



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
CENTRAL TEXAS

**MFT 5307 - 110 Ethics in Marriage and Family Therapy  
Fall 2019  
Texas A&M University – Central Texas**

**Course Dates, Modality, and Location:**

Course Dates: Thursdays 2:00 pm - 4:45 pm, Aug 26, 2019 - Dec 13, 2019.

Location: Warrior Hall 314

Modality: This course is hybrid course and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. This course will be conducted primarily as a seminar and will include experiential components. For this process to be successful, students are expected to participate fully by reading assigned materials, attending class, and participating in class exercises and discussions in face-to-face class meetings, as well as within the Canvas environment.

**Instructor and Contact Information:**

**Instructor:** Hao-Min Chen, Ph.D.

**Office:** WH 318 J

**Email:** [hmchen@tamuct.edu](mailto:hmchen@tamuct.edu)

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Student-Instructor Interaction:** I will be available to meet to discuss and resolve class-related issues during my office hours. Please send an email so we can schedule an appointment during my office hours or other times that we both are available. I will also check and reply to emails on a regular basis.

**Warrior Shield:**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield 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 Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by 911Cellular [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**1.0 Course Overview and Description & Course Objective**

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

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: 978-0133377446
2. Zygmund, M. J. & Boorhem, H. (1989). Ethical Decision Making in Family Therapy. *Family Process*, 28, 269-280.
3. Kitchener, K. S. (1984). Intuition, critical evaluation and ethical principles: The foundation for ethical decisions in counseling psychology. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 12, 43-55.
4. Aponte, H. J. (1985). The negotiation of values in therapy. *Family Process*, 24, 323-338.
5. Title 22 Texas Administrative Code: Chapter 801 <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mft/default.shtm>
6. Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapy Enforcement Actions [https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mft/mft\\_enforce.shtm](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mft/mft_enforce.shtm)
7. Professional Licensing and Certification Unit Types of Disciplinary Actions [https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/plc/plc\\_discipl.shtm](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/plc/plc_discipl.shtm)
8. 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. It is also expected that students will have read the required readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. Late assignments will not be accepted. Extension of assignments will only be given to legitimate reasons as the ones listed under excused absences.

#### Assignments:

- 4.1 Class Participation (11 points):** Students will actively engage in discussions and multiple role-plays throughout the semester to practice applying key concepts in the class materials.
- 4.2 Case Scenario Presentation (10 points)**  
Format: In-class presentation 20 minutes long.  
Due Date: Each student will sign up for a presentation date/topic on the first day of class.  
Details and grading rubric will be posted on Canvas.
- 4.3 Final Exam (26 points)**  
Format: Multiple choices & short answer  
Exam Date: Please see class schedule.  
Details will be announced in class.
- 4.4 HIPAA and Child Protection Training (15 points)**  
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 trainings.
- 4.5 Service Learning & Reflection (26 Points)**  
This community engagement and service learning component will help students to learn important ethical issues in real life situations. Details will be announced in class.
- 4.6 Discussion Board – 3 focused discussion forums & response posts (12 Points)**  
Each student will **facilitate 1 discussion board** for the semester AND complete **2 responses in total** (to the discussion questions) on assigned online classes. This is due by the class time. Late posts will receive zero point. Those that are not a part of the facilitating group are required to upload a post (50 words or more) as a response to the discussion question(s) for that forum. Other specific directions for discussion boards will be posted on Canvas.

#### **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 response post should be at least 50 words and is due by the end of the class time that day.

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 and personal attacks.
- 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.

## 5.0 Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

### Overview of Grading:

<b>Class Participation</b>	11 points
<b>Case Scenario Presentation</b>	10 points
<b>Final Exam</b>	26 points
<b>HIPAA and Child Protection Training</b>	15 points
<b>Service Learning</b>	26 points
<b>Discussion Board</b>	12 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100 points</b>

### Grade breakdown:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	68 and below

If students have any concerns or difficulties completing the class tasks/assignments, please talk with the Professor at least *two weeks* before each deadline so that she can provide individualized assistance or discuss alternative assignments

## 6.0 Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted on Canvas. Students should monitor their status.

## 7.0 Tentative Course Outline and Calendar:

Please see attached/Canvas posting.

## 8.0 Important University Dates:

Please see <https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

## 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/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email 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.*

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

### University Resources, Procedure, 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.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](#),

[<https://tamuct.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/tamuct-student-conduct-panel>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](#),

[[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=0](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=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 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, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](#) Canvas page (log-in required)

[<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

### **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](#) 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, 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. Tutor.com tutoring will not offer writing support beginning August 1, 2019, but will continue to offer other tutoring support.

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 online tutoring support at no additional cost. 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.-4:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with online only hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

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!

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 [WCOOnline](#). In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

### **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>].

## **INSTRUCTOR POLICIES**

### **9.0 Copyright Notice**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright

is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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