



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
CENTRAL TEXAS

**Texas A&M University – Central Texas**  
**MFT 5351 Assessment and Treatment of Diverse Couples**  
**Fall 2018**  
**Thursdays 6pm-9pm**  
**Warrior Hall 311**

**Instructor:** DeAnna Harris-McKoy, PhD

**Office:** Warrior Hall 318K

**Email:** [d.harris-mckoy@tamuct.edu](mailto:d.harris-mckoy@tamuct.edu)

**Office Hours:** Mondays 12pm-3pm virtually, Tuesdays 10am-4pm in office

**Method of Instruction and Course Access:**

This is a blended course which meets 25% online. This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

**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 911Cellular 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**

**Course Overview and Description**

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

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

*(SLO-4) - Formulate treatment plans based on individual issues, relational dynamics, and contextual issues.*

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

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

- 1. Students will be able to demonstrate comprehension of Gottman Method Couples Therapy from a systemic framework. (SLO-3)**
- 2. Students will be able to describe assessment procedures and treatment interventions of Gottman Method Couples Therapy (SLO-3 and SLO-4)**
- 3. Students will be able to compare and contrast theoretical and clinical concepts, techniques, and evidence-based outcomes of Gottman Method Couples Therapy and Emotion Focused Couples Therapy, as well as other current models of couples therapy. (SLO-3 and SLO-6)**
- 4. Students will be able to integrate issues of diversity into a systemic conceptualization of couple problems. (SLO-3)**

#### **Required Reading – Textbooks**

Gurman, *Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (2015)

Bradley and Furrow, *Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy for Dummies*

Rustogi and Thomas, *Multicultural Couples Therapy*. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Discussion Boards** – 3 DB Forums. Students will respond to prompts based on either the readings, video, or class discussions. Initial responses should be (250-400 words). Students will then need reply to at least two different classmates with post (100 words each). Specific directions for discussion boards will be posted on Canvas (Assesses Course Learning Outcomes 2.1 & 2.3)

## **Discussion Board Rules**

This is a space for us to share our idea, engage in dialogues, and learn from each other. Below are criteria for the discussion post, criteria for content of the discussion post, and rules about etiquette.

### Criteria for discussion post

The initial post should be at least 250 words. You are required to respond to at least two other initial posts. The responses should be at least 100 words each. The posts are due by 11:59pm on the designated date. Points will be deducted for late post.

### Criteria for content

The content of the discussion board should be your own ideas supported by information from the text, assigned readings, PowerPoints, or other scholarly references you find. Your post should not **entirely** consist of quotes from an outside source, regurgitation of someone else's ideas, or personal stories.

For example:

Big Bird (2012) stated that sexual violence was not an issue in developed countries. I disagree with that statement. I intern at a domestic violence shelter for my practicum and hear about the violence that occurs in this area. Even though Elmo (2013) stated that violence against women is lower in countries that have more liberties for women, violence against women in developed countries is still an epidemic. Since most victims of sexual violence know their perpetrator (Kermit, 2007) and most perpetrators are male (Dora 2013), I believe that we should develop preventative programs in middle and high school about sexual violence.

### Discussion Board Etiquette

- Refrain from inappropriate language.
- Review your comments before you post for spelling and grammatical errors and to make sure it's what you really want to say.
- Do not make sexist, racist, homophobic, or victim-blaming comments at all.
- Disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks.
- Be open to be challenged or confronted on your ideas or prejudices.
- Challenge others with the intent of facilitating growth. Do not demean or embarrass others.
- A majority of your reply should not be quotes from the initial post.

**Couple Analysis Paper**– Students will write a paper using a MFT theory to analyze a couple from a television show, movie, or a book. More details are available in Canvas.

**Assessment form** – For a final project, student will create an intake/ assessment form influenced by a MFT theory of your choice and considering contextual factors. Students will also write a paper describing why they chose the various sections and questions in their intake/assessment form. Students will also describe how the MFT theory and contextual factors influenced the intake/assessment form.

## Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Discussion Board (3) -15 points  
 Couple Analysis Paper -100 points  
 Assessment form -35 points

**Total 150 points**

**A 135- 150 points**  
**B 120-134 points**  
**C 105-119 points**  
**D 90-118 points**  
**F 117 or less points**

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1 (online)	Aug 30 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Course		
2	Sept 6 <sup>th</sup>	Couples therapy Overview & Ethics	Gurman Ch. 1 & 26	
3 (online)	Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	Couples Therapy & Self Help	Bradley & Furrow Ch. 16- 19	<b>Discussion Board</b>
4	Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>	Contextual Lens	Rastogi & Thomas Ch. 1& 2	
5	Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	Historical models of couples therapy	Gurman Ch. 6 & 7	
6	Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	Structural & Strategic Couples Therapy	Gurman Ch. 10 & 11 Rastogi & Thomas Ch. 9	
7	Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Post Modern Couples Therapy	Gurman Ch. 8 & 9	
9	Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	EFT	Gurman Ch. 8 Bradley & Furrow Ch, 5 & 6	
10 (online)	Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	EFT	Bradley & Furrow Ch. 8 & 9 Rastogi & Thomas Ch. 8	<b>Discussion Board</b>
11	Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Gender	Gurman Ch. 23 Rastogi & Thomas Ch. 13	
12	Nov 8 <sup>th</sup>	Infidelity & Affairs	Gurman Ch 14	<b>Couple Analysis</b>

				<b>Paper</b>
13 (online)	Nov 15 <sup>th</sup> AAMFT Conference	Aggression/ Domestic Violence	Gurman Ch. 16 Rastogi & Thomas Ch. 14	<b>Discussion Board</b>
14	Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Holiday</b>
15	Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mental Health Issues	Gurman Ch. 19 & 20	
16	Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Assessments	See Canvas for Readings	
17	Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	Final	Final	<b>Assessment Form Due</b>

### **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

**Drop Policy.** If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Records Office and ask for the necessary paperwork. Professors **cannot** drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The record's office will provide a deadline for which the form must be returned, completed and signed. Once you return the signed form to the records office and wait 24 hours, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. Should you still be enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the records office immediately? You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course.

**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.

**Disability Support and Access Services.** 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 an education that is barrier-free. The Office of Disability Support and Access is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability enjoy equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. Some aspects of this course or the way the course is taught may present barriers to learning due to a disability. If you

feel this is the case, please contact Disability Support and Access at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Ste. 212. For more information, please visit their website at [www.tamuct/disabilitysupport](http://www.tamuct/disabilitysupport). Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

**Tutoring.** Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored include Accounting, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Writing (APA). Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Visit [www.tamuct.edu/AcademicSupport](http://www.tamuct.edu/AcademicSupport) and click "Tutoring Support" for tutor schedules and contact information. If you have questions, need to schedule a tutoring session, or if you are interested in becoming a tutor, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-501-5836 or by emailing [c.garza@tamuct.edu](mailto:c.garza@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 Mathematics, Writing, Career Writing, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Calculus, and Statistics. To access Tutor.com, click on <http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/academicsupport/tutoring.php>.

**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: <http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/library/index.php>

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT.**

**Technology Requirements.** *Include a statement on the technology requirements for the successful completion of the course and when applicable, information on how to access*

*these resources (for example, how to obtain a certain software through University site license).*

This course will use the TAMUCT Blackboard Learn learning management system.

Logon to <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 “Check Your Browser” module 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](mailto: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.

*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.*

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

### **Technology 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

### **Canvas Support**

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

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

### **Other Technology Support**

For log-in problems, 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>]

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

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## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

### **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 Academic 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.

### **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 Office 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 Office 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) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

**Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related 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. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. 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].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

**Tutoring.**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus 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 have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at [deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu](mailto:deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from 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 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

**University Writing Center.**

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

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](#) at

[<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) for any assistance needed with scheduling.

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 UWC is here to help!

If you have any questions about the UWC, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto: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 85,000 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 24 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](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>].

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### **OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:**

#### **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].