



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
CENTRAL TEXAS

Texas A&M University – Central Texas
MFT 5350-Marriage and Family Therapy Research Methods
Fall 2017
Tuesdays 6:00pm-8:45pm
Warrior Hall 316

Instructor: DeAnna Harris-McKoy, PhD
Office: Warrior Hall 318K
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1pm-6pm

Method of Instruction and Course Access:

This is a blended course which meets 13% online. This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Student-Instructor Interaction: I will be available to meet to discuss and resolve class-related issues during my office hours. If you cannot come to my office hours, send an email so we can schedule an appointment time. I will also check and reply to emails during all office hours. Remember that there is only 1 of me and many of you, so allow at least 48 hours for a response.

Class Decorum: Student active participation is essential for a productive online learning environment. In order for that to occur, it is expected that every student be respectful of the thoughts of others in this course.

911 Cellular:

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas
911Cellular 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 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COURSE INFORMATION

1.0 Course Overview

This course provides an overview of research methodology, data analysis, and the evaluation of research in couple and family therapy. Course will address how research informs MFT commons factors and evidence based practice.

2.0 Intended Student Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes – this course targets three of the MFT program’s **Student Learning Outcomes**:

(SLO-1)- Demonstrate knowledge and appropriate application of classical and postmodern MFT theories.

(SLO-7)- Demonstrate knowledge of current trends and research methods in the field of marriage and family therapy

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

- 2.1 Students will demonstrate knowledge of the extant MFT literature, research, and evidence-based practices. (SLO-1)
- 2.2 Students will understand the legal, ethical, and contextual issues involved in the conduct of clinical research and program evaluation. (SLO-7)
- 2.3 Students will recognize opportunities for therapist and clients to participate in clinical research (SLO-1 & SLO-7)
- 2.4 Students will learn APA style writing. (SLO-7)

3.0 Required Reading

American Psychological Association (2010) *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.) Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN- 978-1-4338-0561-5

Sprenkle, D. H. & Piercy, F. P. (Ed.). (2005). *Research methods in family therapy* (2nd ed.). NY: The Guilford Press ISBN- 978-1-57230-960-9

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

4.0 Course Requirements

All writing submitted to the professor should be a final draft, free of spelling, grammatical, stylistic, and typographical errors. Students are encouraged to allow ample time for writing, keeping in mind the frequency of computer glitches. It is expected that you put forth effort in writing your research paper. If you choose not to put in effort and plagiarize material from other sources, you will either receive an F for the assignment or the course. You may also be reported to the Office of Student Conduct for Academic Dishonesty. Please see the Academic Integrity policy.

Assignments:

- 4.1 **Article Analysis** – Students are required to critically analyze an empirical article. (Addresses Course Learning Outcome 2.1 & 2.4)
- 4.2 **Research Proposal**- Students are required to create research project proposal. The proposal includes: (1) completion of CITI training (2) Finalizing research question (3) Submitting a proposal to a conference, (4) Summary of journal articles, (5) research presentation, and (6) completing a research paper: literature review, methods, conclusion, and references. The topic has to be approved by the professor. The references for the paper must be published within the last 10 years unless it is a critical historical article for the topic. The paper should be between 20-30 pages in APA styles, and include at least 15 references. (Addresses Course Learning Outcomes 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, & 2.4)

5.0 Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Assignment	Point Value	Point to Letter Grade Conversion
Research Question	5 points	A- 179-200
Journal Article Summary	10 points	B- 159-178
Article Analysis	20 points	C- 139-158
Research Paper	100 points	D- 120-138

Proposal Abstract/ Confirmation	5 points	F- <119
Presentation	40 points	
NIH Training Certificate	20 points	
Total	200 points	

6.0 Posting of Grades

All student grades will be posted on the Canvas Gradebook. Students should monitor their grade status through this tool.

TECHNOLOGY

7.0 Technology Requirements and Support

Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)
 Password: Your MyCT password

Technology Support.

