

**Instructor and Contact Information:**

**Instructor:** Maria Medina, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, AAMFT Clinical Supervisor, LMFT-S, LPC-S, LCDC, NCC

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**Office Hours:** Please email to make an appointment.

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

Course Dates: 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm Tuesdays, Jan 17, 2023 - Mar 10, 2023

Location: WH 311

Modality: This is a web-enhanced course, and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>]. Please refer to class calendar for specific dates/times that course meets in-person and online. 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 class meetings, as well as within the Canvas environment.

**Student-Instructor Interaction:** I will be available to meet online or on the phone 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. Remember that there is only 1 of me and many of you, so please allow at least 1-2 business days 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.

**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:

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

# 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.

**Contemporary Issues:** This course facilitates the development of competencies in emerging and evolving contemporary challenges, problems, and/or recent developments at the interface of Marriage and Family Therapy knowledge and practice, and the broader local, regional, and global context. This includes such issues as immigration, technology, same-sex marriage, violence in schools, etc. These issues are to reflect the context of the program and the program's mission, goals, and student learning outcomes.

## 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 Ethics

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner at all times.

### 4.0 Required Reading

1. Wilcoxon, A. P., Remley, T. P., Gladding, S. T. (2014). *Ethical, legal, and professional issues in the practice of the marriage and family* (5 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. Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists. Statutes and Rules. Consolidated Rulebooks

Available for Download (in PDF format) <https://www.bhec.texas.gov/statutes-and-rules/index.html>

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# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 5.0 Course Requirements

All writing submitted to the professor, including online posts, 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.

## Assignments:

**5.1 Class Participation (20 points):** Students should attend classes and actively engage in discussions and assignments throughout the semester to practice applying key concepts in the class materials.

### 5.2 Case Scenario Presentation (20 points)

Each student will sign up for one presentation date/topic on 1/17. The presentation should consist of a structured lecture for about 30 minutes long and a discussion/Q & A section. **After completing the assigned reading focused on working with different populations in chapter one titled culture, worldview, and identity, select a population for your presentation. The populations can include military families, LGBTQ+, clients from different social economic backgrounds, etc.** The content of the presentation should be your own ideas supported by information from the text, assigned readings, PowerPoints, or other *scholarly references* you find.

### 5.3 Final Exam

Please see more details on Canvas.

### 5.4 HIPAA and Child Protection Training (40 points)

Students are required complete two online trainings: 1) HIPAA Training for Texas A&M Faculty, Staff & Students Only (#2114226) and 2) Child Protection (# 2111652). A copy of each certificate of completion must be uploaded to assignments on Canvas. Please see below regarding how to access the trainings.

The training website is: <https://traintraq.tamus.edu/External/ExternalGatewayLogon.aspx>

HIPAA Training #2114226 Child Protection #2111652

The current password is fosT!pruTend472% The next scheduled password change is Monday, March 6

The next scheduled password change will be *Monday, March 6, 2023*. (If you try to complete the training after this expiration date of the current password, it will not work.) Your due date for this assignment is **3/5/2023 by 11:59pm**.

### 5.5 Discussion Board Post (40 Points)

Each student is required to upload a post (100 words or more) as a response to the required reading(s) of the designated classes. Please see class calendar for the dates you need to post.

Every post has to relate to class materials or professional concepts and include APA citation(s). This is due by the end of the class time that day. Late post will receive **zero** point.

## 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 100 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>	20 points
<b>Case Scenario Presentation</b>	20 points
<b>HIPAA and Child Protection Training</b>	40 points
<b>Discussion Board Post</b>	40 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 *one week*** 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 2 weeks of their submission.

## 6.0 Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted on Canvas. Students should monitor their status. There may be approximately 2 weeks of turn-around time for grades to be posted.

**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. 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: 1-844757-0953.

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](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 the Drop Request Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[[https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.aspx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.aspx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612)

[46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.aspx?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/studentconduct.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 Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity 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/pregnant-and-parentingstudents.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 virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing [WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu](mailto:WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu).

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit Tutor Matching Services [<https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT>] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote 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.**

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, 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. For the

Spring 2022 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 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 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.

## 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 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. Schedule an appointment here [<https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956>]. 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 Absences and Grading

As mentioned earlier, attending class is crucial for student therapists. More than one unexcused absence from class will result in failing this course. Examples of excused absences can include injury or illness that is too severe or contagious, illness of a dependent family member, religious holiday, etc.

## 10.0 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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