



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
CENTRAL TEXAS

**MFT 5391-110 Clinical Practicum I**  
**Fall 2023**  
**Wednesday 0830**  
**US Army Family Life Chaplain Training Center**

**Instructor:** James Kelly Barnett, Ph.D. LMFT-S, LPC-S

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**Phone: mobile** 512-948-9898

**Office Hours:** contact via email for an appointment

**Student-Instructor interaction:** I check emails daily. Please contact me via email or mobile number 512-948-9898. Leave a message and/or send text. You may expect a response within one working day.

**Method of Instruction and Course Access:** This course meets face-to-face at the US Army Family Life Chaplain Training Center, Fort Cavazos (Hood) with supplemental materials made available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

**Class Decorum:** The class environment will be conducive to increasing your knowledge while promoting self-discovery and personal growth. I expect students to be respectful of others.

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

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app. You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the SafeZone website [[www.safezoneapp.com](http://www.safezoneapp.com)].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:

iPhone/iPad: [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]

Android Phone / Tablet

[<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp>]

2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)

3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

For updates on COVID information, please monitor the University website [https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/]

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Overview and Description:** This course provides practical experience in marriage and family therapy in approved practicum sites while under supervision of the Marriage and Family Therapy faculty. Students will demonstrate appropriate levels of competency, assessed through direct supervision, video supervision, as well as case report, while maintaining appropriate documentation of clinical work, and meeting clinical hours requirements as described in the departmental handbook.

**Prerequisite(s):** MFT 5301, MFT 5307, and MFT 5383.

### **MFT Student Learning Outcomes**

- **SLO-1:** Students will demonstrate knowledge and appropriate application of classical and postmodern MFT theories.
- **SLO-2:** Students will demonstrate basic and systemic therapeutic techniques.
- **SLO-3:** Students will assess how contextual issues affect individual lives and relational dynamics.
- **SLO-4:** Students will demonstrate practice consistent with the AAMFT Code of Ethics, formulate and execute treatment plans based on individual issues, relational dynamics, and contextual issues.
- **SLO-5:** Students will assess the influence of their social location and personal experiences on the conceptualization and intervention of cases.
- **SLO-6:** Students will develop collaborative relationships with other mental health professionals and agencies within the local community.
- **SLO-7:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of current trends and research methods in the field of marriage and family therapy.

**COAMFTE Developmental Competency Components Standards Version 12.5** identifies five COAMFTE Developmental Competency Components:

- Knowledge of the MFT profession
- Practice of relational/systemic therapy as a qualified behavioral/mental health provider
- Commitment to ethical practice through ethical codes of the MFT profession and pertinent regulatory bodies
- Awareness, knowledge and skill to responsibly serve diverse communities
- Development and application of research to further the knowledge and practice of the MFT profession

**COAMFTE Developmental Competency Components** This course will address the following components to help ensure students obtain the knowledge and skill to become effective and ethical marriage and family therapists.

- Knowledge of the MFT profession
- Practice of relational/systemic therapy as a qualified behavioral/mental health provider
- Commitment to ethical practice through ethical codes of the MFT profession and pertinent regulatory bodies
- Awareness, knowledge and skill to responsibly serve diverse communities

**Ethics** Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner as described in the AAMFT Code of Ethics. They are expected to maintain confidentiality in all information related to clients, as well as all information related to cases presented in practicum class. This is the student's responsibility regardless of procedures in place at the site. Students are responsible to know and follow legal and ethical confidentiality practices of the field placement site, as well as applicable codes of ethics. Students will demonstrate knowledge of HIPAA and/or FERPA regulations. All students must have appropriate liability insurance for the duration of their practicum experience.

**Recommended texts:**

American Psychiatric Association. (2022). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th ed., text revision). APA.

Gehart, D. R., & Tuttle, A. R. (2003). *Theory and treatment planning in family therapy*. Cengage.

Nichols, M. P., & Davis, S. D. (2021). *Family therapy: Concepts and methods* (12th ed.). Pearson.

McGoldrick, M., Gerson, R. & Petry, S. (2020). *Genograms: Assessment and intervention* (4th ed.). W.W. Norton & Company.

Reiter, M. (2015). *Case conceptualization in family therapy* (1st ed.). Pearson.

In addition, MFT Program policies, procedures and practicum student resources can be found in the MFT Program Student Handbook located in the Appendix.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Attending and fully participating in group and individual supervision is expected.

### **Assignments:**

**1. Self-Assessment (Pass/Fail)** – This form is posted on Canvas. Please complete it and submit it on Canvas by the due date listed in the Course Calendar.