For log-in problems, 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): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

For issues with **Canvas**, select “chat with Canvas support,” submit a support request to Canvas Tier 1, or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953, links to all are found inside of Canvas using the “Help” link.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

8.0 Tentative Course Calendar

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
1	Aug 28 th	<i>Add/Drop/Late Registration begins</i>		
1	Aug 29th	Introduction to Course History of Research in MFT		
1	Aug 30 th	<i>Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 16-wee and 1st 8-week classes</i>		
1	Sept 1 st	<i>Priority Deadline to Submit Graduation Application</i>		
2	Sept 5th	Types of Research & Theories	APA Ch. 1 S& P Ch. 1	
2	Sept 5 th	<i>Last day to drop 1st 8 week classes with no record</i>		
3	Sept 12th	Research Paper Structure/Article Critique	APA Ch. 2 see journal article on Canvas	Research topic approved by September 15th
3	Sept 13 th	<i>Last day to drop 16-week classes with no record</i>		
4	Sept 19th	APA formatting	APA Ch. 3, 4, 6, & 7	Article Analysis Due Sept 19th
4	Sept 22 nd	<i>Last day to drop 1st 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W</i>		
5	Sept 26th	Research Day	Research Day	Journal summaries

				due Sept 29th
6	Oct 3rd	Statistics	APA p 116-124, Ch. 5	
6	<i>Oct 6th</i>	<i>Deadline to submit graduation</i>		
7	Oct 10th	Qualitative Methods	S& P Ch. 3 & 5	
8	Oct 17th	Qualitative Methods	S& P Ch. 6, 7, & 10	
	<i>Oct 20th</i>	<i>Last day to withdraw from the University (1st 8-week classes)</i>		
9	<i>Oct 23rd</i>	<i>Add/Drop/Late Registration begins, 2nd 8-week classes</i>		
9	Oct 24th	Quantitative Methods	S& P Ch.16, 19 & 21	
9	<i>Oct 26th</i>	<i>Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 2nd 8-week classes</i>		
10	<i>Oct 30th</i>	<i>Last day to drop 2nd 8 week classes with no record</i>		
10	Oct 31st (online)	Using Human Subjects in Research	See Canvas for details	CITI training certificate upload to Canvas by 11:59 pm
11	Nov 7th (online)	Research Day	Research Day	Research Paper uploaded to Canvas by 11:59pm
11	<i>Nov 10th</i>	<i>Last day to drop with a Q or withdraw with a W (16-week classes)</i>		
12	<i>Nov 17th</i>	<i>Last day to drop a 2nd 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W</i>		
12	Nov 14th	Academic Journals	Academic Journals	
13	Nov 21st	Academic Journals	Academic Journals	
14	Nov 28th	Research Day	Research Day	Conference proposal Submission uploaded to Canvas by 11:59pm
15	Dec 5th	Presentations	Presentations	Presentations
16	Dec 12th	Presentations	Presentations	Presentations
16	<i>Dec 15th</i>	<i>Last day to withdraw from the University (16 week and 2nd 8-week classes) Last day to file for Degree Conferral (Registrar's Office) Commencement</i>		

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

9.0 Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/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.

10.0 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.

11.0 Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-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](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

12.0 Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas 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 Larry Davis at lmDavis@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 A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

13.0 The 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 with satellite hours in the University Library on Mondays from 6:00-9:00pm. 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) or by making an appointment via [WConline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu to schedule an online tutoring session. 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.

14.0 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 A&M-Central Texas 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 A&M-Central Texas 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 [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [<https://tamuct.libguides.com/>].

15.0 Absences and Grading

Students are encouraged to attend and actively participate in every class meeting. However, students will not be graded for attendance. An initial 5 points will be deducted for all assignments submitted after the deadline. An additional 5 points will be deducted for every additional day an assignment is late.

16.0 Instructor's Personal Statement

Research is not quick. It is a process of reading, thinking, writing, thinking, reading, editing, thinking, reading, writing, and editing. It would be in your best interest to begin reading journal articles for your research proposal early. It would also be in your best interest to finish your paper at least 3 days before the due date to give yourself time to reread it with a clear mind. Enjoy Research!

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php>].

