



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
CENTRAL TEXAS

**Texas A&M University – Central  
Texas MFTK 507 Ethics in MFT  
Fall 2017**

**Instructor: Melissa R. Rich,  
LMFT, Ph.D.**

**Email:** m.rich@tamuct.edu

**Method of Instruction and Course Access:**

This course meets face-to-face

**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](http://www.ct.tamus.edu/unilert).

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **1.0 Course Overview**

This course provides an overview of ethical issues related to the profession and practice of MFT including the AAMFT Code of Ethics, professional identity, professional organizations, and licensure. It includes a brief history of the field, an examination of philosophy and epistemology of MFT and legal and ethical issues that affect the practice of MFT.

### **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-3)-** Assess how contextual issues affect individual lives and relational dynamics.

**(SLO-6)-** Develop relationships with other mental health professionals/agencies and the local community.

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

- 2.1 Students will know state, federal, and provincial laws and regulations that apply to the practice of marriage and family therapy.
  - 2.2 Students will know professional ethics and standards of practice that apply to the practice of marriage and family therapy.
  - 2.3 Students will recognize situations in which ethics, laws, professional liability, and standards of practice apply.
  - 2.4 Students will recognize ethical dilemmas in practice setting.
  - 2.5 Students will recognize when a legal consultation is necessary.
  - 2.6 Students will recognize when clinical supervision or consultation is necessary.
  - 2.7 Students will learn how to Inform clients and legal guardian of limitations to confidentiality and parameters of mandatory reporting.
  - 2.8 Student will learn about practicing within defined scope of practice and competence.
  - 2.9 Students will learn how to maintain client records with timely and accurate notes.
  - 2.10 Students will learn how to screen for and develop safety plans for clients who present with potential self-harm, suicide, abuse, or violence.
  - 2.11 Student will learn how to defuse intense and chaotic situations to enhance the safety of all participants
  - 2.12 Students will learn how to evaluate level of risks, management of risks, crises, and emergencies.
- 
- 3.0 **Required Reading**
    - 3.1 Wilcoxon, A. P., Remley, T. P., Gladding, S. T. (2014). Ethical, legal, and professional issues in the practice of marriage and family (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Stamford, CT: Pearson ISBN-13: 978-013377446
    - 3.2 Title 22 Texas Administrative Code: Chapter 801
      - a. <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mft/default.shtm>
    - 3.3 Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapy Enforcement Actions
      - a. [https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mft/mft\\_enforce.shtm](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mft/mft_enforce.shtm)
    - 3.4 Professional Licensing and Certification Unit Types of Disciplinary Actions
      - a. [https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/plc/plc\\_discipl.shtm](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/plc/plc_discipl.shtm)
    - 3.5 Various AAMFT legal/ ethical articles

## 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.

- 4.1 **HIPAA and Child Protection Training-** Students are required complete two online trainings: 1) HIPAA Privacy and Security for Physicians and Healthcare Professionals (# 211782) and 2) Child Protection (# 2111652). A copy of each certificate of completion must be uploaded to Canvas . See Canvas for instructions about how to access the training.

### 5.0 Grading

<b>In Class Presentation</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>HIPAA Training</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Child Protection Training</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>6 Assignments</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Attendance &amp; Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

### 8.0 Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a Drop Request Form, found through the [Registrar's web page](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/business-office/droppolicy.php):  
<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/business-office/droppolicy.php>

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.

### 9.0 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.

## **10.0 Academic Accommodations**

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](#):

<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion>.

TAMUCT 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](#), please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>.

### **11.0 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](mailto: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. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **12.0 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 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/): <https://tamuct.libguides.com/>

### **13.0 Absences and Grading**

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.

#### **14.0 Instructor's Personal Statement**

It is intended that the class environment will be conducive to increasing your knowledge about the topic and promoting self-discovery and personal growth. In order for that to occur, it is expected that every student be respectful of the thoughts, emotions, and behaviors of others in this course.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

#### **Technology Support.**

For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu) Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): <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