

MFT 5351-110 DIVERSE COUPLES TREATMENT

Spring 2021

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

January 19, 2021 through May 14, 2021

This course meets online, synchronous (Tuesday nights from 6:00pm to 8:45pm)

This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System

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

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Lia Amuna

Email: Carmelia.Amuna@tamuct.edu [Preferred contact via In-Class Canvas Email]

Office Hours

Tuesdays from 5:00pm to 6:00pm (by appointment only via WebEx)

Student-instructor interaction

Instructor will reply to emails within 48 hours during business days, exceptions include holidays, school closures, etc.

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) [<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.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case-by-case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
 - o If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and description

Analyze theoretical models and skills necessary for effective treatment of couple relationship problems. Seminar format will offer training towards certification in Gottman Method Couples Therapy, as well as introduction to Emotion Focused Couples Therapy. Prerequisite(s): MFT 5301.

Student Learning Outcomes

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 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) Student learning outcomes should be made explicit at the course level, and by best practice, at the module/unit level, as well*

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Gurman, (2015). *Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy*. 5th Edition

Gottman, J. and Gottman, J (2015). *10 Principles for Doing Effective Couples Therapy*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements:

Discussion Boards – 5 DB Forums. Students will respond to prompts based on either the readings, video, class discussions etc. Initial responses should be (250-400 words). Students will then need reply to at least 2 different classmates with post (100 words each). 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 initial post should be at least 250 words. You are required to respond to at least 2 other initial posts. The responses should be at least 100 words each. The posts are due by 6:59pm on the designated date. Late posts will receive an automatic grade of zero.

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.

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 3-page paper using a MFT theory from your textbook to analyze a couple from a television show, movie, or a book. More details will be available in Canvas. This paper will be graded for current APA style, spelling, grammar, writing skills, content, etc. Late papers will receive an automatic grade of zero.

Quizzes- Students will have 5 quizzes, they may consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank etc. Students will be quizzed on information related to course readings, videos, class discussions etc. Quizzes are timed and individual questions are locked after answering. Students will not be able to take quizzes after the deadline has passed.

Final Project– For a final project, students will create and present a PowerPoint presentation influenced by a MFT theory from your textbooks. Students will briefly describe the theory, why they choose their theory, and how their theory can/will be applicable in their current/future work with clients. This project will be graded for current APA style, spelling, grammar, writing skills, content, etc.

Final Comprehensive Exam- The final exam may consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank etc. It will contain information related to course readings, videos, class discussions, quizzes etc. The final exam will be timed, and individual questions are locked after answering. Students will not be able to take the final exam earlier or after the deadline has passed.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Discussion Board (5) at 16 points each = 80
Couple Analysis Paper = 100
Quizzes (5) at 16 points each = 80
Final Project = 40
Final Exam=100

Total: 400 points

Grades: A= 360-400
B= 320-359
C= 280-319
D= 240-279
F= 239 or below

Posting of Grades

All grades will be posted on the Canvas Grade book where students can monitor their status.

All assignment will be graded within 7 to 10 business days from the due date of the assignment, excluding holidays, school closures, etc.

Grading Policies

All late work will receive an automatic grade of zero.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	1/19/2021 -online	Introduction to Course	Syllabus	Discussion #1
2	1/26/2021 -via WebEx link	Couples Therapy Overview & Ethics	Gurman Ch. 1 Gottman-Intro & 1 st Principle	Quiz #1
3	2/02/2021 -online	Behavioral Approaches	Gurman Ch. 2 & 3 Gottman 2 nd Principle	Discussion #2
4	2/09/2021 -via WebEx link	EFT	Gurman Ch 4 & 5 Gottman 3 rd Principle	Quiz #2
5	2/16/2021 -online	Psychodynamic	Gurman Ch. 8& 9 Gottman 4 th Principle	Discussion #3
6	2/23/2021 -via WebEx link	Solution-Focused	Gurman Ch. 12 & 13 Gottman 5 th Principle	Quiz #3
7	3/02/2021 -online	Structural & Strategic Couples Therapy	Gurman Ch. 12 & 13 Gottman 6 th Principle	Discussion #4
9	3/09/2021 -via WebEx link	Relationship End	Gurman Ch. 16 Gottman 7 th Principle	Quiz #4
	3/15 through 3/19	Spring Break		
10	3/23/2021 -online	Diverse Relationships	Gurman Ch. 17, 18, & 19	Discussion #5
11	3/30/2021 -via WebEx link	Psychological Disorders	Gurman Ch. 24 Gottman 8 th Principle	Quiz # 5
12	04/06/2021 -online	Relationship Issues	Gurman Ch. 15 Gottman 9 th Principle	Couples Analysis Paper Due
13	4/13/2021	Class Presentations	via WebEx link	
14	4/20/2021	Class Presentations	via WebEx link	
15	4/27/2021	*Extra Presentation	via WebEx link	
16	5/04/2021	Final Exam		

Important University Dates

See link for current University Calendar <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. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

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.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

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

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.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty 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. Once you submit the completed 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, working with others in an unauthorized manner, 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 referred 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://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

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 [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [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](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) 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, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@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 except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. 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. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. 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-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOonline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at 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) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

For Spring 2021, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.

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/compliance/titleix.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

OTHER POLICIES

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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