**2. Case Presentations (Pass/Fail)** - Each student will present cases in class with written case conceptualization. Each presentation should include information about one of the student's current cases, including a video segment for group review. This assignment is intended for the student to learn how to systematically analyze and summarize current clinical cases from their practicum site. The student is also expected to identify current needs/issues and present it orally for faculty and peer consultation and feedback. The instructions for this assignment are below.

Client identifying information such as full names should NOT be used in this assignment. The written portion should contain the following as applicable: Genogram, relevant demographic information, assessment/diagnostic evaluation, individual, couple, or family strengths, systemic theoretical model(s) applied to case and course of treatment, and assistance needed. The written portion should be available for students and the professor during the presentation. All students in the class are expected to actively participate in the discussion with questions, comments, observations, and suggestions. A grading of passing will be earned if students thoroughly complete the written and oral components of this assignment. To earn a grade of pass, students must demonstrate their understanding of context, systemic thinking, and use of therapeutic

skill. This will be illustrated through students detailing characteristics of client's systemic functioning, person of the therapist understanding, relevant cultural/social location impacts, and identification and execution of a family therapy theory of choice with description of appropriate techniques.

**3. Required Paperwork (Pass/Fail)** - Students are required to complete clinical hour logs each week and obtain faculty and clinical supervisor's signatures. Students must complete all paperwork required by the program and department. Failure to complete required paperwork in a timely manner is unethical. Weekly logs must be signed by the professor and site supervisor and turned in at midterm and final week of the semester.

**4. Supervisor Evaluations (Pass/Fail)** - The faculty supervisor will meet with students for individual or group supervision and will sign their hour logs. Both faculty and site supervisors are required to submit an evaluation for the student at the end of the practicum experience. Semester grade of this practicum class will depend on the faculty and site supervisors' evaluations. A grade of pass will be earned if students are assessed as developing or above on 19 or more of the evaluation criteria and have not committed a significant ethical infraction as discussed in the ethics section above.

**5. Liability Insurance (Pass/Fail)** - All students must have appropriate liability insurance. A copy of your current policy for the semester must be provided to your professor. The university provides liability insurance, but students are encouraged to get additional liability insurance through their professional organization or directly from a professional insurance provider.

**Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion** This class is designated as a pass/fail course. In order to receive a pass for this course, students have to receive a pass on ALL assignments described above. 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. In general, students receive oral or written feedback on their assignments within, approximately, 2 weeks of their submission.

**Posting Grades** Grades will be posted in Canvas approximately 2 weeks after submission. Grades will be posted on the Canvas grade book where students can monitor the status of their grade easily. There will be no negotiation of grades or course policies. Students should be diligent in working toward the grade they desire in this course.

**Technology Requirements** This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari browsers. Canvas will run on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, android, or any other device with a modern web browser. 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/>] by clicking on the “TAMUCT Online Canvas” tile. You will then log in through our Microsoft portal. Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

**Canvas Support** Use the Canvas Help tab, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can search the support articles or use the Email, Call, or Chat buttons at the bottom of the support pop-up to contact the Canvas Help Desk. For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

**Online Proctored Testing** Texas A&M University-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 requires use of the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in installed.

**Other Technology Support** For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central, 24 hours day, 7 days a week. Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu) Phone: (254) 519-5466  
Web Chat: [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>] Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

**Warrior Center for Student Success** The Warrior Center for Student Success is a comprehensive academic support department at A&M-Central Texas, dedicated to fostering an environment of excellence and empowerment among its student body. The center offers a wide range of programs and services to ensure every student reaches their full potential, and is a haven for students seeking guidance, resources, and a strong support network to excel in their educational journey.

**ADA Access and Accommodations:** Texas A&M University-Central Texas ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities by providing appropriate accommodations and support services. If you believe you have a physical, learning or socio-emotional disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please visit Access and Inclusion [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>] for more details or contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential.

**Success Coaching and Peer Mentoring:** Our experienced Success Coaches work one-on-one with students to develop personalized action plans, set academic goals, and build effective study strategies, time management skills, and resilience. Our Peer Mentors provide a valuable support system, offering guidance, encouragement, and a relatable perspective to help students navigate their academic and personal challenges. For more details call 254-501-5836 or 254-501-5928 or visit Academic Support [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html>]. Click the link to schedule a session (virtual or in-person) with a success coach [bit.ly/3q7uB50](https://bit.ly/3q7uB50) or visit WH, 111.

**Testing Services:** We offer a secure and comfortable environment for students and members of the community to take courses and distance learning exams, as well as placement tests and professional certification exams. Our Testing Service also offers resources and support referrals for testing related challenges (test anxiety, learning disabilities, etc.) and supports all approved ADA accommodations. Call (254) 519-5830 or visit the Testing Center [<https://www.tamuct.edu/testing-center/>].

**Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction Services:** Our team of qualified Tutors and Supplemental Instructors assist students in various non-writing subjects, promoting academic comprehension and enhancing learning outcomes. Click the link to schedule a tutoring session with a TAMUCT tutor (virtual or in-person) or view tutor availability [bit.ly/43Q6wNz](https://bit.ly/43Q6wNz). You may also chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for a variety of subjects through our partnership with Tutor.com, an online tutoring platform that is free to all TAMUCT students. To learn more please visit Tutoring Services [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring>] or call (254) 501-5836 or visit the Tutoring Hub in Warrior Hall, 111.

**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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Student Conduct Office. 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>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may submit a referral, [<https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas>].

**Drop Policy** If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the Drop Request Dynamic Form through Warrior Web. [<https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlSSO&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https>

<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/Submit/Start/53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Records and Admissions Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Records and Admissions 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 Records and Admissions 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.

### **Pregnant and/or Parenting Students Rights and Accommodations**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs, (254) 501-5909, can assist students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting by provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodations. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible through the Pregnancy & Parenting webpage [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html>]. For more information, please visit Student Affairs [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html>]. 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 specifically prohibits discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions [<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html>]. Students experiencing any form of discrimination due to any of these conditions are encouraged to reach out to the Title IX Coordinator, 254.519.5716, [titleix@tamuct.edu](mailto:titleix@tamuct.edu), Founders Hall 317B, or the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 254.501.5909, Warrior Hall 105.

### **Title IX Rights and Reporting Responsibilities**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas is committed to creating a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you or another student has experienced any form of gender discrimination or sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and/or sex-based stalking, help and support are available. Our university strongly encourages all members of our campus community to report incidents and seek support for gender discrimination and sexual misconduct through the Title IX Office. You may contact the Title IX Office at 254.519.5716, [titleix@tamuct.edu](mailto:titleix@tamuct.edu), Founders Hall 317B, or learn more by visiting the Title IX webpage [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

Please be aware that that under Title IX, Texas Senate Bill 212, and System Regulation 08.01.01,



[<https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf>] all university employees are mandated reporters and are required to disclose information about suspected or alleged violations as listed above and defined in System Regulation 08.01.01. If the Title IX Office receives information about an incident, they will reach out to offer information about resources, rights, and procedural options as a member of the campus community. Although I have an obligation to report, you will, in most cases, control how your case will be handled. When working with the Title IX Office you will have access to resources and accommodations but also have the opportunity to express if you wish to move forward with an investigation. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the options available to you as a student. Community members are not required to respond to this outreach. If you or another student wishes to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Wellness & Counseling Center, [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-counseling.html>], 254.501.5955, or [swacc@tamuct.edu](mailto:swacc@tamuct.edu), located in Warrior Hall Room 207L or the Student Support Advocate, 254.501.5978 or [ssa@tamuct.edu](mailto:ssa@tamuct.edu), located in founder Hall Room 317D.

**University Library & Archives** The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing approximately 1,203,947 eBooks and 134,750 journals, in addition to the 96,879 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library.

[<https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments>]. 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 workspaces, 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/index>]

**University Writing Center** Located in Warrior Hall 416 and online, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M

University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The face-to-face hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday and

Thursday in Warrior Hall 416. Online tutoring is available Monday thru Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 12:00-3:00 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-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WOnline [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. 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, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

## **OTHER 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 Wellness and 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>].

**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 online [<https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas>].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the Behavioral Intervention Team website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

### **Appendix**

**MFT Program Mission** The mission of the Marriage and Family Therapy program is to train couple and family therapists to demonstrate clinical excellence through the mastery of the MFT core competencies, the practice of personal knowledge and professional integrity, and compassionate and collaborative service to distressed and/or underserved individuals, couples, and families in the broader Central Texas area.

#### **MFT Program Goals**

- **Community:** The program will deploy students to compassionately serve diverse and distressed families in the Central Texas region through The Community Counseling and Family Therapy Center, as well as its practicum site partners
- **Practice:** The program will create a brand of clinical excellence whereby its students are known for self-knowledge, integrity, professionalism, and effectiveness consistent with the AAMFT Code of Ethics.
- **Diversity:** The program will provide experiences that will allow its students and graduates to develop critical consciousness and a systemic framework necessary to serve diverse families in the Central Texas region and across the globe.
- **Scholarship:** The program will provide students with the skills to obtain relevant information and trends in MFT research.

#### **COAMFTE Developmental Competency Components**

Standards Version 12.5 identifies five COAMFTE Developmental Competency Components:

- Knowledge of the MFT profession
- Practice of relational/systemic therapy as a qualified behavioral/mental health provider
- Commitment to ethical practice through ethical codes of the MFT profession and pertinent regulatory bodies
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- Development and application of research to further the knowledge and practice of the MFT profession