach-Appropriate Interventions</td>
<td>Cullin article, Gladding – Chp 7</td>
<td>Mock Session #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>Identify the Domains and Subdomains of the MFT Core Competencies</td>
<td>Gehart – Appendix A</td>
<td>Competency Assignment #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/25</td>
<td>Identify the Domains and Subdomains of the MFT Core Competencies</td>
<td>Gehart – Appendix A</td>
<td>Competency Assignment #2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

**INSTRUCTOR POLICIES**

**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 5 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.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

**Technology Requirements.**
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. You will also need to be able to record quality video (most smartphone cameras provide sufficient quality video). 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.

This course will use the TAMUCT Blackboard Learn learning management system.
Logon to TAMUCT Blackboard [https://tamuct.blackboard.com] to access the course.
- Username: Your MyCT username
- (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)
- Initial password: Your MyCT password

Check browser and computer compatibility by using the “Test Your Browser” button, found in the “My Courses” tab on your Blackboard dashboard, once you have logged in.

**Technology Support.**
For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central.
24 hours a day, 7 days a week:
- Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu
- Phone: (254) 519-5466
- Web Chat: http://hdc.tamu.edu

When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student.
For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

**Drop Policy.**
If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Registrar’s Office and complete a Drop Request Form [https://tamuct.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/institution/studentforms/Drop_Request_Form.pdf ]
Professors cannot drop students: this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that
you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

**Academic Integrity.**
Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and 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. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university’s Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university’s standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

**Access & Inclusion.**
At Texas A&M-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University’s programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion [webpage](http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion).

**Tutoring.**
Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.
If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Kim Wood at k.wood@tamuct.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 over forty subject areas. To access Tutor.com, go to the ‘My Courses’ tab in Blackboard.

**University Writing Center.**
Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available). Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students’ ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students’ texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas,
organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library.
The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders. Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the TAMUCT main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our homepage: https://tamuct.libguides.com/