



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
CENTRAL TEXAS

Texas A&M University – Central Texas
Ethics in Marriage and Family Therapy -MFT 5307
Spring 2019
Tuesdays 6 pm – 8:45 pm
Warrior Hall 314

Instructor: Hao-Min Chen, Ph.D.
Office: Warrior Hall 318 J
Email: hmchen@tamuct.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Method of Instruction and Course Access:

This course is a hybrid course. Supplemental materials are made available online using 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 service leaning and 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

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 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.

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 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at 911Cellular [<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

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

1. Wilcoxon, A. P., Remley, T. P., Gladding, S. T. (2014). *Ethical, legal, and professional issues in the practice of marriage and family* (5th ed.). Stamford, CT: Pearson ISBN-13: 978-013377446
2. Zygmond, 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
7. Professional Licensing and Certification Unit Types of Disciplinary Actions 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 instructor 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. More than two unexcused absences from classes will result in *at least* a letter grade deduction. If you experience any difficulty attending the class, please talk to the instructor as soon as possible.

Assignments:

- 4.1 **Class Participation (10 points)**
- 4.2 **Final Exam (10 points)**
Format: Multiple choices & short answer
Exam Date: Please see class schedule.

4.3 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.

4.4 Service Learning and Reflection (65 Points)

The MFT ethic course is to provide an overview of ethical issues related to the profession and practice of MFT, such as AAMFT Code of Ethics and professional identity. This community engagement and service learning component will help students to learn important ethical issues in real life situations. For instance, students will learn about maintaining a professional image, professional boundary, and code of ethics related standards when interacting with program participants. Students will also gain knowledge about family relationship, parenting, and its influence on the overall wellbeing of the child. Detailed will be announced in class.

Reflection and Discussion

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

Criteria for content: The content of the reflection and discussion should be your own ideas supported by information from the text, assigned readings, PowerPoints, or other *scholarly references* you find. It 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 perpetrator are male (Dora 2013), I believe that we should develop preventative programs in middle and high school about sexual violence.

Reflection and Discussion 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 ConversionOverview of Grading:

Class Participation	10 points
Service Learning and Reflection	65 points
Final Exam	10 points
HIPAA and Child Protection Training	15 points
Total Points	100 points

Grade breakdown:

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

6.0 Posting of Grades

All student grades will be posted on the Gradebook. Students should monitor their grade status.

TECHNOLOGY

The syllabus is subject to change without notice to meet student, faculty, or other needs. Please refer to class announcements for possible adjustments.

7.0 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 log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: 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.

For issues with **Canvas**, select "chat with Canvas support," submit a support request to Canvas Tier 1, or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953, links to all are found inside of Canvas using the "Help" link.

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

8.0 Tentative Course Calendar

Please see attached.

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 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.

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) webpage [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 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 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].

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas 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 Larry Davis at imdavis@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 A&M-Central Texas 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.

The 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-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library on Mondays 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](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at 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.

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 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 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 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](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

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 A&M-Central Texas, 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 Counseling Services (254-501-5956) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall.

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].

9.0 Absences and Grading

Absences from classes will result in grade deduction.

