



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
CENTRAL TEXAS

Texas A&M University – Central Texas  
MFT 5301 Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy Theory  
Spring 2018  
Tuesdays  
6:00pm -9:00pm  
Warrior Hall 305

**Instructor:** DeAnna Harris-McKoy, PhD  
**Office:** Warrior Hall Room 318K  
**Email:** d.harris-mckoy@tamuct.edu  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2-6pm & Thursdays 10am-2pm

**Method of Instruction and Course Access:**

This course meets 93.75% face-to-face and 6.25% online using the TAMUCT Canvas Learning Management System: [<https://tamucte.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 24 hours for a response.

**Class Decorum:**

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.

**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. Course Overview

An introduction to historical development, theoretical and empirical foundations of systems theory including a survey of the major models of marriage and family therapy. 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 one of the MFT program’s Student Learning Outcomes (SLO-1) - *Demonstrate knowledge and appropriate application of classical and postmodern MFT theories.*

1. Describe systems theory and its contribution to the development of marriage and family therapy. (SLO- 1)
2. Identify and differentiate foundational theories of marriage and family therapy. (SLO-1)
3. Apply foundational MFT approaches to clinical problems presented in the practice of marriage and family therapy. (SLO-1)

## 2. Required Reading

- Gehart, D. (2014). *Mastering competencies in family therapy: A practical approach to theories and clinical case documentation* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) ISBN-978-1-285-07542-6
- Smith- Acuña, S. (2011). *Systems theory in action: Applications to individual couples, and family therapy*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. ISBN-978-0-47047582-9
- Finkelstein, L. (1987). Toward an object-relations approach in psychoanalytic marital therapy. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 13, 287-298.
- Napier, A. (1987). Early stages in experiential marital therapy. *Contemporary Family Therapy*, 9, 23-41.
- Wilner, S. R., Breit, M., & Im, W. G. (1988). In defense of strategic therapy. *Contemporary Family Therapy*, 10, 169-182.
- Soto-Fulp, S.& DelCampo, R. L. (1994). Structural family therapy with Mexican-American family systems. *Contemporary Family Therapy*, 16, 349-362.
- Nielsen, A. (2017). Psychodynamic couple therapy: A practical synthesis. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. doi: 10.1111/jmft.12236
- Woods, M. D. & Martin, S. (2007). The work of Virginia Satir: Understanding her theory and technique. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 12, 3-11.

## 3. Course Requirements

- a. Critical Analysis Paper** -Students will develop an 8-10 page paper critiquing one of the theories discussed in this course. Choose one of the family therapy theories. Provide a thorough summary of the theory. Critique the theory (assumptions of the theory, philosophy, role of the therapist, interventions, goals of treatment, etc) for use with underserved clients (e.g. racial ethnic minorities, LGBT population, low-income families, etc.). The critique of the theory should include your personal opinion, along with information from scholarly articles. Also, create a summary sheet of the key components of the theory in an outline format. Upload both documents to Canvas and turn in a hard copy of the critical analysis paper by the due date. Instructions and Grading will be posted on Canvas
- b. Final Exam-** The final exam will consists of 50 multiple-choice questions covering material from the entire semester.

## 4. Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

<b>Critical Analysis Paper</b>	<b>100 points</b>	<b>A 179-200 points</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>100 points</b>	<b>B 159-178 points</b>
		<b>C 139-158 points</b>
		<b>D 119-138 points</b>
		<b>F &lt; 118 points</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 points</b>	

## 5. Posting of Grades

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

## Tentative Course Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Week 1: Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Course		
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Last day to drop 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week classes with no record</i>		
Week 2: Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup> (online)	Systemic Thinking	SSA Ch. 1, 2, & 3	
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Last day to drop 16-week classes with no record</i>		
Week 3: Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	Systemic Thinking	SSA Ch. 4 & 5 SSA Ch. 6 & 7	
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Priority Deadline to Submit Graduation Application</i>		
Week 4: Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Psychoanalytic Theory	Nielsen, 2017, Gehart p. 239-252	
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Last day to drop 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week classes with a "Q" or withdraw with a "W"</i>		
Week 5: Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> (online)	Object Relations Theory	Finkelstein (1987) Gehart p. 239-252	
Week 6: Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	Bowen Theory	Miller, Anderson, & Keala (2004)	
Week 7: Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bowen Theory	Gerhart 229-238	
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Deadline to Submit Graduation Application for Ceremony Participation</i>		
Week 8: March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Contextual Theory	Gehart 229-238	
Week 9: March 13 <sup>th</sup> Spring Break	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
Week 10: March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Contextual Theory	Fowers & Wenger, 1997	
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Last day to drop 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week classes with no record</i>		
Week 11: March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Structural Therapy	Gerhart Ch. 5	
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Last day to drop a 16-week course with a "Q" or withdraw with a "W"</i>		
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Registration begins Summer for Graduates, Post-Baccalaureate and Seniors</i>		
Week 12: April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Structural Therapy	Soto-Fulp, & DelCampo, 1994	<b>Critical Analysis Due in Class</b>
Week 13: April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Strategic Therapy	Wilner, Breit, & Im, 1988 Gerhart Ch. 4	
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Last a "Q" or withdraw with day to drop a 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week class with a "W"</i>		
Week 14: April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Experiential	Gerhart Ch. 6 w/o IFS	
Week 15: April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Experiential	Napier (1987) Woodss & Martin, 2007	
Week 16: May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Experiential		
Week 17: May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Experiential Final Exam	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

### 6. 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>

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.

### 7. 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.

### 8. 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.edu/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>.

### 9. 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. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

#### **10. 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/>

#### **11. 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.

#### **12. 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**

#### **13. Technology Requirements and Support**

##### **Requirements**

This course will use the TAMUCT Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to TAMUCT 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 technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

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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