



**Texas A&M University – Central Texas  
MFT 5731 Advanced Couples Interventions  
Summer 2018  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 2pm- 4:30pm  
Warrior Hall 311**

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

**Office: Warrior Hall 318K**

**Email:** d.harris-mckoy@tamuct or Canvas inbox

**Office Hours:** By appointment. I will be in the CCTFC on Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Mode of instruction and course access:**

This is a blended course which meets 47.37% 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.

**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:**

This course involves training students to conduct couple assessments in both Gottman Method Couples Therapy and Emotion Focused Couples Therapy. The course also trains students to address comorbidities in the context of couples therapy. The course will help students develop

proficiency in conducting a wide array of interventions utilized in Gottman Method Couples Therapy and Emotion Focused Couples Therapy.

**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 and execute 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 assessment process in Gottman Method Couples Therapy and Emotion Focused Couples Therapy (SLO-3)(SLO-4)
2. Assess comorbidities related to the treatment of couples (SLO-3) (SLO-4)
3. Conduct a wide array of interventions related to the practice of Gottman Method Couples Therapy (SLO-4)
4. Conduct a wide array of interventions related to the practice of Emotion Focused Couples Therapy (SLO-4)

**Required Reading and Textbook(s):**

Gottman Method Couples Therapy Level 1 Training: Bridging the Couple Chasm  
Gottman Method Couples Therapy Level 1 Training: Assessment, Intervention, & Co-Morbidities

**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.

**Assignments:**

**Discussion Board Posts-** 7 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 replay 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 1)

### **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 posts.

#### 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.

**Paper** - This paper is designed to help you think about your theory about romantic relationships and couple's therapy and integrating The Gottman Method into your philosophy. The paper should be between 5-10 pages and in APA format. Upload the paper to Canvas by 11:59pm on the due date. (Addresses Course Learning Outcome 1)

**Clinical Role Play**-. Students will engage in role plays throughout the semester to practice using key concepts, theories, and techniques related to couples in therapy. (Addresses Course Learning Outcome 2)

### **Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion**

<b>Discussion Board 3, (5 points each)</b>	<b>15 points</b>	<b>A 90-100 points</b>
<b>Final Paper</b>	<b>50 points</b>	<b>B 80-89 points</b>
<b>Clinical Role Plays 7, (5 points each)</b>	<b>35 points</b>	<b>C 70-79 points</b>
		<b>D 60-69 points</b>
		<b>F &lt; 59 points</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>	

### **Posting of Grades**

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

### **COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

- **Complete Course Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Week 1: Mon. June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Course		
Week 1: Tues. June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Research and Theory	Gottman Level 1 Ch. 1	
Week 1: Wed. June 6 <sup>th</sup> (online)	Assessment	Gottman Level 1 Ch. 2, 3, & 4	<b>Discussion Board</b>
Week 1: Thurs Jun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Assessment	Gottman Level 1 Ch. 5	
Week 2: Mon Jun 11 <sup>th</sup> (online)	Assumptions	Gottman Level 1 Ch. 6.1-6.4.2	<b>Discussion Board</b>
Week 2: Tues June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Conflict Goals	Gottman Level 1 Ch. 6.4.3-6.4.5	
Week 2: Wed June 13 <sup>th</sup> (online)	Friendship Goal, Shared Meaning, Process & Summary	Gottman Level 1 Ch. 6.5.1, 6.5.2, 6.6.1, 6.6.2, & 6.7-6.8	<b>Discussion Board</b>
Week 2:Thurs Jun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Additional Training	Gottman Level 1 Ch. 7	
Week 3:Mon June 18 <sup>th</sup> (online)		Gottman Level 2. Ch. 1- 7	
Week 3: Tues Jun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Oral History Interview	Gottman Level 2 Ch. 8 & 9	<b>Role Play</b>
Week 3: Wed Jun 20 <sup>th</sup> (online)	Feedback Session & Intervention Overview	Gottman Level 2 Ch. 10 & 11	<b>Role Play</b>
Week 3: Thurs Jun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Four Horseman	Gottman Level 2 Ch. 11	<b>Role Play</b>
Week 4: Mon June 25 <sup>th</sup> (online)	Flooding , Internal Working		<b>Role Play</b>
Week 4: Tues Jun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Compromise, Dreams with Conflict		<b>Role Play</b>
Week 4: Wed Jun 27 <sup>th</sup> (online)	Aftermath of a Fight		<b>Role Play</b>

Week 4: Thurs June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Stress for Reducing Conversation		<b>Role Play</b>
Week 5: Mon Jun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Affairs/ Addiction	Gottman Level 2 Ch. 13	
Week 5: Tues July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	PTSD/ Domestic Violence	Gottman Level 2 Ch. 13	
Week 5: Wed July 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO Class ***** Holiday *** No Class ***** Holiday*** NO Class ***** Holiday</b>		
Week 5: Thurs July 5 <sup>th</sup> (online)	<b>Final</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Final</b>

\* Tentative schedule. This schedule may change due to course flow and guest speakers.

## 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](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 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) web page [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 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 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 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-4pm Monday-Thursday during the summer with online hours available Monday-Thursday 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 [WOnline](http://WOnline) at [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto: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](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].

### **Absences and Grading**

Attendance at each class is required to receive the certificates in the course. If students miss a class and does not watch the video, they will not be able to receive the certificate. 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.